Clay County Health Department

BETTER CARE, BETTER HEALTH, BETTER LIVING

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 22, 2025
Contact: Amber Wille, Director of Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness

Go Green This Christmas – Recycle Your Christmas Tree

Wondering what to do with your traditional (live) Christmas tree after the holidays? Donate it back to the Earth! Recycle your tree at the Clay County Health Department's 18th Annual Christmas Tree Collection.

Traditional, real Christmas trees can still serve a valuable purpose after the holiday season. Because they are biodegradable, these trees can be used for environmental applications such as providing valuable habitats for fish in ponds and lakes or being turned into compost or mulch for erosion control and soil stabilization. This year, any donated trees will be given to the Stephen A. Forbes State Park, where they will be used in the lake to provide cover and nutrients for fish.

Christmas trees may be dropped off at the **West end of the Clay County Health Department** any time **before Monday, January 5th** by the Christmas Tree Collection sign and orange fencing.

Remember to remove any ornaments, decorations, and tinsel from your tree before dropping it off – these items are not biodegradable and will cause harm to wildlife. A good rule of thumb is to take your tree to the drop-off location in the same condition as you would find it naturally in the forest.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact the Clay County Health Department at (618) 662-4406.

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