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November 3rd, 2009

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[Sustainable Christmas Trees Delivered to Your Door](#)

Yesterday [on Springwise](#) I read about [The Living Christmas Company](#), which delivers living, potted Christmas trees to your home in southern California. They pick them up after the holidays, and replant them. In fact, a family can get the same tree year after year.

I tweeted about this clever idea, and the Twitter account Climate Smart [pointed me to Carbonsync](#) (yes, I am troubled by the inconsistent capitalization of their name on their site—let's move on). They're offering a similar delivery and pickup service to your home in and around Vancouver.

The Living Christmas Company doesn't indicate pricing on their site (or, at least, I couldn't find prices). Carbonsync offers their rental tree program for the princely sum of \$125.99. It's been a very long time since I bought a Christmas tree, but that seems pretty rich. How much does your average Christmas tree cost? \$25? \$40? Maybe \$60 for a really fancy tree?

I'm usually happy to pay a green tax, but 100% feels a bit steep. If we assume that delivery and pickup cost \$40 or \$50, then I guess that's in the ballpark. Still, that price point feels a little steep, doesn't it?

Happily, we're not really a tree-buying household, so I'll remain \$125.99 richer.

Tags: [carbonsync](#), [christmas trees](#), [rent](#), [sustainability](#)

Comments: 4 Responses so far



[Derek K. Miller](#)

November 4th, 2009

8:43 am

Your pricing is a pretty good guess for regular cut trees. I wonder whether the net carbon benefit of a potted tree like that, with transportation costs, is lower than getting a fake tree that you can use for a decade or two, or more.

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[Darren](#) Reply:

November 4th, 2009 at 9:21 am

Yeah, I wondered about that, too. The Slate's Green Lantern blog, which covers these very questions, [favours real trees over fake ones](#).

[\[Reply\]](#)



[Jen](#)

November 4th, 2009

9:37 am

The past couple years, our trees were about \$60 (\$10/foot for a 6 foot tree), plus \$10 or \$15 for delivery. That was for the mid-priced tree.

I have no idea if there's a "West-Side Tax" on that, like with so many other things, and if trees in the suburbs are cheaper. But I'm not about to pay double to have the potted tree brought to and fro.

[\[Reply\]](#)



[Alastair Bird](#)

November 4th, 2009

12:31 pm

I was listening to an interview on CBC about live trees a while back. The tree expert they had on was saying that live trees brought from the cold into a nice, warm house for a couple of weeks and then repatriated back to the cold often, or in a colder climate, usually die because of the shock to their system.

They're really not able to endure an entire years' worth of seasons in less than a month.

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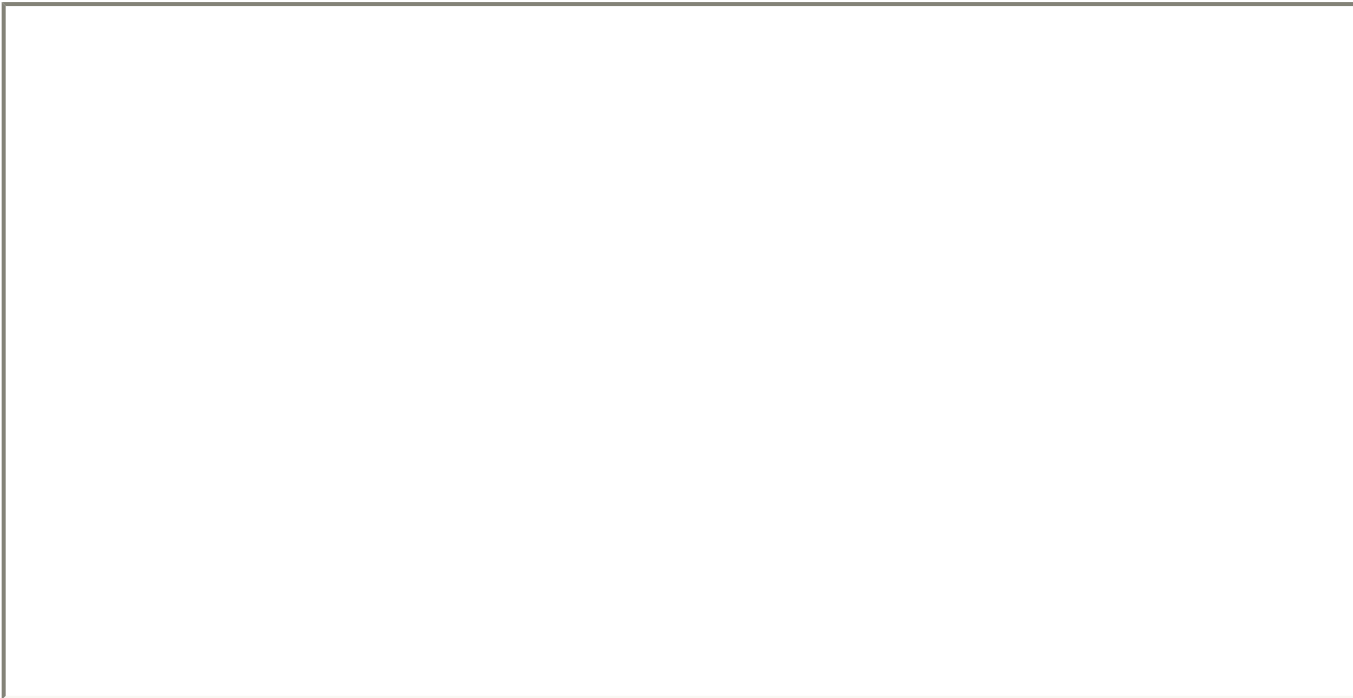
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