

Completed on January 3, 2019 at 09:12 AM
Ending on January 3, 2019
Beginning on January 3, 2019
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Christmas aftermath

Oconee recycling centers busier after holidays

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

SENECA — In the aftermath of holiday celebrations, recycling centers across Oconee County become significantly busier.

“Our busiest times of the year are the week of July 4, the week of Thanksgiving, a couple days before Christmas and about the week

after Christmas,” Oconee County solid waste director Swain Still said. “Sometimes you’ll have seven or eight cars at a time lined up outside some of the convenience centers.”

Still said the amount of trash and recycling waste create the same issue with the centers being busy. “Around the holidays

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Above: Novie Phillips sorts cans at the Strawberry Farm recycling center on Monday. Below: Cars line up sometimes seven or eight deep outside recycling centers after the holidays, according to Oconee County solid waste director Swain Still.



CENTERS: Official says trees should be taken to SCDNR office

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you've got family coming into town, and on July 4 you have a lot of family cooking out and things of that nature," Still said. "That creates a lot more garbage, especially around Thanksgiving, you get the same issue. That produces a lot of garbage."

Centers were open for eight hours on Christmas Eve and closed the following two days. The 11 Oconee County recycling centers were back open from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Dec. 27-29.

"The week of Christmas, you've got all that wrapping paper, and typically wrapping paper is not recyclable and goes in household garbage," Still said. "The only kind of wrapping paper that is recyclable is if you use newspaper or if the paper actually has the recycling symbol on it. Most wrapping paper has that glossy coating on it and makes it almost impossible to recycle, because nobody wants to buy it."

Still also encouraged those visiting the centers not to use cardboard boxes as trash bags.

"The wrapping paper is par for the course as recycling goes, but at this time of the year we do encourage people not to use cardboard boxes as trash bags and fill boxes of trash and throw them

away," he said. "We prefer people to put them in our cardboard compactor, and that would cut down a lot on our garbage totals, too."

Those looking to throw out Christmas trees would be better suited to go to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources office at 311 Natural Resources Drive in Clemson, Still said.

"We have Christmas

trees that come to the landfills, and they grind those," he said. "What we recommend is that DNR and some of the local sporting societies, they collect those and use them for fish habitats. We try to get those to DNR first, and I think they accept them over at their office in Clemson, and we do recommend that first."

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