



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)

## Bethel School Wins Paper Retriever Earth Day Challenge

Bethel School was named a national winner of the Earth Day contest by recycling 3.93 tons of paper during the month of March in celebration of Earth Day. "We actually recycled 91 tons of paper since we started the program in 2008, and we are off to a great start in 2011!" said organization spokesperson Jim Jenkins, recycling coordinator.



**Bethel Students with Winner's Certificate**  
front row: Mollie Brewer, Baylor Newel, Justin Anderson, Jacob Thompson; back row: Marlea Stafford, Destiny Robinson, Austin Wooten, and Cody Curry

Proceeds from the paper drive at Bethel School go to support the annual science fair, which involves students in 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades. The recycling effort is organized by our science department students.

"Earth Day is a time for us to focus on the small things each of us can do to better our planet," said Sylvain Longval, Vice President of Recycling with Paper Retriever. "Paper Retriever gives people in the community an opportunity to do that and more.

"We encourage everyone in our community to bring the newspapers, magazines, catalogs, old mail, office and school papers to our green and yellow bin." This paper drive is aimed at encouraging community members to be good stewards of the environment while also supporting local non-profits by recycling through Paper Retriever bins. Organizations with Paper Retriever bins received an "Earth Day Bonus" based on the amount of paper recycled through their bins during the month of March.

By simply recycling our paper, we can help non-profit organizations earn money while making a good environmental change as well."



## Bethel School Science Fair Program is "Going Green" while "Getting Green!"

Students of Bethel School are "Going Green" all while earning cash by participating in the Funding Factory Recycling Program. Bethel School's Science Fair is collecting empty laser and inkjet cartridges and used cell phones from the community and sends the waste products to Funding Factory in exchange for cash. The cash is used to help support students who enter the Bethel School Science Fair, stated Jim Jenkins, Science Fair Director.

Companies interested in demonstrating a commitment to education and the environment can participate free of charge in the Funding Factory Business Support Program. Funding Factory will send each supporting business FREE

prepaid shipping labels for the return of collected cartridges and cell phones. By donating to Bethel School, businesses help them earn the extra cash needed to support their science fair program. This program gives our students hands-on experiences solving problems using a scientific data driven process, remarked Jenkins. A total of \$650 has been raised by recycling ink cartridges and cell phones to support Bethel's Science Fair Program.

These funds and community donations from area businesses and individuals provided a prize purse of \$1000 for the winning entries in the science fair.

...See "Going Green" on page 2

# What a Waste!

Northeastern State University students sift through trash and find lots of recyclable materials  
by Josh Newton

TAHLEQUAH — Sifting through bag after bag of trash isn't the typical Monday afternoon routine for college students.

Northeastern State University's Committee for Sustainability and Tahlequah Recycling Inc. teamed up Monday afternoon to raise awareness about the disposal of waste on campus, with Earth Day coming up Friday.

"We wanted to bring attention to the issue," said Deborah Hyde, part of the NSU Department of Natural Sciences and the Committee for Sustainability.

Dubbed "Don't Waste a Day," the recycling awareness program included a weekend's worth of garbage collected from the Dumpsters of Leoser, a campus dorm.

"This particular dorm has a recycling program," said Hyde. "So this gives us the opportunity to see how well the students are doing, and to see if we could expand that to other dorms that don't have a recycling program."

It also helps the planet, said Hyde, to teach the public — including students — about recycling efforts. When the data is collected on Monday's event, it could save the university some money.

"It could help NSU's bottom line, because they're paying by the ton to have waste hauled away from campus," said Hyde. Around 20 students from various classes attended and found out many students are still tossing their recyclables into the garbage cans.

"This is all the garbage from Leoser, just from the weekend," said TRI President Josh Hutchins. "We're going through the bags and sorting through."



Tahlequah Recycling Inc. President Josh Hutchins, far left, gives Northeastern State University students tips on sorting through waste and separating recyclable material from trash.

Josh Newton

After ripping open bags and dumping the garbage onto tarps, spread out in the parking lot of NSU's football stadium, the participants took on the task.

"We're taking all the different recyclable items, and separating them a few ways," said Hutchins.

"Some can be recycled right now in Tahlequah, in some way — through us, through the city of Tahlequah's recycling, through the Humane Society of Cherokee County, or some other way. Then there's the stuff that could be recycled with a little bit of work in the community." That category, he said, included such things as food and glass. "Then we'll have the trash left over," said Hutchins. "That will present us a snapshot of what the university could

be recycling instead of throwing away."

During the weekend alone — Friday afternoon through Monday morning — Leoser students threw away 1,009 pounds, which Monday's participants had to sift through. Of that, 617 pounds of material can be recycled, according to Hutchins, at around 51 percent.

When living in Seattle, Hutchins held several waste audits similar to Monday's activity.

"We've done a little in Tahlequah with businesses," said Hutchins. "As an example, the United Methodist Children's Home. By doing a waste audit there, we were able to come up with a plan that neither saved nor cost them any more money, but they were able to eliminate one of their garbage cans, and recycle half of their stuff."

Reprinted from: The Tahlequah Daily Press, Tue, Apr 19, 2011

## "Going Green" (continued from Page 1)

Community and business supporters can also drop off cartridges and cell phones at the following location: Bethel School in the High School Annex room #3.

To learn more about supporting Bethel School visit [www.FundingFactory.com](http://www.FundingFactory.com), or call, toll-free, 1-888-883-8237. Bethel School can be reached by calling 405-273-3633 and leave a message for Mr. Jenkins to return your call.

*Funding Factory ([www.fundingfactory.com](http://www.fundingfactory.com)) provides schools, non-profit groups and charities with much-needed funding through the simple act of recycling. Participating organizations earn funds by collecting empty printer cartridges and used cell phones from their communities and supporters. All program materials and services (including boxes and return shipping for the items) are free for the participants. Funding Factory has provided over \$20 million in funding to schools and groups across the country since its inception in 1997.*  
**Press Release, Bethel School, April 14, 2011**

# Leveraging a Culture of Trash Accountability

By Marc Jensen

For the past year or so, I've been working on a very effective initiative to improve the level of cardboard recycling at OU. This was initiated by accidentally looking in a dumpster in my college one day and seeing this:



Clearly this is an unacceptable amount of cardboard. As I continued to be more aware of the University's garbage after this, I was struck by the significant amounts of cardboard that were consistently showing up in our dumpsters.

OU has a distributed cardboard recycling system composed of a network of trailers around campus that act as collection points ([http://www.ou.edu/content/facilities/sustainable\\_practices/recycling/cardboard\\_trailer\\_locations.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/facilities/sustainable_practices/recycling/cardboard_trailer_locations.html)). When a trailer is full, OU Recycling hauls it off and brings in an empty one. A few months following this photo, I was able to get a cardboard recycling station setup for my college.

To my surprise, there was still basically as much cardboard showing up in the dumpsters after this station was installed as before. The problem was that there was no accountability for those who still put cardboard in the dumpster. If someone wanted to recycle cardboard, that was easy now, but if they preferred to put it in the trash, it was invisible. So I have endeavored to make the dumpsters transparent.

Every morning, I take a short walk to look in the five dumpsters that service the OU College of Continuing Education. If I find any cardboard boxes, I pull them out, cut out their shipping labels with a box knife, and recycle the box. When I get back to my office, I look up the people whose names are listed on the shipping labels and send them the following form email, personalizing it for them. I also find it useful to CC someone else on these e-mails (it doesn't matter who, just so that the recipient is aware that someone else knows):

Dear [NAME]

My name is Marc Jensen, and as a member of OU's Sustainability Committee, I work to support OU's recycling efforts by conducting sweeps of campus dumpsters to audit them and make sure that they do not contain significant amounts of material that can be recycled or reused, particularly cardboard. This morning, I pulled [DESCRIPTION] boxes that had been shipped to you from the dumpster [LOCATION].

Cardboard can be easily recycled by dropping it in the trailers distributed around campus (see all locations at: [http://www.ou.edu/content/facilities/sustainable\\_practices/recycling/cardboard\\_trailer\\_locations.html](http://www.ou.edu/content/facilities/sustainable_practices/recycling/cardboard_trailer_locations.html)).

Recycling cardboard is important to the University as a way to cut our landfill usage, cut our waste disposal costs and as a revenue stream from recycled material. I know that you are likely not responsible for disposing of this material even though it was delivered to you, but please be aware that this material is ending up in the waste stream, and help by making sure that whoever does dispose of cardboard from your department directs it to a recycling facility. If you would like help setting up effective cardboard recycling in your department, I would be happy to work with you.

Thanks!  
Marc

Responses to these e-mails vary, but they are typically very meek, usually variations on "I put these boxes out and I thought they were being recycled." People are occasionally annoyed at the intrusion into the perceived privacy of trash, which is a useful social exercise on its own. But most importantly, this effort is completely in line with OU's policy on recycling, which curtails any significant arguments about the entitlement of trash. The intention of this initiative is to create awareness and transparency, not guilt.

In the months since I've been doing this, the amount of cardboard appearing in our dumpsters has dropped dramatically, and the CCE cardboard collection point has become one of the most productive on campus. I brought this approach to Greg Brezinski – the head of OU's recycling department – who responded: "We were all very surprised by the volume that your trailer was producing from the start. Other than the Union and kitchen trailers it is our biggest producer so we are very impressed with your results and thankful for your effort. It would be great if your idea could spread throughout the campus!"

Personally, I find this approach satisfying, productive and also fun. It's a kind of forensic investigation of trash. I am attempting to replicate this approach at other colleges on campus, but to date have been unable to find anyone willing to jump in dumpsters every morning, even among the students of the OU environmental club. Cardboard is far from the worst type of material waste that shows up in the University's dumpsters, but it is one of the most trackable, and one of the most lucrative to recycle, so it's a good place to start.

Recently, cardboard has begun appearing in the CCE dumpsters that has had the shipping addresses blacked out with marker, or simply ripped off of the box. So this e-mail campaign tactic really needs to be considered as a first tool in a broader effort to not only create accountability and transparency in the waste stream, but also to educate and motivate the community, working toward a culture that understands and values conservation. As a single person, I am only capable of effectively policing a relatively small section of the campus, but within that area of influence this initiative is a good demonstration of the impact that a single person's effort and intentionality can produce.



## Caught in the Act!!

Volunteers pick up trash and recyclables April 23, 2011 at the Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Refuge Cleanup



Trash and recyclables in Lake Overholser before the cleanup



Volunteers collected recyclables in white bags and trash in black bags



24 Tires were collected during the event



White bags were opened at the pavilion and the recyclables were sorted



Truckload of recyclables prior to sorting



Scrap metal and aluminum was taken to a metals recycling facility

## Don't Dump It, Reuse It

*Reusable Construction and Demolition Materials are Welcome at the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center*

Contractors and Construction companies may be able to improve their bottom line by utilizing the Chickasaw Nation ReUse center for items which might otherwise clog local landfills. There is no charge for dropping off material at the center, which can help cut down on fees charged by landfills. Locally, those fees range from \$20 per ton to more than \$27 per ton.

In some cases, a tax deduction may also be available for materials left at the center. A receipt will be provided upon request.

While the center cannot accept severely damaged or hazardous materials such as lead-based paint, it does accept clean lumber, doors, windows and other items that may not be in perfect condition, but may still be reused.

The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center has forged partnerships with the Ada Recycling Coalition and the Ada Area Chamber of Commerce Green Initiatives Committee to provide another source for reusable goods. The center also teamed up with the City of Ada's Household Hazardous

Waste event to divert more than 3,700 pounds of usable paint from the landfills. This dedication prompted judges to award the ReUse Center with a 20th Annual Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Environmental Excellence Award.

Since opening January 2010, the ReUse Center has handled more than 230,385 pounds of material and has served more than 14,332 customers. On average, 1,744 pounds of material are diverted from the waste stream each day the center is in operation.

The ReUse Center is only the second of its kind in the state of Oklahoma and the second Native American-owned reuse center in the United States.

The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The center accepts reusable furniture, appliances, electronics, clothing, household and kitchen items, paint, cleaning products and building materials. For more information, call (580) 272-5451 or visit the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center at 2205 N. Broadway in Ada.



## Featured School Recycling Program #2\*

# Tulsa Webster High School

### *OKRA recognizes efforts of Tulsa Webster High School's Green Team*

Last summer Webster's Transition Specialist Tiamara Phillips and Beth Turner, Strand Coordinator, attended a three-day training workshop about Oklahoma Green Schools. They met Les Pace of Pace Applied Technologies, Inc. The three of them worked together to recruit students for a Webster Green Team. They learned that the 2009-2010 senior class had purchased a few recycling bins for the school, and senior advising teacher Tracy Ogle had already submitted paperwork for an on-site Abitibi Paper Retriever bin. Tulsa Schools public information was impressed and ran a story about their efforts, which was read by a person at Harley Hollan Companies. The company offered them a free pilot partnership towards recycling efforts. This led to cafeteria manager, Donna Hargis' involvement. Thus, two projects were created: energy efficiency and recycling. Following is a brief overview of what was accomplished during the 2010/2011 school year as presented in a powerpoint presentation by students David Luthy and Shawn Harwell.

#### LIGHTING

National standards show that lighting levels in a hallway should be around 25 to 30 footcandles. Webster's hallways are lighted at 60-70 footcandles, double the amount of light needed. It costs \$423 dollars to operate one hallway every year and \$360 dollars to replace the lamps, for a yearly cost of \$783 dollars. If we remove one-half of those lamps, we'd save \$211 every year in lighting costs and another \$180 in future replacement costs. In five years, that'd mean a savings of \$1237 while making the lighting BETTER.

#### TRASH

With the help of Harley Hollan and the leadership of our cafeteria manager, Donna Hargis, our recycling bin has been full to overflowing every week. In just three months we diverted 321 cubic yards out of the trash and into the recycling bin (Harley Hollan recycles styrofoam). Ms. Hargis estimates that we recycled 75-percent of our cafeteria waste.

#### PAPER

Thanks to a permanent loan agreement with the M.E.T., we put paper-recycling bins in every classroom. And with a loan agreement with Abitibi Paper Retriever, we were able to get our big green bin that collects paper. Green Team students worked out a weekly system and route to collect it all.

As Shawn said at the end of the presentation, "With the effort and support of the Green Team, our great partners, and everyone at Webster we can continue to find ways to cut all the costs of the utility bills while also creating a better learning environment.... Webster can become a green school and do our part to help the environment."

*Student Vice President Shawn Harwell and Student President David Luthy proudly display their \$100 donation from OKRA.*

*Photo by Louise Harwell*



**Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies (AERT)** products, such as the plastic lumber decking and stairway shown here, are featured in this display home, located at the new AERT facility near Watts, Oklahoma. OKRA Board Member Robert Pickens attended AERT's new access road ground breaking on May 12, where he also toured the manufacturing facility. The recently completed plant in Adair County makes outdoor decking, fences and other products from scrap plastic and wood fiber waste. For AERT's plastic scrap buying specifications, visit: <http://www.aertinc.com/plastic.asp>.



**Greenstar Recycling** provided a free shred day for Western Sun Federal Credit Union in Broken Arrow on April 16, 2011. They helped the residents of Broken Arrow recycle while protecting their identities.



Greenstar is available to help with recycling in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

## DEQ Upgrades its Recycling System

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently made it easier for its staff to recycle. The agency invested in recycling stations for break rooms, the parking garage, and the Multi-Purpose Room where numerous meetings are held. The goal is to make an existing recycling program more visible.

"We have always had the most comprehensive building recycling program in Oklahoma City. The new bins give us the opportunity to reinvigorate that program with employees and showcase our commitment to DEQ visitors," said DEQ

Director of Waste Systems Planning Fenton Rood.



New Recycling Collection Center in DEQ Parking Garage

Large recycling containers in agency break rooms can handle plastic, aluminum and glass. Employees can drop off recyclable items from home in the agency's parking garage.

A recycling collection station

in the parking garage can hold:

- ◆ Clear Glass Bottles
- ◆ Brown Glass Bottles
- ◆ Plastic Bottles (#1 and #2)
- ◆ Aluminum Cans
- ◆ Steel Cans
- ◆ Newspaper
- ◆ Office Paper
- ◆ Plastic Bags

Additionally, new more durable recycling bins were deployed to employees for work spaces. The new individual bins replace older, cardboard recyclers.

The expanded recycling effort has been a DEQ goal for a few years. The agency's Green Team and Energy Efficiency Committee worked together to achieve this effort.



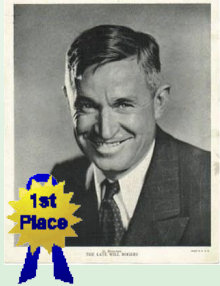
DEQ Employee, Kole Kennedy, uses new office recycling bins

### Oklahoma Recycling Tidbit...

Tahlequah Recycling, Inc. reports that they have been collecting curbside recycling for one full year. During that time they've hauled over 100 tons of recyclable material to local markets. They currently collect about 8 tons per week from town. That puts Tahlequah's waste diversion rate at about 2.5%. And that's just the curbside portion. They believe Tahlequah has the highest waste diversion rate in Oklahoma! What's your city's waste diversion rate??

## The Oklahoma Capitol Complex Earth Day 2011 Recycling Challenge

The Earth Day 2011 Recycling Challenge held March 21 to April 15, 2011 pitted four Capitol Complex buildings against each other! The employees in the Will Rogers, Sequoyah, Hodge, and Connors buildings stuffed paper and cardboard into recycling bins and diverted recyclable waste from landfills.



The **Will Rogers building** was the overall winner with 4,659 total pounds recycled during the contest period, which was a 216%

increase. The building will soon proudly display the Earth Day Recycling Challenge Award in its lobby, but will have to work hard to keep it there because the traveling trophy will be displayed in the lobby of the next recycling challenge winner.



Second place went to the **Sequoyah building** with 1,792 total pounds recycled, which was a whopping 356% increase.

The Most Valuable Participant (MVP) on the winning team was awarded to the Office of State Leasing which recently implemented strategies to decrease paper use by scanning all documents currently filed and establishing an internal policy to store and send documents electronically, and only print when absolutely necessary. State Leasing has eliminated four file cabinets, and has recycled a total of 600 pounds of paper since December 2010, with 141 pounds recycled during the contest period.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), only 33% of municipal waste is recycled, so the Department of Central Services (DCS) challenged state agencies in the four participating buildings to improve their efforts and keep even more waste out of the landfills. The buildings combined to recycle 5,653 lbs of paper and 4,929 lbs of cardboard from January 1 until the challenge began on March 21. Recycling in the four buildings increased by **224%** for the contest period, keeping a total of 8,129 pounds out of the landfill!

Some buildings generally produce little to no paper recycling for the DCS program because the bulk of their waste paper includes sensitive documents that go to a contract vendor for proper destruction. However, agencies in these buildings asked for extra bins, brought recyclables from home, and rallied their coworkers to recycle their newspapers, magazines, non-sensitive waste paper, and junk mail instead of adding these items to the garbage.



## Wilburton Has New Recycling Trailer

**HAVE YOU SEEN IT?** We are very excited to announce the community of Wilburton now has a centralized drop-off point for their plastic and metal recycling materials. The trailer is located in front of the Wilburton Chamber of Commerce at 300 West Main Street. You can drop-off materials at the trailer 24-7. The trailer was financed by funds from the \$500,000 Energy Grant (SEECBG) funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) as administered by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Some of the art was created by local students during the "Plant



Pride" art contest. Congratulations to our winners.

**WHAT CAN YOU BRING?** The trailer is designed to take # 1, #2 & #5 plastics, aluminum cans and steel food cans. Just look for the symbols on your plastics. To discourage pests and odors, please rinse and bag your materials.

**WHAT ABOUT PAPER?** Paper and Cardboard bins are now available. Once they arrive, you will be able to recycle your newspapers, phone books, magazines, office paper and junk mail at anytime.

**WHO TO CALL?** If you need additional help or information contact Kimberly Brown, Education Publicist at (918)465-5086 or City Hall at (918)465-5361.

## Recycle Center Holds Official Ribbon-Cutting!

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma held a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 17 for its recently opened Recycling Center in Durant. The 30,350-sq.-ft. facility on 3108 Enterprise Drive in Durant is another example of partnering with city, county, state and federal officials. Along with a large crowd who came out for the official opening, numerous state, county, city and tribal officials were also in attendance.

The center, which actually opened its doors for business on Dec. 1, was funded through a \$1.2 million Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant from the Department of Energy. The recycling center was designed to save energy and help offset the amount of waste ending up in landfills each year. To date, the center has collected more than 100 tons of recyclable material. It took in more than 14 tons of that in the last month alone.

The facility receives newspaper, office paper, shredded paper, magazines, catalogs, plastics #1, 2 and 5, aluminum cans, steel cans, cell phones, printer cartridges and cardboard for recycling.

The center is open to the public for dropping off items from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



*Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Assistant Chief Gary Batton, the Tribal Council, Recycling Center staff, Luksi, and numerous state, city and tribal officials helped cut the ribbon, marking the official opening of the new Choctaw Nation Recycle Center in Durant*

## Electronics Recycling in Oklahoma Triples in 2010

A recent electronics equipment recovery report showed that electronics recycling tripled in 2010! The recycling total for computer equipment in Oklahoma in 2010 was 2,554,632 pounds, up from only 817,277 pounds in 2009. When compared to other states, Oklahoma still falls short in recycling amounts; however, Oklahoma boasts the highest percent increase in recycling from 2009 to 2010. In addition, the majority of comparable states also collect electronics that Oklahoma does not (televisions, printers, scanners, and mobile phones) which would also factor into the discrepancy in total pounds collected. A sample of some of the other states numbers are provided in the table at right. Oklahoma shows a lot of potential for progress in electronic waste recycling.

State	Amount Collected 2010 (lbs)	% Change
California	172,570,839	2.79%
Maine	5,338, 287	-32.53%
Minnesota	33,082,679	9.21%
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>2,554,632</b>	<b>212.58%</b>
Oregon	24,149,774	27.15%
Texas	24,370, 894	59.84%
Virginia	4,439,446	-41.31%

# TRT'S New Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):

## A New Age of No-Sort Recycling

By Tom Hill

A huge boost for Oklahoma's recycling future took place last March in Tulsa, OK. At Tulsa Recycling and Transfer (TRT), we proudly launched our brand new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and already, we're seeing a dramatic difference in our recovery rate and the environmental impact on Tulsa.

Having this facility means Tulsa residents can recycle more products, including plastics, cardboard, and paper without having to take time to pre-sort the items in bins. The commingled trash is collected and transported to the MRF facility where we mechanically and manually sort out recyclables and prepare the material to specifications for transport to market.

It's what we call a no-sort alternative for Tulsans that has ramped up our collection capabilities and has made recycling exponentially easier. Just by doing business with us, every TRT customer is essentially an important strategic partner in our efforts to recycle and provide for a cleaner future.



A look inside TRT's new Materials Recovery Facility

num, and plastics. All recyclables are compacted and baled onsite, making it easier and cheaper to divert from landfills.

As a company, we believe we're just in the initial stages of realizing our fullest potential in the area of recycling and environmental impact. Our investment in our new MRF and community education programs will greatly enhance our efforts toward reducing material waste and making recycling easier and more accessible to the Tulsa community.

### Meeting the Needs of the Community

Our MRF began operations on March 7, 2011, taking in a little over 900 tons of trash each day! Today, we're providing Tulsa with a recovery and processing system that is quickly becoming the envy of Oklahomans.

We anticipate our MRF technology to increase recycling rates for our company by 35 to 40 percent. Right now, we're recovering 40 to 60 tons of cardboard from the waste stream per day, not to mention tons of metal, alumi-

We believe we're building a legacy of excellence through cleaner technology and effective recycling practices. Our aim is to provide the highest level of recycling solutions in Oklahoma while leading the way for innovative thinking in waste management technology.

For more information about TRT or our brand new Materials Recovery Facility, go to [www.feedmrmurph.com](http://www.feedmrmurph.com).

## Snapshots from ADA



*Pictured, (left to right) back row: Board Member Steve Timmons, Chair Garmon Smith, Board Member Dana Nickell, Board Member Marilyn Ellis, Secretary Trudy Nevland and Board Member Joe Braly. Front row (left to right): Vice Chair Dr. Doug Weirick, Treasurer Glenda DeShazo, Board Member Lisa Sharp and Board Member Betty Parham. Not pictured is Board Member Ambrie Walker. (Photo by Randy Mitchell)*

**Left:** The Ada Recycling Coalition (ARC) announced its 2011/2012 officers and board members at their annual Earth Day meeting Tuesday, April 19 at the Ada Elks Lodge.

**Below:** Roff Elementary wins 1st Place prize of \$150 in ARC's annual telephone book collection contest by collecting 2,015 phone books.



*Doug Weirick, ARC's Board Member, presented Clau-dette Wellington, Roff 5th grade teacher, with a \$150 check for 1st Place in ARC's telephone book collection contest*



# Make Plans to Attend the 2011 Oklahoma Green Expo!

## "Sustainability leads to profitability"

The Oklahoma Green Expo, presented by the Chickasaw Nation, is the single largest opportunity to see, share, learn and participate in green innovation and design.

The Green Expo provides a wonderful opportunity for Oklahomans to see, share and learn how building our State's green economy can benefit everyone. The Expo theme "Sustainability leads to profitability," emphasizes the fact that a green and sustainable economy has to be a key part of a strong and healthy Oklahoma in the 21st Century.

See what's available now and what the future holds. The Oklahoma Green Expo will show you how to become green, stay green and become a green cheerleader with:

- Speakers and industry leaders bringing you ideas and advice from experts
- Workshops and seminars bringing new and innovative thoughts to the use of green products and services
- Vendors who can help you build a greener lifestyle
- Networking opportunities

Green is becoming mainstream. It's for now and for the future.

The Green Expo will be held in Ada, Oklahoma June 23-25. For more info, see [www.oklahomagreenexpo.com](http://www.oklahomagreenexpo.com).

## OKRA Announces its Recently Elected Board of Directors!

### Executive Committee:

President - Traci Phillips, Natural Evolution, Tulsa  
 Vice-president - Melody Martin, OG&E, Oklahoma City  
 Secretary - Ellen Bussert, Bixby  
 Treasurer - Michael Patton, the M.e.t., Tulsa  
 Past-president - Susie Shields, DEQ, Oklahoma City  
 Executive Committee Board Members  
 - Ilda Hershey, OCES, Stillwater  
 - Robert Pickens, Greenstar Recycling, Sand Springs

### At-large Board Members:

Melissa Adler-McKibben, DEQ, Oklahoma City  
 Diana Askins, Tulsa Master Recyclers, Tulsa  
 Chris Daniels, Goodwill Industries of Central Okla, OKC  
 Jide Famuagun, Cornerstone Metals Recycling, OKC  
 Chris Feeney, OK Dept of Human Services, Enid

# 2011 OK GREEN EXPO

## Ada, Oklahoma • June 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>

*Pontotoc County Agri-Plex*


*Presented By:* THE CHICKASAW NATION

For more information access [www.oklahomagreenexpo.com](http://www.oklahomagreenexpo.com)  
 Or Call LeaAnn Wells 580-310-7509

- \* Home and Garden: water and energy efficiency, building and remodeling, landscaping techniques
- \* Business and Industry: energy efficiency, construction, operation and maintenance
- \* Community: recycling and reuse, transportation, education
- \* Lifestyle: green products for your home
- \* Agriculture: organic farming, integrated pest management

**Key Note Speakers:**


**Gary L. Sherrer**









Secretary of Environment  
for Oklahoma

**Leilani Munter**

- Nascar and Formula 1 Driver
- Model
- Environmentalist



**Sponsored By:**

### At-large Board Members (cont):

Brian Figgins, Mustang Recycles, Mustang  
 Tracy Horst, Choctaw Nation, Durant  
 Marc Jensen, OU Lean Institute, Norman  
 Chris Knight, City of Stillwater, Stillwater  
 Trudi Logan, Tinker AFB Liaison  
 Kathy Moore, Oklahoma Composting Council, Woodward  
 MeLinda Mulcare, Oklahoma Recyclers Assn, S&S Metals, Sand Springs  
 Patty Overman, Service Recycling, Tulsa  
 Kristi Shreve, City of Tulsa, Tulsa  
 Garmon Smith, EPA, Ada Recycling Coalition, Ada  
 Cindy Tether, Red Earth Recycling, Oklahoma City  
 Ambrie Walker, Chickasaw Nation, Ada  
 Martin Whipple, OES Material Recovery and Information Destruction, Enid  
 Larry Wright, Great Plains RC&D, Cordell

# Waste Connections brings RecycleBank to the Village

**Waste Connections, Inc. has recently added single-stream recycling with rewards to its waste service in The Village.**

For the past year, Village residents have not had the option to recycle and Waste Connections decided to make life a little easier by getting each household a new 95-gallon wheeled recycling cart and introducing single-stream recycling, in which



With RecycleBank, all recyclables go in one container

all recyclables go into one container—no sorting required. The carts, which contain a special RFID chip, were recently delivered to the Village residents along with maps and information on the RecycleBank program. The wheeled recycling carts make it easy for rolling the recyclables from the house to the curb.

The Village is the first city in Oklahoma to participate in the RecycleBank program. The Village joins about 300 communities across 28 other states to

deploy this game-changing program that rewards families for recycling and helps bolster local businesses.

RecycleBank is a rewards program that motivates people to engage in greener behaviors, like recycling, by rewarding them with points, which are redeemable at local and national retailers, restaurants, pharmacies, grocers, and more.

Over the course of a year, an average family can earn hundreds of points and redeem rewards for \$200-400 worth in value. This translates into real value for families in The Village.

RecycleBank has hundreds of national reward partners in more than 20 categories ranging from apparel to automotive, restaurants, sports and recreation, food and grocery, health and beauty, electronics and more. A sampling of national partners include Coca-Cola, Nature Made, McDonald's, Yoplait, Dick's Sporting Goods, Kohl's, Old Navy, Bed Bath & Beyond, Zip Lock, Huggies and more.

RecycleBank and Waste Connections continue to work locally getting local businesses involved in the program to offer unique rewards to families. Businesses like Buy-4-Less Grocery, USA Baby, Green Light Wireless, Papa Dio's, Papa Murphy's, Westlake Hardware, Hunan Garden, Sonic Drive Inn, Valvoline, Subway and more.

## HOW IT WORKS

With RecycleBank comes a new way to recycle—single stream—in which all recyclables go into one container. No more sorting. That means all recyclables (magazines, paper-back books, news paper, junk mail, cardboard, chip board, plastic #1-#7, glass bottles and jars, aluminum and tin) can be placed in one container. No trips to drop off centers necessary!

When residents recycle under the RecycleBank program, the amount of refuse is weighed by each home and recorded then converted into RecycleBank points, which get credited to participating households. Waste Connections tracks what that household has recycled so they can be rewarded for it.

Points can be used to "shop" for rewards from hundreds of local and national businesses in more than 20 categories online at [www.RecycleBank.com](http://www.RecycleBank.com) or by calling 1-888-727-2978.



Waste Connections, Inc. and Village City Officials Kick-off the RecycleBank Program

There is even an option to donate points to schools locally and across the nation through the RecycleBank Green Schools Program grants. Points are converted into cash for school environmental programs and projects.

Active members can experience a potential savings of at least \$200-400 a year—all for just recycling!

Rewards-for-recycling is good for the local economy as well. Most RecycleBank members redeem up to half of their earned reward points with local rewards partners, providing economic development and involving the local business community in the recycling effort.

## EcoSnakes!! C&D Waste Recycled Into Erosion Control Products

Smithey Environmental Services, LLC. is using 100% recycled construction wood to fill EcoSnakes—erosion control products. They shred the wood themselves, and a lot of the wood comes from the new C&D Materials Recovery Facility



located in Tulsa. Use of the EcoSnakes allows the end user to apply for points in both the Green Built and LEED programs for Erosion Control. If interested, contact Maxwell Supply Company, EcoSnakes distributor.



## The Tree Bank Foundation—Spotlight Projects for 2011

The Campus Trees Program, a project of The Tree Bank Foundation, brings trees and education to Oklahoma campuses. The purpose of the Campus Trees Program is to provide quality, Oklahoma-grown trees to college and university campuses to assist with replanting after recent storms, to provide environmental benefits to campuses, and to increase educational opportunities for students. Oklahoma City University and Oklahoma State University (photo below) were the spotlight projects for 2011.



Campuses at Oklahoma State University (left) and Oklahoma City University (right) were provided trees through the Campus Trees Program



Playgrounds at Yukon, OK (left) and Thunderbird State Park (right) benefit from the STOP project



Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP), a new project of the Tree Bank Foundation, is helping lead the fight against skin cancer in Oklahoma. STOP provides trees to shade playgrounds, ballfields and play areas, offering cool, shady spots out of the sun for children and their families. Oklahoma's high level of skin cancer continues to rise, and the need for creative approaches to education and reducing risk, like STOP, will also rise. With eleven new locations this year, STOP shows the power of citizen advocacy and how far a good idea can go with a child-, health- and tree-focused approach.

### Resource Recycling, Inc. invites you to the 2nd annual Resource Recycling Conference!

*The 2010 conference saw hundreds of attendees and the trade show featured exhibitors representing all aspects of the recycling industry. The 2011 Resource Recycling Conference will be held at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, IN on August 17-18 and is aligned with the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), the Recycling Organizations of North America (RONA), and the Indiana Recycling Coalition (IRC).*

#### Invaluable Information

The Resource Recycling Conference is your opportunity to network with colleagues, clients, prospective partners, vendors, and industry leaders. Leading experts will present detailed industry assessments, including the status of municipal recycling in Europe, Mexico and the United States, projections of future domestic and foreign recycling market demand, creative public education strategies, innovative tactics for rural recycling, discussions of certification programs for recycling professionals, and overviews of the key trends affecting materials recovery.

#### Don't Miss the Tradeshow

The Resource Recycling Conference features a tradeshow showcasing innovations and service offerings from firms providing equipment and processing systems, as well as companies providing reclamation opportunities, consulting services and markets for materials. The conference offers an array of sponsorship, exhibiting and advertising options. The Resource Recycling Conference is the perfect opportunity to reach key industry decision makers.

**RESOURCE**  
RECYCLING CONFERENCE

AUGUST 17-18, 2011  
JW MARRIOTT INDIANAPOLIS, IN

For more information on how you can sponsor, exhibit and attend Resource Recycling Conference 2011, visit [www.rrconference.com](http://www.rrconference.com) or call Resource Recycling, Inc. at (503) 233-1305



## Recycling Seminar Program Coming Together

The OKRA Seminar Planning Committee is hard at work reviewing last year's seminar evaluations and putting the program together for this year's event.

The 2011 Oklahoma Recycling Seminar will return to the OSU Alumni Center in Stillwater on Thursday, October 13. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar! A final program and registration information will be available later this summer.

Here is a sneak preview of some of the topics that may be covered: Future Trends in Recycling; How to Develop a Master Recyclers Program; Materials Recovery Facilities;

Rural Recycling Collections; Backyard Composting Programs; and Walmart's Zero Waste Program. A new feature being considered this year is The Lightning Round – a whirlwind of expert comments on hot topics followed by answers to your most burning recycling questions.

We're also planning an optional site visit of Stillwater Public Schools' cafeteria vermicompost program at the end of the day.

If you or someone you know is interested in being a seminar sponsor or exhibitor, please send a message to [info@recycleok.org](mailto:info@recycleok.org) and a committee member will contact you.

**Save the Date!**  
**October 13, 2011**



PO Box 521154  
Tulsa, OK 74152-1154

Help grow OKRA online!

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

## 2011 OKRA Members

### Platinum Corporate Member

America Waste Control  
Greenstar Recycling

### Silver Corporate Member

OGE Energy Corp.

### Bronze Corporate Member

Choctaw Nation  
CSI Recycling

### Corporate Members

AbiBow Recycling LLC  
Adrite - BigBelly  
Amazon Environmental  
Cherokee CRC  
Cornerstone Metals  
Natural Evolution, Inc.  
Northern Oklahoma Metals  
Talequah Recycling  
Tulsa Automatic Music Co.  
Waste Connections, Inc.

### Non-Profit/Government Partners

Ardmore Beautification Council  
City of Ada  
City of Muskogee  
City of Weatherford  
McCurtain County Recycling  
New View Oklahoma  
OEMA  
Oklahoma DEQ  
Oklahoma State University  
Power Shop, Inc.  
Solid Waste Institute of NE Oklahoma  
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust  
The Tree Bank Foundation  
Tulsa Master Recyclers

### Regular Members

Melissa Adler-McKibben  
Matt Albright  
Diana Askins  
Bob Baxter  
Jim Bologna  
Stuart Burchett  
Ellen Bussert  
Pamela Curtis  
Wesley Dedmon  
Chris Feeney  
Brian Figgins  
Carole Garner  
Peter Grant  
Terrie Hannam  
Rose Hargrove  
Angela Heim  
Ilda Hershey  
Justin Hickman  
David Higgins  
Mike Hixon  
Bryce Hulsey  
Pamela Huskey  
Daniel Jeffries  
Marc Jensen  
Sarah Kimball  
Chris Knight  
Eric Lee  
Trudi Logan  
Phil Lorenz  
Francie Martin  
Melody Martin  
Rick Miller  
Kathy Moore  
Michael Patton

### Regular Members (Cont)

Mary Peck  
Susie Shields  
Carol Preston  
Fenton Rood  
Kristi Shreve  
Lena Sullivan  
Garmon Smith  
Terry Sneed  
Darren Stefanek  
Lena Sullivan  
Wade Thomson  
Shelley Umezawa  
Martin Whipple  
Diane Wilkins  
Larry Wright

**If you have not yet joined OKRA, please complete our online membership form at [www.recycleok.org/formembership.php](http://www.recycleok.org/formembership.php).**

**Should you have questions about membership, please contact Ilda Hershey, OKRA Membership Chair, 405-744-9806 or [ilda.hershey@okstate.edu](mailto:ilda.hershey@okstate.edu).**

### K-12 Recycling Coordinator Members

Debbie Adams  
Kurtis Gare  
Robin Willmon

### Student Member

Lauren McClafin

If you notice any errors or have questions about your 2011 membership status, please email [info@recycleok.org](mailto:info@recycleok.org)

**Thank You for helping OKRA grow!**