

THE OKRA NEWS

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

JULY 2013

Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please feel free to share our newsletter with anyone who might enjoy reading it. To receive electronic notification of newsletter availability and general recycling announcements, sign-up for the OKRA list server on our website: www.recycleok.org

Solar-Powered Recycling Stations Add Amenity to Downtown Oklahoma City

by Jennifer Gooden

Four solar-powered, self-compacting recycling stations are diverting waste from the landfill thanks to a partnership between Urban Neighbors, the City of Oklahoma City's Office of Sustainability and Downtown OKC, Inc.

The stations were installed July 31, 2012, at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library, the Chickasaw Bricktown Ballpark, and on the north and south sides of the Cox Convention Center as part of a pilot downtown recycling program.

The BigBelly Solar waste and recycling collection system is powered by renewable solar energy and technology that makes servicing the unit more efficient. The unit's compactor allows the station to hold about five times the amount of refuse of a typical receptacle, and advanced software capabilities provide real-time data on the level of waste in the receptacle, which reduces collection trips. In the last six months, the four stations have collected approximately 1.1 tons of waste, more than half of which was recyclable.



BigBelly makes recycling easy in downtown OKC

"The BigBelly system adds a wonderful amenity to an already desirable place to live, work and play," said Urban Neighbors president Shelley Pruitt. Since installation, Urban Neighbors has received the OKC Beautiful Distinguished Service Program's Education Award, and Urban Neighbors was a finalist for the Neighborhood Alliance's Neighborhood Project of the Year.

Convenient recycling for downtown residents and pedestrians was identified as a need in multiple planning initiatives, including the Downtown Strategic Initiative and the Office of Sustainability's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. The Office of Sustainability purchased the units with funding from an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Downtown Oklahoma City, Inc. currently provides street-level



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Midwest City Starts Curbside Recycling Program

by Robert Streets

The City of Midwest City is now providing curbside collection of recyclables to its residential customers. According to William "Bill" Janacek, the Environmental Services Director for Midwest City, "...it's been a long winding road but we have finally turned the corner to becoming a greener community." Apparently there have been vari-

ous attempts over the last five years to improve the quality of service associated with recycling, but in every case cost seemed to be a limiting factor. About a year and half ago, Bill took a recommendation for a pilot curbside recycling project to the City Manager for consideration. After looking at various

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Solar-Powered Recycling Stations (continued from front page)

refuse collection for downtown and will expand the existing services to accommodate the new stations. The Downtown Business Improvement District Board approved funding for collection services at the downtown library and Bricktown Ballpark locations for one year, while Superior Management Group services the two locations near the convention center and arena.

The BigBelly project was part of a new project by Urban Neighbors to increase recycling in the downtown area. In addition, since Urban Neighbors began focusing on recycling last year, six multifamily housing structures have added recycling services for residents, providing more than 650 housing units with on-site access to recycling.

For more information about the BigBelly Solar system, visit BigBellySolar.com.

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Urban Neighbors is the downtown neighborhood association and is dedicated to fostering quality residential living in downtown Oklahoma City. The membership-based organization encourages the further development of quality residential living through positive interactive meetings, social events, and issue-oriented dialogue and activities. For more information, visit UrbanNeighbors.org.

The Office of Sustainability is responsible for enhancing the City's energy efficiency efforts and promoting sustainability throughout the organization and the community. The office coordinates energy efficiency upgrades and provides technical recommendations, sustainability planning and outreach services to City departments and the public. The purpose of the office is to integrate sustainability principles into decision making for improved economic, environmental and social health. For more information, visit OKC.gov/Sustain.

Downtown OKC, Inc. is a non-profit organization that promotes and markets downtown Oklahoma City in conjunction with numerous downtown stakeholders. DOKC also manages the Business Improvement District and holds annual events such as Downtown in December and Downtown Dash. For more information, visit DowntownOKC.com.

Midwest City Curbside Recycling (continued from front page)

options and lengthy planning sessions with City staff, it was determined that instead of the pilot project Midwest City would solicit proposals for single-stream curbside collection of recyclables. After reviewing all of the proposals the contract was awarded to Republic Services, formally known as Allied Waste. The contract commenced July 1, 2013, which is the same day that Edmond started a new single-stream curbside collection program with the same vendor. So far, according to Carrie Miller from Republic Services, Midwest City has had roughly 60-70% participation from its residents. This is at least 25% more than preliminary estimates and well above the national average for curbside recycling programs. Bill also mentioned that Midwest City is building a brand new state of the art composting facility at their wastewater treatment facility and hopes to have it online by next summer. If you have any questions regarding Midwest City's new recycling program, please send an email to: recycle@midwestcityok.org or call (405) 739-1063.



As of July 1st, Republic Services is providing single-stream curbside collection for Midwest City residents

SAVE the Date!

The Oklahoma Recycling Conference, October 17, 2013 in Stillwater

This annual, one-day conference attracts 120-150 participants from across our state who represent municipalities, state agencies, recycling professionals, business leaders, community leaders and volunteers, teachers, students, and ordinary citizens interested in recycling. This year's Keynote Speaker, is Jerry Powell, owner and publisher of *Resource Recycling*, *Plastics Recycling Update* and *E-Scrap News*.

If your company is interested in being a conference sponsor, please email info@recycle.org. Information about the conference program and registration is coming soon to the OKRA website (www.recycleok.org/okra/oklahoma-events-activities).

OKRA Recognizes Stillwater Early Head Start



Leanne Rauh (Stillwater Early Head Start) accepts check from OKRA Board Member, Chris Knight

The Stillwater Early Head Start dedicates themselves to recycling the items they utilize in performing their daily duties. These items include paper, cardboard boxes, metal cans and milk jugs. The recyclable items are placed in a single stream recycling poly cart and are picked up weekly by the City of Stillwater.

OKRA congratulates the staff at the Stillwater Early Head Start for being positive role models to the young children they supervise. Teaching and showing young children that recycling is the right thing to do can make positive impacts on tomorrow by raising future generations of recyclers!

The Carton Council Unveils New Educational Website on Carton Recycling

The Carton Council has launched a new website, CartonOpportunities.org (www.cartonopportunities.org), in response to the increasing demand for carton recycling access in communities large and small. More than 50 million U.S. households now have access to carton recycling, and the Carton Council's goal with the new website is to arm professional audiences with all the information and guidance they need to either begin accepting cartons, or to take their efforts to the next level. The website supplements an existing and popular website, www.RecycleCartons.com, which is focused on educating consumers.

"When a recycling facility adds cartons and a community can start recycling their cartons, new opportunities arise. In addition to satisfying the needs of residents and opening up new revenue streams, when a new material is added to a program, all commodities stand to benefit by increased volume. It's a winning proposition for everyone," said Jason Pelz, vice president, environment, Tetra Pak North America, and vice president of recycling projects for Carton Council of North America. "CartonOpportunities.org is designed to make it easier for anyone with an interest in carton recycling to find the information they need so they may join the carton family and begin to reap the benefits."

With industry-specific, tailored information, recycling and solid waste industry professionals, as well as elected officials, will learn how the addition of cartons can make their recycling programs more robust and convenient for residents, divert more from their local landfills, save on landfill tipping fees and help them reach diversion and Zero Waste goals faster.

CartonOpportunities.org offers:

- ♦ Carton recycling information, including best practices, case studies and FAQs
- ♦ A step-by-step overview on how to add cartons to a community, facility or school
- ♦ "Insider Access" Resource Library with exclusive materials and tools for promoting carton recycling, such as brochures and flyers, presentations and speeches, creative files and photos and more (registration is required but all of the tools are free)
- ♦ News and updates on the latest in carton recycling



cartons

To learn more about carton recycling and the Carton Council, visit www.CartonOpportunities.org.

Oklahoma Green Schools

About Oklahoma Green Schools

The goal of the Oklahoma Green Schools Program (OGSP) is to assist teachers and administrators with engaging curriculum that empowers students to improve their schools and preserve our environment. OGSP came about because of teachers expressing a desire for an official program that promotes "green" activities within their schools.

Members of the Oklahoma Green Schools Committee hope to bring coordination, focus and encouragement to the classroom, by correlating Green School Investigations to Oklahoma State Standards. This program enhances STEM, core curriculum requirements and service learning opportunities for our next generation of Oklahomans.

Project Learning Tree GreenSchools! Investigations

Investigations form the basis for the Oklahoma Green Schools' educational component. Five STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) focused, student-led, service learning based hands-on investigations cover the following topic areas:

Energy
Water
Waste & Recycling
Environmental Quality
School Site



Easy to use forms allow students to expand their learning environment through data collection and becoming ambassadors of stewardship. Toolkits for student use when conducting the investigations may be checked out through our order form on the Oklahoma Green Schools website.

As students collect data and document findings, questions arise regarding personal and cooperative actions that can be taken to address issues. Through student leadership, each school can move toward creating a healthy and energy efficient learning environment.

Also available through this program are free environmental education materials. Upon registration you may request a Green School Committee member liaison for assistance with service learning projects, student-led school investigations, presentations on Green School topics and more.

Why Should I Green My School?

Green schools enhance learning.

The quality of educators and curriculum are the most important factors in a student's scholastic performance, but the quality of school facilities – *where* students learn – is often overlooked. School buildings can enhance a student's ability to learn by keeping them healthy, attentive and present enhance a student's ability to learn by keeping them healthy, attentive and present.

Green schools save money.

The Department of Energy's Energy Smart Schools reports that K-12 schools spend more than \$8 billion annually on energy, making energy the second highest operating expenditure for schools after personnel costs.

Green schools increase teacher retention.

Teachers in green schools report they are more satisfied with their school environments than teachers in conventional schools, helping to improve teacher retention. They cite indoor air quality, access to daylight and outdoor views and better acoustics as reasons they prefer these high-performing schools.

Green schools lessen environmental impacts, conserve resources and educate the next generation of environmental stewards.

See more reasons for greening your school on the USGBC website:

www.centerforgreenschools.org/why-green-schools

6 Steps to Oklahoma Green Schools Certification

Follow these 6 Steps to Certification outlined on the website to become an Oklahoma Green School and earn your flag!

1. Register Your School
2. Form your School Green Team
3. Conduct a PLT School Investigation
4. Implement a Student Action Project
5. Report Back to Us
6. Challenge Others



DID YOU KNOW?

According to *Greening America's Schools: Costs and Benefits* by Greg Kats, green schools use 33 percent less energy and 32 percent less water than conventionally constructed schools, significantly reducing utility costs over the average 42-year lifecycle of a school.

On average, green schools save \$100,000 per year on operating costs — enough to hire at least one new teacher, buy 200 new computers, or purchase 5,000 textbooks.

Congratulations 2012-13 Green Schools!

Peters Elementary was the first Union school to become an official Oklahoma Green School in 2013, after students developed plans to grow more trees and cut energy costs. In fact, thanks to students, Peters' electric bill in March dropped \$1,400 compared to the same time last year.



Celebrating Green Schools at Peters Elementary

"Oklahoma Green Schools Program (OGSP) is an organization that promotes green practices in schools. Fourth graders investigated various aspects of the school site, and developed and implemented a plan to improve the green areas," enrichment specialist Kathy Harding said. "In conjunction with the grounds

crew, we planted 14 additional trees and planted flowers out front. Students measured the tree canopy and discovered that less than 1 percent of our outdoor area was covered by trees."

Fourth graders also studied how well the grounds soaked up water – concrete versus green space, and "we learned that 76 percent of our grounds was pervious and determined that was good." The Fifth grade used an assortment of tools provided by the OK Green Schools Program to investigate energy usage in the school. "They wrote and performed an assembly challenging students to save energy. Our electric bill for March was \$1,400 lower than last year," Harding said.

Fifth grade students investigated energy use in the school. They learned that they were wasting a lot of energy, and designed a project to attempt to reduce their energy usage. Students wrote and performed a play in front of the whole school to encourage good energy practices at home and at school. Students designed door hangers to remind teachers and students to turn off their lights, smart boards and televisions. The students learned that small actions can make big differences in energy consumption and costs.

Photo at right shows Tulsa Public Schools' **Remington Elementary** Green Team (with lead teacher, Lynne Waters) receiving their Oklahoma Green Schools Flag at a ceremony at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. Shown with the group is OGSP energy expert, Les Pace. For more details, see the Remington Elementary School page linked from the Oklahoma Green Schools website:

<http://www.okgreenschools.org/featured-green-schools/remington-elementary-school/>



Deer Creek High School Green Team leader, Debbie Adams, has uploaded results of the student findings, their report to administration and the results of their professional energy audit. You may view this information online at: <http://www.okgreenschools.org/featured-green-schools/deer-creek-high-school/>

YOU'RE INVITED! 2013 OK GREEN SCHOOLS LEARNING SESSIONS

The Oklahoma Green Schools Program offers free summer training opportunities for anyone interested in learning more about the Oklahoma Green Schools Program! Register at <http://www.okgreenschools.org/okgs-training/>

July 31, 2013: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
August 8, 2013: Broken Arrow, Northeastern State University Broken Arrow Campus

RECYCLING NEWS FROM ADA



Earth Day Proclamation

Shane Sweeney (right), Ada's Vice Mayor, presents an Earth Day proclamation to Garmon Smith, ARC Chairman, at the Ada Recycling Coalition's annual Earth Day meeting in April.

photo by Richard R. Barron

ARC Earth Day Essay Contest Winners

Ada Recycling Coalition's "Ways and Reasons to Conserve Water in My Hometown" essay contest winners pose with their awards on April 25, 2013. They are Daniel Bratcher, Ada Jr. High, 1st Place (\$200); Sadie Criswell, Ada Jr. High, runner-up (\$50); Lupe Ramirez, Vanoss 11th Grade, 1st Place (\$200); and Leah Mann, Ada High 11th Grade, runner-up (\$50).

photo by Richard R. Barron



Roff Elementary Wins ARC Phone Book Collection Contest



Steve Timmons (ARC) presents Mrs. Wellington's class from Roff Elementary their award for collecting the most phone books.

Eight schools participated in the contest collecting a total of 7,833 phone books. Of those, 3,726 were collected by Roff elementary with 2,515 collected by Mrs. Wellington's class alone. Roff elementary won \$150 for first place.

Latta Elementary was 2nd place with 2,645 phone books collected. Winning classes from each school were awarded \$40 for pizza parties. In addition to Mrs. Wellington's class, the other winning classes and number of books collected by each were Mrs. Robinson's from Latta Elementary (820 phonebooks collected), Ms. Blanco's from Washington Elementary (301), Kathy Evan's Pre-K from Ada Early Childhood Center (243), Linda Cantrell's class from Willard Elementary (100), Mrs. Jones' class from Tupelo Elementary (62), Tara Neighbors' class from Hayes Elementary, and Mrs. Roberts' class from Homer Elementary (18).



ARC Elects New Officers

Newly elected Ada Recycling Coalition officers and board members pose for a photo at the Ada Public Library on May 8, 2013. Front row: Chairman, Garmon Smith; Vice Chairman, Doug Weirick; Treasurer, Glenda DeShazo, and City of Ada Recycling Coordinator, Stan Fullingim.

Back Row: Board Members Marilyn Ellis, Steve Timmons, Betty Parham, Dana Clifton and Secretary, Trudy Nevland. Not pictured are Board Members: Wade Beall, Lisa Sharp and Ambrie Walker.

photo by Richard R. Barron

PRIDE IN MCALESTER AND CITY OF MCALESTER PLACE RECYCLING BINS AT CITY PARKS

Keep America Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation Fill Need for Recycling Bins in Public Spaces

McAlester, OK (June 4, 2013) —Pride In McAlester (PIM) received four recycling bins designed specifically for placement at city parks that were installed by the City of McAlester Parks and Recreation department. The recycling bins are thanks to a grant made possible by Keep America Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation.

"The new recycling bins from the KAB and Coca-Cola grant will help improve McAlester's recycling program by not only providing more opportunities to recycle, but also by placing them in city parks we have additional outlets to teach conservation, responsibility, and beautification of this great city we live in," conveyed PIM President Justin Few.

PIM received four blue metal outdoor bins that clearly designate them for recycling with round holes labeled "Cans/Bottles." Two of the recycling receptacles were placed at Chadick Park, one at Komar Park and one at Rotary Park. The bins were placed near existing trash cans to help ensure proper use by patrons.

"Through our support of the Bin Grant program and our long-standing partnership with Keep America Beautiful, we are helping to bring sustainability to life in local communities across the country," said Lori George Billingsley, vice president, community relations, Coca-Cola North America Group. "By increasing access to recycling today, we build sustainable communities for the future."

"One of the main barriers to recycling is convenience. Providing a recycling bin helps communities overcome that barrier," said Matthew M. McKenna, president and CEO, Keep America Beautiful. "We are truly grateful for Coca-Cola's support and commitment to recycling and the Bin Grant Program."

Pride In McAlester was one of 156 local government, schools, colleges and other community groups nationwide to receive a grant. Recipients were chosen by Keep America Beautiful based on a number of criteria including level of need, recycling experience and the ability of applicants to sustain their program in the future. The Bin

Grant program awards recycling bins directly to recipients and leverages volume buying discounts. In its seven years of operation, the Bin Grant program has placed more than 29,000 recycling bins in more than 500 communities in 48 states and the District of Columbia. A full list of the spring 2013 Bin Grant recipients and further information about the grant program is available at <http://bingrant.org/>.



Noah Few and Noah Zaccaro demonstrate that you are never too young to recycle in McAlester

About Keep America Beautiful

Keep America Beautiful is the nation's leading nonprofit that brings people together to build and sustain vibrant communities. With a network of more than 1,200 affiliate and participating organizations including state recycling organizations, we work with millions of volunteers to take action in their communities. Keep America Beautiful offers solutions that create clean, beautiful public places, reduce waste and increase recycling, generate positive impact on local economies and inspire generations

of environmental stewards. Through KAB's programs and public-private partnerships, we engage individuals to take greater responsibility for improving their community's environment. For more information, visit kab.org.

About The Coca-Cola Foundation

Since its inception, The Coca-Cola Foundation has awarded more than \$500 million to support global sustainable community initiatives, including water stewardship, community recycling, active healthy living, and education. For more information about The Coca-Cola Foundation, please go to www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation_coke.html

YOUR AD HERE

Consider an ad in the OKRA News!

Cost is \$75.00 per issue.

For more information contact

Trudi Logan

(trudi.logan@us.af.mil)

actual ad size is shown (3 1/2" x 2")

Help OKRA Grow!

Please renew your membership now for 2013 if you haven't already done so. OKRA membership runs on the calendar year. If you are not an OKRA member, consider joining!

To learn about membership levels and member benefit details, such as discounts to OKRA events, download our membership brochure: <http://www.recycleok.org/okra/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/BrochureWebsite.pdf>

How to join or renew your membership in 2013:

* Via mail - send a completed membership brochure and your check by mail to OKRA, PO Box 521154, Tulsa, OK 74152-1154.

* Via Internet - go to www.recycleok.org/join-us.php and access the online membership form toward the bottom of the page. You then have a choice of paying online via PayPal or by mail (send your check to the PO Box above).

Any questions, please email info@recycleok.org.

Thank you for supporting OKRA!

2013 OKRA Members

Silver Corporate Members

Goodwill Industries
OG&E Energy Corp.
Republic/Allied Waste Services
Waste Connections of Oklahoma

Bronze Corporate Members

American Waste Control
Big 4 Filtration
Choctaw Nation
Natural Evolution

Corporate Members

Amazon Environmental
KEG Curbside Recycling
National Waste & Disposal
NCED Marriott Conference Center
Professional Recyclers, Inc
United Electronic Recycling

Non-Profit/Government Partners

Ada Recycling Coalition
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Ardmore Beautification Council
Arkansas Recycling Coalition
City of Moore
City of Ponca City
City of Weatherford
Delaware Nation Environmental Programs
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful
Metropolitan Environmental Trust
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance
Oklahoma State University

Pride in McAlester
Red Cedar Recycling
Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation
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Solid Waste Institute of NE Oklahoma
Tulsa Master Recyclers
University of Central Oklahoma

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If you notice any errors or have questions about your 2013 membership status, please email info@recycleok.org

