

Canadian firm

touts

“green” Christmas trees

加拿大公司推出「環保」耶誕樹



Going “green” has never been so festive as in westernmost Canada where two start-ups are offering an eco-friendly Christmas tree rental service for the holiday period.

For about C\$100, Evergrow Christmas Trees and Carbonsync Christmas will drop off a potted tree at your home or business and pick it up three weeks later after all the presents have been opened and Santa has parked his sleigh.

Carbonsync plans to donate its trees to habitat restoration groups for replanting after Christmas, while Evergrow says it will return them to a nursery to be cared for until next Christmas when they may be rented out again.

It's a far cry from what usually goes on. Trees normally cost four times less on average, but are usually turned into mulch or sent to garbage dumps after the holidays in most North American cities.

“What (folks) are doing now is they're growing these hordes of trees everywhere in the Fraser Valley to ship to Vancouver,” Brad Major of Carbonsync Christmas told public broadcaster CBC.

“These trees grow anywhere from six to 12 years to be used for one Christmas, and all these trees go to the landfill, and it's this huge pile of trees,” he said. “It's like the biggest waste of a resource.”

The Canadian firms' trees will also

continue to draw CO₂ from the atmosphere, doing their bit to help curb global warming instead of ending up as waste.

And if a family wishes, they may even rent the same tree year after year from Evergrow, as long as it has not grown too large to fit in their living room.

加拿大最西部的耶誕佳節從沒這麼大吹「環保風」過，當地兩間新興公司在耶誕假期期間，提供一種有利生態環保的耶誕樹租賃服務。

花費約一百元加幣，「長青」耶誕樹公司和「碳同步」耶誕公司就會將一盆耶誕樹送到你家或辦公室，等三週後，所有禮物都被拆開、耶誕老公公也完成任務後，他們會再來回收這棵耶誕樹。

碳同步公司計畫在耶誕節過後，將耶誕樹捐給棲息地復育團體再植；長青公司則表示，他們會將耶誕樹送回苗圃照顧，直到隔年耶誕節再租出。

這和一般處理耶誕樹的方式迥然不同。耶誕節期間，耶誕樹的價格通常是平常的四分之一，但假期結束後，北美各大城市通常就把它們攪碎作護根，或直接當垃圾丟棄。

碳同步耶誕公司的布萊德·梅澤對加拿大公共電視CBC表示：「現在（大家）的作法是，在菲沙谷大量種植樹木，再將它們運往溫哥華。」

他說：「這些被大量種植的樹需要六到十二年生長期，然後只使用一個耶誕節，這麼一大堆樹就全被當成垃圾掩埋。這簡直就是最大的資源浪費。」

這兩間加拿大公司的耶誕樹也將繼續吸收大氣中的二氧化碳，為減緩地球暖化盡微薄之力，而不是被當作廢物一樣

丟掉。

若租樹家庭想要，長青公司甚至提供讓他們每年都租用同一棵樹的服務，只要這棵樹還沒長到大得放不進他們的客廳。

(法新社/翻譯：袁星豐)

Below: A couple admires a 14-meter-high Christmas tree decorated with some 10,000 bulbs in front of the main entrance of a hotel in Tokyo on Nov. 28, 2009.

Left: The official White House Christmas tree is displayed in the Blue Room of the White House during a press tour of the holiday decorations in Washington, DC, on Dec. 2, 2009.

PHOTOS: AFP

下圖：十一月二十八日，一對情侶在東京某飯店大廳入口前，欣賞一棵高十四公尺、裝飾了約一萬顆燈泡的耶誕樹。

左圖：十二月二日，在華盛頓特區一場媒體參觀耶誕佳節裝飾的行程中，白宮耶誕樹正式在白宮「藍屋」亮相。

照片：法新社

TODAY'S WORDS
今日單字

1. restoration /,restə'reɪʃən/ n.

復原 (fu4 yuan2)

例：Restoration of the theater was expensive and took three years to complete.
(這個劇場的修復工程耗費大量資金，且花了三年才完成。)

2. landfill /'lændfɪl/ adj.

垃圾填埋 (le4 se4 tian2 mai2)

例：The government is looking for ways to reduce the country's dependency on landfills.
(政府正在尋求減少仰賴垃圾填埋的方法。)

3. global warming /'gloʊl 'wɔːrmɪŋ/ n.

全球暖化 (quan2 qiu2 nuan3 hua4)

例：It's vital that we reverse the trend of global warming.
(重要的是要扭轉全球暖化的趨勢。)

IDIOM POINT
重要片語a far cry from
迥然不同

Something that is a far cry from another is very different from it. According to the article, the Christmas tree recycling service is a far cry from the usual method.

Examples: “Working as a fund manager is a far cry from teaching high school economics,” or “Dreaming about spending a year in Africa is a far cry from actually doing it.”

若說某事「a far cry from」另一件事，就表示它和另一件事差異非常大。上文中提到，耶誕樹回收服務和一般的方式大相逕庭。

例如：「擔任基金經理和在高中教經濟學這兩個工作相去甚遠」，或是「夢想到非洲待一年和實際去做完全是兩碼子事」。