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Three Oklahoma Cities Recognized for Recycling

More than 70% of residents in Edmond, Midwest City and Norman now recycle

OKLAHOMA CITY - On April 9, 2015, Republic Services of Oklahoma City announced plans to recognize three Oklahoma municipalities with a Seal of Recycling Excellence for embracing a sustainable lifestyle and diverting more than 12,000 tons of combined material from area landfills in 2014. Republic presented officials from Midwest City, Edmond and Norman with the award at their respective city council meetings in April.



Republic Services presented Midwest City with the Seal of Recycling Excellence for high participation in their residential recycling program

From left to right: Republic Services General Manager David Higgins, Republic Services Municipal Services Manager Carrie Miller, Midwest City Mayor Dee Collins, Midwest City Environmental Services Director Bill Janacek and Midwest City Stormwater Quality Manager Paul Streets.

"This community's got a vision in the form of being environmentally sound stewards today for the generations to come," said Charles Lamb, Mayor of Edmond. "On recycling days, you see a blue cart with a green cart at most of the houses on my street. It's always a great thing when you roll out a new program to see the results be at such a high level."

Republic Services collected and processed nearly five million tons of recyclables nationwide in 2014, enabling municipalities and counties across the country to increase residential recycling participation. Recycling participation in the communities of Edmond, Midwest City and Norman has steadily increased in recent years, and now exceeds 70 percent. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency data, recycling participation in these communities is more than double the national average for residential recycling participation.

"It is inspiring to see the difference residents in these communities are making by embracing sustainability, and making a conscious decision to recycle," said David Higgins, general manager of Republic Services. "Our customers are united behind a common goal to reduce overall waste and preserve the local environment, and we are proud to do our part by making it effortless."



General Manager David Higgins and Municipal Services Manager Carrie Miller present Edmond Mayor Charles Lamb with Seal of Recycling Excellence, awarded for Edmond's residents' high participation rates in the City's curbside program

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In addition to numerous environmental benefits, landfill diversion can in some cases help municipalities better manage limited resources by reducing their waste disposal costs. Last year, Republic's All-in-One® recycling program enabled the City of Edmond to save approximately \$172,800 in landfill usage fees. The City of Norman and Midwest City last year saved approximately \$98,600 and \$46,800, respectively, in fees that would have otherwise been paid to dispose of recycled material in an area landfill.

Republic Services is a great partner with Midwest City," said Dee Collins, Mayor of Midwest City. "Their single-stream recycling process and educational efforts have helped Midwest City residents recognize the value of recycling and incorporating recycling into their daily routines."

Republic Services considered waste collection data as well as recycling tonnage data from local recycling part-

ner, Batliner Recycling, in determining which Oklahoma municipalities would be recognized with the Seal of Recycling Excellence. This is the first year that Republic Services of Oklahoma City has recognized area municipalities with the Seal of Recycling Excellence.

"Republic Services has been an excellent partner in growing Norman's recycling program," said Cindy Rosenthal, Mayor of Norman. "As a city, Norman is committed to recycling, one house at a time."

Republic Services of Oklahoma employs 126 people who serve more than 80 municipalities and commercial and

industrial customers statewide. Republic operates five hauling offices, four transfer stations and five landfills located throughout the state.

By: Mary Ellen Knewton
Republic Services



Republic Services recognized Norman with its Seal of Recycling Excellence for outstanding participation in the curbside recycling program. In 2014, 87% of Norman residents participated in curbside recycling.

From left to right, Norman Mayor Cindy Rosenthal, Republic Services General Manager David Higgins, Republic Services Municipal Services Manager Carrie Miller and Norman Director of Utilities Ken Komiske

Recycling Rates Increase in Edmond

Starting on July 1, 2015, it costs Edmond residents a little more to recycle. On June 22, Edmond City Council voted to increase the recycling program monthly fee from the current \$2.80 to \$3.00. The increase is partially needed to offset the increased cost in transportation costs for recycling roll-offs from the Edmond recycling drop off center. Currently the cost to transport the roll-offs is approximately \$3,600 each month, and this cost is not directly recoverable.

On a positive note, the participation rate for Edmond's recycling program is a whopping 83%, with over 450 tons being recycled each month! This far exceeds forecasted participation rates, and is estimated to have resulted in a reduction of monthly landfill transportation costs of \$17,000 to \$18,000.

Edmond provides curbside recycling service for all residential customers as part of their weekly trash service. As part of the service, residents are provided a 96-gallon recycling poly cart.

Analysis showed, that without the newly approved rate increase, the Edmond Solid Waste Recycling Fund would

have a deficit of over \$34,000 by fiscal year 2016/1017.

The 20 cent increase in the recycling program fee will generate an additional \$70,000 in annual revenue and will cover the transportation costs of the recycling roll-offs.



Along with the 20 cent recycling rate hike, the Edmond City Council also approved a ten cent rate increase for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program monthly fee. This fee will increase from 38 cents to 48 cents. Edmond's HHW program consists of an "At Your Door Service," which allows residents to receive one pick up per year at their homes.

To fund the fee increases for both the recycling and the HHW programs, the cost for one curbside poly cart for recycling and one cart for trash will increase from \$13.93 to \$14.23 per month.

Congratulations Shawnee!

Shawnee is celebrating its first year anniversary of the "Curbside Recycling Program!" Citizens that participated in the program during the 2014/2015 calendar year helped divert 500 tons of recyclable material from the landfill. To put this number into perspective: A blue whale, the largest mammal on earth, weighs approximately 200 tons. That's 2.5 blue whales Shawnee! That's terrific!

Participation in March of 2014, the beginning of the program, was 22% - That's a pretty respectable start!



Six months later participation was 45% - That's fantastic!

At the one year mark, citizen participation was recorded at 40%. Even though we experienced a slight leveling off, Shawnee is still above the national average of 35%.

These are great numbers to see and we are really pleased with the first year of participation. We would obviously like to see this number get above 50% and probably could see that over the summer.

We couldn't have done it without the dedication from the staff at Central Disposal. Central Disposal is Shawnee's rubbish contractor, and they have played an integral role in helping us reach our recycling goals. From day one, Central has shared our vision and dedication to not just

the environment, but the future economic success of Shawnee.

In an expression of solidarity, Central Disposal modified its business plan to include recycling. That modification also included the purchase of specialized equipment to handle the material collected.

Central Disposal currently operates two trucks to pick up recycling in Shawnee. One is a 2014 International rear load truck for recycling only. A green CD logo and recycle logo are prominently displayed. They also use a 2014 Kann curbside truck that is exclusively used for recycling and the material from this truck is sent to Faith 7 as donated material. In addition, Central Disposal purchased a 53' open top walking floor trailer that is dedicated for recycling. The material that is not sent to Faith 7 is taken back to the Shawnee Transfer Station and loaded into this trailer for transport to Batliner in OKC at least once, sometimes twice a week.



Central added cardboard to its accepted curbside materials this year. They accept broken down boxes that are placed in or under blue recycle bins placed at the curb. Residents

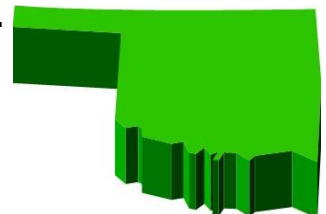
can still bring large cardboard items to the blue roll off bins located at the Transfer Station, where employees will help unload their items of paper, cardboard, and glass.

Residents can also add additional bins for \$8/bin (one time cost) if they have more recyclable material than would fit in a single bin.

By Mark Flores
Shawnee Municipal Authority



Keep an eye out for Oklahomans recycling. Catch them in the act and send us a photo and/or an article describing their recycling or composting efforts. We would love to highlight them in an upcoming issue of the OKRA News. Just send photos and articles or other information to OKRA Newsletter Editor, Trudi Logan, at trudi.logan@us.af.mil.



Mr. Murph Loves the Bottles: Just Ask McNellie's

Walk into any McNellie's in Tulsa these days and you'll spot very little that's out of the ordinary for a restaurant. On the surface at least.

It's when you get to the back door --where they're actually tossing their trash-- that you get a true sense of the restaurant's passion for sustainability.

McNellie's, along with other restaurants in the Tulsa area, are joining with American Waste Control and their city-wide Mr. Murph Recycling Program—to make a huge impact on Tulsa's environment by recycling everything from plastic and aluminum to steel cans, cardboard, paper, and even glass.

So far, the program has been huge for McNellie's.

Known for their vast beer menu, the restaurant is now able to recycle their glass beer bottles and virtually any recyclable item via American Waste Control's collection pickup of their Mr. Murph dumpster on property.

The recycling program is a key part of an overall integrated approach to lowering the waste costs for the restaurant. By recycling, they're removing recyclables out of their trash stream and reducing both frequency of pickups and the size of their main trash container.

Then, there's the sustainability part of it—American Waste Control has made it easy for businesses like McNellie's to “go green” through their one of a kind MRF technology that allows them to capture the recyclables and reduce the waste stream from Tulsa area landfills.

AWC's recovery rates from single stream recyclables are as high as 95% -- the highest it's ever been in Tulsa -- and a big reason AWC is known statewide for their eco-friendly practices. They're now able to process and reclaim almost 400,000 pounds or 200 tons of recyclables a day from residents and businesses.

AWC is also using technology at their newly installed

waste to energy plant at their landfill to harness the waste that Mr. Murph cannot recycle. Here, they're utilizing methane gas made by decomposing garbage to power over 4,800 homes in Oklahoma.

So, it's no wonder many Tulsa companies are getting on board with Mr. Murph. They know that just by doing business with AWC, they're not just getting trash services, but their very own company-recycling and waste to energy program—featuring the most efficient MRF and waste to energy landfill in Oklahoma.

McNellie's customers love that fact and are expressing their appreciation for the restaurant's sustainability efforts in every way possible—in person and even Facebook and Twitter. The message conveyed is that McNellie's cares about sustainable living and wants to do all it can to provide for a cleaner future for Tulsa.

A definite win-win for the Tulsa restaurant and for Mr. Murph. Customers love saving the bottles just as much as they love guzzling down the beer. Well, almost. Beer is beer, afterall. And, we *are* talking McNellie's.

Luckily, the restaurant is putting Tulsa first and partnering with American Waste Control, Oklahoma's only Waste to Energy company, to do something awesome for the environment and community.



McNellie's at 1st and Elgin in Tulsa



AWC and Mr. Murph provide extensive recycling services for McNellie's and other Tulsa restaurants

What's the Strangest Thing to Show Up in a Recycling Bin?

An East Coast recycling vehicle operator was startled to find a 6-ft shark taking up most of the room in one recycling bin. I guess it was Single Stream!

2015 Oklahoma Recycling Conference Announcement

Tulsa will be the location of the 2015 Oklahoma Recycling Conference, Tuesday, October 20. The one-day event, to be held at the OU Schusterman Center, will feature Scott Cassel as the keynote speaker.

Scott is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), a national, membership-based nonprofit committed to reducing the health, safety, and environmental impacts of consumer products across their lifecycles with a strong focus on sustainable end-of-life management.



Scott has over 30 years of experience in product and waste management issues. Prior to founding PSI in 2000, Scott served as the Director of Waste Policy and Planning for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Before that, he worked for a start-up solid waste management company, an environmental nonprofit, and several other state government agencies.

Oklahoma is a member of PSI and has been working

with the organization to develop product take-back programs and fact sheets that focus on the economic and financial benefits of recycling. Several members of the Oklahoma Product Stewardship Working Group are also OKRA members... Fenton Rood, Melissa Adler-McKibben, Mike Stickney, Patrick Riley, Garmon Smith, and Kristi Shreve, to name a few.

The OKRA Conference Committee is busy planning the rest of the October 20th program with interesting presentations, mostly based on recommendations made by past conference attendees. Thanks to those of you who complete conference evaluation forms after each OKRA conference – we really do use that information!

If you have additional program suggestions or you would like to sponsor or exhibit at the 2015 conference, please email info@recycleok.org

Announcements will be made once online registration is ready. In the meantime, be sure you're connected to OKRA via www.recycleok.org/okra/get-involved and www.facebook.com/RecycleOK.org.

By Ilda Hershey

To sort or not to sort, that is the question...

A lot of conversation and controversy has arisen lately over single stream vs. source separated recycling. Here are some of the pros and cons of each.

Single Stream

CON: Recyclables are often of reduced quality, and are sold for lower prices than those which are separated for collection.

CON: Recyclables are often contaminated. Heavy reliance on sorting equipment and/or manual labor.

PRO: Very convenient for user. Larger collection containers can be provided to residents. Requires little or no pre-sorting.

PRO: Maximizes the volume of recyclables collected due to the inherent convenience.

Source Separated

PRO: Recyclables are usually higher in quality and can be sold at higher prices than materials collected as single stream.

PRO: Less contamination of recyclables. Does not rely heavily on expensive sorting technology or manual labor.

CON: Requires more effort from the consumer to pre-sort recyclables for curbside pickup, or to take them to a drop off site.

CON: Reduced volume of recyclables collected due to the extra effort required by consumer.

As OKRA Executive Committee Member, Robert Pickens, said "Even with their blemishes, each form of recycling does improve the quality of life and the environment for residents who live in states that offer these programs. If they are lucky, both options are available to residents."

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Not a current member of OKRA? Consider joining today! To learn about membership levels and member benefits, such as discounts to OKRA events, download our membership brochure from www.recycleok.org.

To join or renew your membership in 2015:

- ♦ **Send completed membership brochure and check by mail to OKRA, PO Box 521154, Tulsa, OK 74152-1154.**
- ♦ **Go to www.recycleok.org/join-us.php and access the online membership form toward the bottom of the page. You can pay online via PayPal, by mail (send your check to the PO Box above), or by credit card (follow the PayPal link and select "Pay by Credit Card" instead of PayPal).**

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OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION