ADVERTISING FEATURE

Net Zero at Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm

If COP26 has got you worried about what you can do about the climate crisis, an easy way to start is to visit Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm for your Christmas tree. Net zero means not adding to the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, namely carbon dioxide and methane. Buying local means you can really reduce your carbon footprint.

Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm is home to 40,000 Christmas trees spread over approximately 18 acres of green belt land next to the M32 motorway. All plants actively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and the Christmas trees - which are evergreen – do this all year round. With the heavy motorway traffic nearby, there certainly is no shortage of carbon dioxide for the trees to mop up.

"I think all of us are wondering what we can do on a personal level when it comes to climate change," says Simon Maughan, managing director of Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm. "A good way to start this Christmas is to make sure that we buy as much as we can for the festive season from local suppliers, whether it is food for the table, presents for the tree, or the tree itself."

Kate and Simon Maughan, owners of Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm invite you to buy your tree locally this year

"As for the Christmas tree, it's also important to consider what to do with it in the New Year. Burning it probably is the worst thing to do as it releases all that stored carbon directly back into the atmosphere. Many of our customers find a second use for their tree, as a bird feeder for example, but by far the most common thing to do with it is to recycle it as chipped mulch."

"We accept hundreds of returned trees in January, and they all get put through the shredder. The bits rot down naturally on the ground, keeping the carbon in the ground, and also making homes for insects and food for fungi."

The Christmas tree site has in itself become a bit of a haven for wildlife. Birds nest in the trees, animals shelter under the trees, wild flowers such as orchids have begun to seed themselves in the grass around trees. 2021 saw the addition of a big pond, which is set to attract all sorts of other interesting residents, such as dragonflies.

Frenchay Christmas Tree Farm is open every day from 9am to 5pm from Saturday 20th November. You can visit in person or order your tree online at www.frenchaychristmastreefarm.co.uk – either for delivery or click and collect.