Albuquerque, Rio Rancho residents recycled more than 5,500 Christmas trees

(Albuquerque, NM) – With the help of PNM, Albuquerque and Rio Rancho residents recycled 5,628 Christmas trees after the holidays, resulting in more than 84,000 pounds of mulch for residents to take home.

For more than 30 years, PNM has partnered with the City of Albuquerque's Solid Waste Management Department and Rio Rancho's Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful Division to support their sustainability efforts by turning Christmas trees into mulch. This mulch helps create healthier soil conditions for plants in city common areas and residential landscapes.

Each year, PNM provides the same heavy-duty vegetation management, equipment typically used to reduce outages and support wildfire mitigation efforts, to support the cities. During the holiday season, that equipment does double-duty, helping the cities recycle thousands of trees into usable mulch for the community.

PNM recycled Christmas trees at the following locations:

- **Albuquerque Eagle Rock Convenience Center**, located at 6301 Eagle Rock NE; 3,206 trees were chipped.
- **Albuquerque Montessa Convenience Center**, located at 3512 Los Picaros SE; 201 trees were chipped.
- **Albuquerque Ladera Golf Course,** located at 3401 Ladera Dr. NW;1,364 trees were chipped.
- **Rio Rancho Sports Complex** located at 3501 High Resort Blvd SE; 857 trees were chipped.

Quotes
PNM:
"Environmental stewardship is an important part of our work at PNM, and we're proud to support the sustainability efforts of the City of Albuquerque and the City of Rio Rancho," said Wes Gray, Vice President of Operations and Engineering for PNM. "The same equipment we use year-round to help reduce outages and support wildfire mitigation was put to good use this holiday season, helping turn thousands of Christmas trees into mulch for our communities."

City of Albuquerque:
"Providing residents with sustainable options to celebrate the holidays not only helps to extend the life of our landfill but it also keeps our city looking beautiful," said City of Albuquerque Solid Waste Management Director Billy Gallegos. "Folks are stepping up in a major way this week,

making a significant reduction in our holiday waste and it's thanks to the team effort from residents, our City partners, and the wonderful team at PNM."

City of Rio Rancho:
"Holiday trees are biodegradable, making them easily recyclable," said the Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful Coordinator, Nick Dahl. This event offers a wonderful opportunity for the community to give back while benefiting from their efforts. Recycling your tree is a meaningful way to pay it forward, and your contribution is deeply appreciated."

B-roll: [Click here for b-roll of tree chipping.](#)

About PNM
PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico serving nearly 550,000 customers. PNM is committed to transitioning its electricity to 100% carbon free while ensuring a reliable and resilient power system.
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