

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](http://www.recycleok.org)

## Oklahoma Mercury Thermostat Recycling

by Matthew Newman

The Mercury Thermostat Recycling Initiative in Oklahoma started as a brief discussion with Fenton Rood of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), then developed into an economical means of implementing a statewide solution for thermostat recycling. Intended to augment Household Hazardous Waste collection days that cities and municipalities conduct a few times per year, the retail store-front solution with Locke Supply was a perfect fit.

The need was evident and it was a pleasure for Covanta Tulsa to be the catalyst in activating a positive chain reaction.

The product stewardship theme is recognizable as Locke Supply was successful in attaining participation from a new thermostat supplier through a "bounty" program; customers bring in an old thermostat with mercury switches and Locke Supply provides a \$10-off coupon for a state-of-the-art replacement thermostat.

The public/private partnership amongst Covanta Tulsa, Locke Supply, ODEQ, Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC) and the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) is the key in yielding successful results for this Oklahoma initiative.

Following identification for the need of mercury thermostat recycling, the PSI provided Covanta with a list of Oklahoma electrical and HVAC wholesalers and retailers. Locke Supply was identified as the entity that provided both retail store front access for Oklahomans and wholesale sales to electricians and air conditioning service companies.

Covanta initiated discussions with Locke Supply and a partnership was created, where each shared the cost of implementation. Guided in the process by Covanta, Locke Supply successfully orchestrated a "bounty" discount from their thermostat manufacturer for the \$10 discount (bounty).

TRC was also instrumental in executing the statewide initiative. Whereas Covanta and Locke Supply provided a full list of "recycling" locations, TRC was paid for the containers and provided the specific locations with containers. Locke Supply communicated to their store staff about the process and procedure for packaging the old thermostats and shipping to TRC.

Covanta partnered with major electric utilities, OG&E and AEP PSO, to include a flyer about the program in the utility's "Welcome" packages for new households, and also with Oklahoma Natural Gas who posted a thermostat recycling link within a bill insert that reached over 800,000.

Covanta also partnered with the Choctaw Nation, who sponsored three thermostat recycling host sites, and returned 4.5 pounds of mercury switches to TRC within 45 days of implementing their program.

Covanta is currently partnering with local municipalities' permanent Household Hazardous Waste collection sites to sponsor thermostat recycling host sites. The City of Tulsa and Covanta partnered on a thermostat recycling station within their new permanent household pollutant collection facility.

The key to the program's overall success will be in the communication and education programs that can be conducted across Oklaho-



## Oklahoma Mercury Thermostat Recycling (cont.)

by Debbie Vega

ma. Along with the ODEQ, Covanta and Locke Supply work with various stakeholders and program partners, hoping to see an increase in awareness at the household level regarding mercury thermostat recycling.

Covanta Tulsa was honored by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful with their pinnacle "Towering Spirit Award" in 2015. Awards provide a forum to communicate the recycling initiative and educate Oklahoma residents on how to appropriately dispose of waste thermostats, as do articles like this one!



Look for the mercury switch inside.



Recycle the whole thermostat, do not remove mercury switch!

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Locate the nearest Locke Supply location at:  
[www.lockesupply.com/locations.php](http://www.lockesupply.com/locations.php)

Or contact your Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning (HVAC) contractor to responsibly recycle your thermostat.

For more information, please contact:  
**Thermostat Recycling Corporation (TRC)**  
[www.thermostat-recycle.org/](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org/)

**Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality**  
[www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/land/whatismercury.pdf](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/land/whatismercury.pdf)

**The key to successful mercury thermostat recycling is education!**

## City of Moore Holds Spring Recycling Event



On Saturday, April 16th, Moore held an expanded recycling collection event. In addition to the usual recyclables (plastics, aluminum, tin, cardboard, mixed fiber) collected at the Moore Recycle Center, electronics and glass were also accepted. In addition, paper shredding was available for customers to dispose of sensitive documents in an earth friendly manner.





## OKRA Recognizes Students for Recycling

OKRA congratulates Perkins 4-H for winning an OKRA Recycling Award. OKRA board member Lynn Malley presented an OKRA Recycling Award check for \$100 to the Perkins 4-H club on Monday evening, May 2nd. The group collected over 1000 pounds of aluminum cans in the 2014-2015 school year and donated the money to the Perkins-Tryon primary school. As a result of their efforts, they won the Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) award for Oklahoma of \$1000.

The Perkins 4H collected cans again this year and are waiting to see if they again will receive the CMI award.



## Perkins 4-H Club

## Comanche Middle School, 8th Grade Mr. Dobbins' Class



### BUILDING A FUTURE CITY

*Students from Comanche Middle School work on their future city project. The team won second place in the Oklahoma Regional Competition and submitted two projects on solid waste management.*



OKRA congratulates the Comanche Middle School 8th Grade, Mr. Chris Dobbins' Class, who are being awarded the OKRA Recycling award of \$100.

This group of about 20 students entered two teams in the Future Cities contest this year. The theme was Solid Materials Management. Mr. Dobbins and OKRA Board Member, Lynn Malley, worked with both teams. Both teams participated in the state Future Cities competition, and one of the teams won a \$250 prize at the state level. Students on both teams learned a lot about recycling and what happens when things go to landfills.

## Recycling Snapshots from Ada

For Earth Day 2016, the Ada Recycling Coalition sponsored a recycling poetry contest. The Junior High Division Winners (pictured below) were Jessica Patel who won 1st Place (\$100), Alyssa Davis 2nd place (\$75) and Brooklyn Skinner 3rd Place (\$50). Jessica's winning poem is shown at right.



*Photo by Richard Barron*

There were also two winners in the High School Division. Hannah Price, 1st Place (\$100) and Emily Rhyne, 2nd (\$75).

**1<sup>st</sup> Place / Jr. High -- \$100**  
**Congratulations!**

Jessica Patel  
Grade 9  
Ada Junior High

### Save Our Earth

To save our Earth, there are things we can do  
We can recycle old things and make them new  
We can be helpful at our age  
Reuse an old wire fence and make a cage  
With plastic bottles make a bird feeder thing  
You can even turn old tires into a swing  
Instead of plastic, use reusable grocery bags  
My mom reuses old shirts as polishing rags  
When Earth Day comes, plant a tree  
We'll make the world better, just you and me  
To save our Earth, I have this to say  
Start living now like it's Earth Day!



Ada Mayor Guy Sewell and Ada Recycling Coalition Chairman (ARC), Garmon Smith, hold a proclamation naming the week of April 17-23, 2016, "Earth Day Week in Ada," during ARC's 25th annual meeting.



Tracy Horst of the Choctaw Nation speaks about the Nation's recycling programs during the ARC's 25th Annual Earth Day Meeting.

# ARC

*Photos by Richard Barron*

## RESOURCE RECYCLING CONFERENCE

### Save the Date!

Resource Recycling Conference 2016 is the must-attend national conference for the recycling industry's most influential policy leaders, CEOs and government officials. The conference, now entering its seventh year, is your opportunity to network with clients, prospective partners, vendors and top materials management decision-makers all in one location, saving your precious time and travel expenses.

Resource Recycling Conference will offer an expertly curated series of presentations, education sessions, workshops and Q-and-As featuring the leading industry executives and associations. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the latest on materials processing trends, tactics to boost diversion rates, legislative talking points, market analysis and much more.

**Mark your calendar!**  
**August 30—September 1, 2016**  
**New Orleans, LA**  
**[rrconference.com](http://rrconference.com)**



## Wilburton Gets an "S"!

by Debbie Vega

The City of Wilburton is proud to announce that they have received an S number. The ODEQ assigned Wilburton a Site Tracking Number effective February 29, 2016 through March 1, 2017. What does that mean to the citizens of Wilburton and the surrounding area? Wilburton is able to take old tires from citizens at no cost. Tires that are from your cars, trucks, or van, (but NO EQUIPMENT TIRES such as larger off-road tires, forklift and backhoe tires. Tires can NOT have rims). Wilburton can take them at no cost and have them disposed of at no



cost. That means instead of people throwing them on the side of the road, all they have to do is take them to the Recycling Center. When an employee knows that someone has tires to recycle, they will let them know where to put the tires. Wilburton collected a full load of tires during its first month after receiving the S. They are already moving forward to becoming a Clean Community.



The City of Wilburton hosted a month of earth friendly events during April...

- April 2 Clean-up Cemetery behind Hospital
- April 9 Clean-up downtown and Green Frog Puddle Jump Route
- April 16 Tire Recycle/Clothing Drive
- April 23 DOT/Adopt a Hwy Clean-up

Wilburton is also in the process of scheduling an E Waste event, and will let everyone know when it is scheduled.

The City of Wilburton is on its way to be a Clean Community thru the DEQ!



## Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Hosts Clean Up Event

(March 14, 2016 – Oklahoma City) Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) coordinated a Great American Cleanup™ event in Oklahoma City on Friday, March 11.

KOB Staff, some members of the Board of Directors and volunteers began the cleanup at the Oklahoma River canyoning along Harvey a few blocks north to the Sky Dance Bridge. The group collected 27 bags of recyclables, 40 bags of litter and debris, and 69 tires. That is approximately 3,712 pounds of illegally disposed of material.

KOB separated the trash and recyclables into hazardous waste, tires, glass, aluminum, plastic and OEMA took it away for proper disposal.

Among the 22 volunteers were representatives from the KOB Board of Directors, partner agencies and Affiliate organizations, including: Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, Oklahoma Municipal League, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and Oklahoma Green Schools Program.

The Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority, based in El Reno, provided a roll-off dumpster to collect waste and debris. Love Bottling Company of Muskogee provided water and the Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation provided lunch for the volunteers.

"What a great day working alongside our wonderful board members, colleagues and friends!" said Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Executive Director Jeanette

Nance. "We were also joined by citizens who found out about our event through social media and just wanted to "do good" around the community in which they live and share. Such a satisfying endeavor when the neighbors join in! We even had a local vendor in the neighborhood, Cusack Meats, donate hamburgers for our lunch! I am happy to have the opportunity to be those "boots on the ground" that help make the GAC happen across our state! I would like to thank all of those who helped by either attending and being hands on or providing refreshment and supplies to help make our event successfully happen!"

The Great American Cleanup™ (GAC) unites more than 200 groups and 50,000 volunteers across Oklahoma, in every county, to take part in cleanup projects beginning March 1 through May 31. Through the GAC, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful supplies registered groups with free trash bags, work gloves, and safety vests. KOB encourages all cities and organizations to register and commit to beautifying the communities in which they live.

***Keep Oklahoma Beautiful is a statewide nonprofit with a mission to empower Oklahoma citizens to preserve and enhance the state's natural beauty and ensure a healthy, sustainable environment.***

***For more information on the Great American Cleanup™ in Oklahoma or Keep Oklahoma Beautiful please visit:***  
**[www.KeepOklahomaBeautiful.com](http://www.KeepOklahomaBeautiful.com)**



# 2016 OKRA MEMBERS!

## Platinum Corporate Members

Ardagh Glass  
Batliner Recycling

## Gold Corporate Member

Republic Services

## Silver Corporate Members

American Waste Control  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

## Bronze Corporate Members

American Sanitation  
Natural Evolution, Inc.  
Waste Connections of Oklahoma, Inc.

## Corporate Members

American Textile Recycling Services  
Demand Products, Inc.  
DocuGUARD Confidential Shredding & Recycling  
Service Recycling  
Sue's Recycling and Sanitation, LLC  
United Electronic Recycling, LLC

## Non-Profit/Government Partners

Ada Recycling Coalition  
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town  
Ardmore Beautification Council, Inc.  
Arkansas Recycling Coalition  
Call2Recycle  
City of Ada  
City of Muskogee  
City of OKC Office of Sustainability  
City of Tulsa  
City of Yukon  
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful  
Metropolitan Environmental Trust  
Oklahoma City Zoo & Botanical Garden  
Oklahoma Conservation Commission  
Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality  
Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance  
Otoe-Missouria Environmental Dept.  
Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation  
Show, Inc.  
Solid Waste Institute of NE OK  
Tulsa Master Recycler Association  
University of Central Oklahoma  
University of Oklahoma

## Regular Members

Matt Albright  
Diana Askins  
Terry Austin  
Ellen Bussert  
Wesley Dedmon  
Nick Derossett  
Matt Faulkner  
Curtis Fitzpatrick  
Mark Flores  
Keri Fothergill  
Peter Grant  
Ian Groshong  
Ken Hamon  
Gaylene Hargrove  
Ilda Hershey  
Mike Hixon  
Bryce Hulsey  
Charlie Hutson  
Sara Ivey  
Daniel Jeffries  
Trudi Logan  
Phil Lorenz  
Lynn Malley  
Jon Melson  
Rick Miller  
Kathy Moore  
Robert Pickens  
Carol Preston  
Fenton Rood  
Susie Shields  
Darren Stefanek  
Jade Urash  
Doug Weirick  
Terry Weygandt  
Larry Wright

## Student Members

Tristan Campbell  
Stephanie Huaman  
Sydney Mantzke  
Tyler Watkins

**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](http://www.recycleok.org).**

**To join or renew your membership in 2016:**

- ♦ **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](http://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).**

## OKRA OFFICERS

**President: Traci Phillips**  
**Natural Evolution, Inc.**

**Vice-President: Tracy Horst**  
**Choctaw Nation**

**Secretary: Sara Ivey**  
**ODEQ**

**Treasurer: Michael Patton**  
**Land Legacy**

**Executive Committee Board:**  
**Ilda Hershey**  
**OSU**  
**&**  
**Robert Pickens**  
**American Waste Control**



**OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION**