

## **North Tipperary County Council urges householders to try some R&R this Christmas**

This Christmas the Environment Section in North Tipperary County Council is urging the public to Reuse and Recycle this Christmas.

Did you know that Irish Consumers go through an estimated; 4 bottles of wine, 9.6 beer cans, 5 soft drinks cans, 7.8 plastic drinks bottles and nearly 1 roll of wrapping paper per second over the festive period. Another interesting fact to note is that if all the wrapping paper used in Ireland was laid out side by side it would cover an area of 89 kilometres by 89 kilometres, which is enough to cover half the size of Leinster.

Bottles, cans and paper can be recycled into something new and a full list of recycling services and bottle banks in North Tipperary can be found on the Council's website by visiting

[www.tipperarynorth.ie/environment](http://www.tipperarynorth.ie/environment)

Here are some tips from Deirdre Cox, Environmental Awareness Officer with the County Council on how householders can play their part this year in reducing waste and increasing recycling by having a 'greener' Christmas.

### **Christmas Trees**

Try to ensure that your Christmas tree is bought from a sustainably managed forest – Coillte, for example, is one of the many places in Ireland that you can buy an Irish sustainably managed tree. For more information check out the Coillte Website [www.coillte.ie](http://www.coillte.ie). Remember that you can only really keep this type of tree inside for about a week, before it starts to wilt so don't forget to water it and don't place it near a radiator!

Your tree can be composted when you are finished with it and North Tipperary County Council will look after this for you by providing a number locations where you can leave your tree for collection such as The Town Park in Templemore, Roscrea Civic Amenity Site, Parnell Street car

park in Thurles as well as at the recycling centres in Nenagh and Ballaghveny from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 2011.

### **Christmas Cards**

Why not think about sending e-cards this year? If you really must buy cards, buy recycled and check the percentage of recycled paper in each pack. Christmas cards can be placed in your recycling bin. Consider gift bags if possible as they can be reused over and over.

### **Real Gifts and decorations**

Why not reduce your waste at Christmas by treating someone to an "experience present" such as theatre or cinema tickets to cut down on Christmas packaging. Look out for festive plants in your garden; many will have seasonal berries that will make great wreaths.

Many people at this time of the year, for ornamental purposes, collect Holly and unfortunately over the past few years we have seen a large decline in holly in our countryside – so please think before you start cutting wild holly!!

### **Don't forget the Batteries**

Batteries at Christmas are always in high demand - especially if you have children. Think about buying rechargeable ones instead this year and then you won't have to worry about them – or panic on Christmas day when the new noisy toy that Santa brought won't work! If you are not using rechargeable batteries, remember to dispose of any spent batteries appropriately and not in your residual bin. A number of retailers will now take back old batteries.

In addition try and think about presents that you don't need electricity to run - be old school and think about cool puzzles, jigsaws, card games or board games!

### **Christmas Lights**

The LED (Light Emitting Diode) Christmas lights use up to 90% less energy than larger, traditional Christmas bulbs and last up to 100,000 hours when used indoors. LED lights also emit significantly less heat than conventional lights and are therefore less of a fire hazard. As an added bonus, if one of the LED lights burns out the rest of the strand will stay lit. Over the 30 day Christmas period, 100 traditional fairy lights switched on for 8 hours per day produces 17.71 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> and costs €5.00. Over the same period, 100 LED fairy lights produce 2.41 Kg of CO<sub>2</sub> and costs only 60 cents.

### **Travelling**

Think about giving a tree or garden plants as a gift to help offset the extra miles travelled at Christmas.

### **Christmas Recycling Centre opening hours;**

#### **Ballaghveny Landfill/Civic Amenity Site, Roscrea Civic Amenity Centre and Dog Pound**

Ballaghveny Landfill/Recycling Centre, Roscrea Civic Amenity Centre and the Dog Pound will be **closed** from closing time on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2010 to normal starting time Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010**. They will be open on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2010** and **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2010**. They will be closed on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2011** and on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2011**. They will then revert to normal opening hours.

#### **Nenagh Recycling Centre**

The Nenagh Recycling Centre will be **closed** from closing time on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of December, 2010 to normal starting time Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2010**. It will also be closed on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2011 and reopen on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of January, 2011.

The facility will be open on **Saturdays 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of January** to assist householders with all of that extra recycling and to take Christmas Trees.

### **Christmas Tree Recycling**

From January 8th to 22<sup>nd</sup> inclusive, Christmas Trees will be accepted free of charge at the Recycling Centre, **Nenagh** during opening hours; Parnell Street Carpark, **Thurles** in specified areas; Civic Amenity Centre, **Roscrea** during opening hours; Town Park, **Templemore** in specified areas and **Ballaghveny** Civic Amenity Site during opening hours.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle your way to a Greener Christmas this year

Ends

Deirdre Cox  
Environmental Awareness Officer,  
067 44784