

February 2011



Newsletter

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

Sooner State Steps Up to Recycle Aluminum

The following Oklahoma Schools have signed up for the Great American Can Roundup School Recycling Challenge. These schools are competing to recycle the most aluminum beverage cans per capita between America Recycles Day 2010 and Earth Day 2011. Winners will be announced in May. Go Oklahoma!

- Ada High School, Ada OK
- Brockland Elementary School, Lawton OK
- Booker T. Washington High School, Tulsa OK
- Byng Cosmetology, Ada OK
- Cherokee Elementary, Catoosa OK
- Day Care/Before & After School Programs, Beggs OK
- Deer Creek High School, Edmond OK
- Del City High School, Del City OK
- Eliot Elementary, Tulsa OK
- Inola Middle School, Inola OK
- Jackson Elementary, Norman OK
- Jackson Middle School, Oklahoma City OK
- Jay Upper Elementary School, Jay OK
- Jefferson Middle School, Oklahoma City OK
- Jenks East Elementary School, Tulsa OK
- John Glenn Elementary, Oklahoma City OK
- Jones Academy Elementary School, Hartshorne OK
- Yukon High School Key Club, Yukon OK
- Latta 4-H, Latta School, Ada, OK
- Latta High School, Ada OK
- Lee Elementary School, Tulsa OK
- McLain Magnet High School, Tulsa OK
- Norman High School, Norman OK
- Plainview Intermediate, Ardmore OK
- Putnam City High School, Oklahoma City, OK
- Riverfield Country Day School, Tulsa OK
- Rollingwood Elementary, Oklahoma City OK
- Sacred Heart Catholic School, El Reno OK
- Sapulpa Jr. High, Sapulpa OK
- Skyline Elementary School, Stillwater OK
- Sterling School, Sterling OK
- Sulphur High School, Sulphur OK
- The Recycling Kids, Elementary, Claremore OK
- Tulsa Memorial High School, Tulsa OK

For more information about the program, which is sponsored by the Can Manufacturer's Institute, visit www.cancentral.com/RoundUp



Tulsa's Curbside Recycling Expands!



Recently Tulsa added tin and metal food cans to its curbside recycling program. Thanks to a machine that utilizes magnets to sort the recyclables, Greenstar Recycling is able to easily process the cans along with the other recyclables, and they approached the City of Tulsa with the idea of including them in the curbside program. Prior to the change, the cans were thrown out with the garbage and incinerated.

Officials estimate that the new service will divert over 10,000 pounds of tin and steel food cans (such as those packaging tuna, soups, fruits and vegetables, etc.) from area landfills.

Tulsa residents that wish to recycle their tin and metal cans should ensure they are thoroughly rinsed prior to placing them in the recycling bins.

Blackwell Information Center is Certified Silver!

Visitors to Oklahoma can expect a greener welcome since the Blackwell Tourism Information Center joined forces with Encouraging Conservation in Oklahoma (ECO). The center, which is in the process of achieving certification through ECO, made a commitment to sustainability with a detailed recycling program and a goal to reduce overall waste.

Since the information center greets travelers every day, the staff decided to create a comprehensive recycling program that includes outdated magazines and brochures, aluminum, plastic and cardboard. Recycling centers in Tonkawa and Ponca City serve Blackwell's recycling needs. According to Janelle Skaggs, manager of the Blackwell Tourism Information Center, recycling such a large number of items has been a challenge, resulting in many trips to each recycling facility each month.

The center cuts down on unnecessary waste by reducing the number of brochures and magazines ordered each month. Another green focus is reducing the number of coffee cups used by encouraging visitors to bring their

own reusable coffee mugs to take refreshments on the road.



Janelle Skaggs recycles cardboard at the Blackwell Information Center

According to Skaggs, a future goal of the Blackwell staff is to inspire other tourism information centers across the state to make a similar commitment to sustainability. Their focus on conservation provides an example for other community members to follow.

Since 2009, the Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department and Department of Environmental Quality's ECO Certification program has promoted, developed and encouraged sustainable tourism throughout the state. ECO Certification requires applicants to meet set criteria and be reviewed by a national certification board. A

certification level of silver, gold or platinum can be awarded, based on the level of sustainable practices the applicant chooses to implement.

By Kaylee McDaniel

OMR Announces Groundbreaking at Atoka, OK

Oklahoma Materials Recycling (OMR), LLC announces the ground breaking for its molybdenum oxide recycling plant in Atoka, OK. This plant will process spent catalyst from the oil refinery industry and recover molybdenum oxide used as an additive in the steel industry for stainless steel and other steel alloys. This new plant in the Atoka City Industrial Park was achieved through partnership with the Atoka Economic Development Authority, assistance from the US Department of Agriculture by providing guarantees under the

stimulus program, and incentive from Oklahoma State Tax Credit. The total investment in the project will be approximately \$19 million and will initially create more than 35 new jobs. The plant is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2011. Oklahoma Material Recycling chose Atoka because of its strategic location, availability of existing buildings, abundant workforce and other incentives available by locating in Oklahoma.

(9 July 2010)

Caught in the Act!!

Volunteers sort recyclables at the 2010 Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Refuge Cleanup

Look like fun?

This year's clean-up is scheduled for April 23rd

Contact Karen Miles,
(405) 702-8192
Karen.Miles@deq.ok.gov
for more details and to volunteer



If you catch someone in the act, send a photo to trudi.logan@us.af.mil and we will post it in our next OKRA newsletter!

Feel Like UNBOXING?

By Barbara VanHanken

Tulsa's first Unboxing Days event took place during the 12 days following Christmas Day.

This came about when I was getting ready for the day following Thanksgiving. I was thinking about "what could the city do during the holiday season to really be GREEN!" Hummm. Then I recalled last Christmas when my family, being very helpful as usual, pitched in to clean up all the Christmas boxes and wrappings. I did manage to save a few ribbons and decorated gift bags, but the rest was already in plastic trash bags and going outside to wait for the trash pickup. I had mixed emotions about the clean-up, but it was done.



Tulsa Master Recyclers- Peggy Pianalto, Barbara VanHanken, Pam Robinson, Beth Turner and Becky Bowles.

I decided it would be great if we could recycle all those cardboard gift boxes from homes across the city. My next move was brilliant, as it turned out. I called Michael Patton, Tulsa's "Mr. Recycle" who is director of The Metropolitan Environmental Trust. Michael loved my idea and jumped into action like a Green SuperHero.

The following week we had our first meeting with Michael, MET public relations Daniel Jeffries, myself, my fellow Tulsa Master Recycler Beth Turner, Harley Hollan, owner of Harley Hollan Companies and one of his employees, Nick Greigo. That was all it took. Michael had an event logo design, event website and was directing all the press exposure we needed to make this a success.

Harley Hollan is the owner of Harley Hollan Companies who distribute blue roll-off containers at construction sites to collect all the construction debris. They return to his company site where this debris is recycled. He collects bales of cardboard and has a very special machine that densifies the pieces of Styrofoam into 4-5" wide tubes of heavy material which is then shipped back to China where it came from. China then processes this material back into white Styrofoam that they pack around your next electronic purchase. The cardboard is packed into large bales that weigh a ton each. These are taken to a company in NE Oklahoma to be reprocessed into renewed cardboard.

It was so exciting seeing the first cars and pickups drive through leaving their load with us. Everyone was so grateful to have this opportunity to be a good citizen and keep their trash out of the landfill. Many people wanted to know where they could do this at other times of the year.

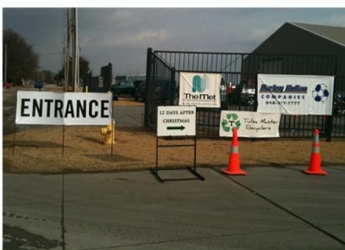
The GOOD NEWS:

After 12 days we collected:

- ◆ 28,000 pounds, or 28 bales, or 14 tons of cardboard
- ◆ 2,000 pounds, or 1 ton of compacted Styrofoam
- ◆ We had 700 cars and pickups bring their cardboard and Styrofoam.

Some Trash Trivia - things that weigh a ton

- VW Beetle
- Killer Whale
- 1 Cubic Meter of Water
- 1 Cubic Yard of Top Soil
- 8 Adult Panda Bears
- 400 Rabbits
- 3 Adult Male Grizzly Bears



left: Entrance to Unboxing Days
below: Unloading cardboard and foam



The Tulsa Master Recyclers and Harley Hollan employees worked on a daily schedule to man the recycling of not only cardboard, but also Styrofoam from the packing material in electronic gifts. We did collect lots of big screen boxes with the Styrofoam.

We consider this a huge success for everyone involved and the City of Tulsa!

In fact, Harley Hollan decided to continue receiving both cardboard and Styrofoam from the public during business hours all year long.

Fantastic!



Bales of Cardboard

**12 days
after
CHRISTMAS**



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2011 Oklahoma Recycling Seminar will be held on Thursday, October 13 at the OSU Alumni Center in Stillwater. If you'd like to serve on the planning committee, please email info@recycleok.org.

Nearly 150 participants attended the 2010 Oklahoma Recycling Seminar held in Stillwater



About a dozen exhibitors shared information with participants

Don't miss out!

**Make plans now to join us
October 13, 2011**



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There were many opportunities to network and exchange information





Featured School Recycling Program #1

Edmond North High School

Edmond North High School's Sun Club (Students United for Nature) is an environmental service oriented club. The membership fee of \$5.00 per year is used for plastic, aluminum, and cardboard recycling for the school, with pick-up service outsourced to Waste Management. The membership fee covers approximately 90% of their yearly monthly service fee, with the difference made up by private citizen donations, club member and teacher donations. Three-year Sun Club member J.T. Darling recently commented, "Having a recycling program in schools is a vital concept. I can't help but notice the massive amounts of paper, cardboard, plastic and aluminum cans that are used everyday, and having a way to make sure they are properly recycled is wonderful. I can't think what our public schools would be like without them!"

The day to day routine of recycling works like this:

- SUN Club students each adopt-a-teacher. They make sure their teacher's recycling box is emptied in a timely fashion.
- One of the special education teachers with a work program sends her students on a daily basis to empty cafeteria recycling containers after lunch.
- Custodians are great about breaking down cardboard boxes

and placing them in the recycling dumpster.

- Edmond North also subscribes to the Paper Retriever paper recycling program that is operated as a free service through Abitibi-Consolidated.

Sun Club member Lacey Lyles shared her perspective with us as well, "Recycling is important in high school because it spreads awareness and helps the environment. Being a student in high school is a crucial turning point in many young people's lives where we start to develop the habits and principals that we will choose to live by. By teaching about recycling in a school setting, we are learning to make changes that will effect future generations in a positive way."

If your school is interested in becoming an OKRA "Featured School", please submit your recycling story to susie.shields@deq.ok.gov. If selected for one of our newsletter issues (three annually), your school will receive \$100 to benefit the recycling program. We hope these featured schools will help give other schools ideas on how to start and/or maintain a recycling program.

Teachers, schools administrators, parents and students can sign up their classrooms or entire schools for Office Depot's Recycling Rules program <<http://www.myschoolrecycles.com/>> and receive a special recycling box and a complete curriculum on the benefits of recycling. Participants can fill up the box with a variety of recyclable products and return it to the company to receive a gift card for the classroom.

..from Resource Recycling Magazine

Recycling Rules!

OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEB-APR 2011

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
March 8 -10	SWANA 2011 Symposium	Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Catoosa OK	Sherry Greathouse, sherry.greathouse@cn-bus.com ,
March 26	Tulsa Community College EcoFest 9:00am-3:00pm	Tulsa Community College Northeast Campus	http://www.tulsacc.edu/tulsaachievers
April 16	Planet Nichols Hills Sustainable Living ECO Expo, 11am-4:30pm	First Church of Christ Science, 1203 Sherwood Lane, Nichols Hills	Nancy Herzel, nancy@shawver.net 405-919-9105
April 20	University of Central OK (UCO) Earth Day 10:00am-3:00pm	West & north side of Broncho Lake, Edmond OK	David Bass, 405-974-5772 dbass@uco.edu
April 21	OSU-OKC Earth Day Fair 11:30am-1:00pm	www.facebook.com/osuokc.gogreen	Scott Sawyer, 405-945-9150 scottes@osuokc.edu
April 20	Sustainable Enterprise Conference	Renaissance Hotel, Tulsa OK	http://spears.okstate.edu/cepd/openenrollment/conferences/
April 23	Lake Overholser/Stinchcomb Refuge Cleanup	Overholser Pavillion, NW 14th and East Overholser Drive, OKC	Karen Miles, 405-734-8192 or karen.miles@deq.ok.gov
April 28	Environmental Law Enforcement Training (CLEET certified)	Stillwater, OK	Ilda Hershey, 405-744-9806, ilda.hershey@okstate.edu

Attention Students, Teachers and Artists-at- Heart

This year East Central University and the Green Initiatives Committee are hosting a "recycled art" contest on April 21st in conjunction with other Earth Day activities.

Five champion awards will be given! In addition...

1. The Ada Recycling Coalition will award \$100 to one student in elementary, Jr. High and High School

2. The Chickasaw Nation is giving away Lazer Zone passes to every K-12 participant.

3. And, one lucky artist will receive a honey-cured ham!

For contest rules and entry forms, contact Theresa Hammons, Theresa.hammons@holcim.com or Trudy Nevland, trudy@adaok.com.



We Need You to Grow OKRA!

Please renew your membership now for 2011 if you haven't already done so (see the list of 2011 members below to determine if you are current). OKRA membership runs on the calendar year.

If you are not an OKRA member, please consider joining. To learn about membership levels and member benefit details, such as discounts to OKRA events, download our membership brochure: www.recycleok.org/pdf/BrochureWebsite.pdf

How to join or renew your membership in 2011:

- 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).

2011 OKRA Members

Platinum Corporate Member

America Waste Control

Bronze Corporate Member

CSI Recycling

Corporate Members

AbiBow Recycling LLC

Adrite - BigBelly.

Cornerstone Metals

Natural Evolution, Inc.

Northern Oklahoma Metals

Non-Profit/Government Partners

City of Muskogee

City of Weatherford

OEMA

Power Shop, Inc.

Tulsa Automatic Music

Tulsa Master Recyclers

Woodward TCB

Regular Members

Matt Albright

Bob Baxter

Stuart Burchett

Ellen Bussert

Jim Curtiss

Pamela Curtis

Wesley Dedmon

Brian Figgins

Carole Garner

Gaylene Hargrove

Ilda Hershey

Debbie Hickman

Mark Jensen

Sarah Kimball

Eric Lee

Trudi Logan

Phil Lorenz

Francie Martin

Melody Martin

Rick Miller

Kathy Moore

Michael Patton

Mary Peck

Carol Preston

Fenton Rood

Susie Shields

Kristi Shreve

Lena Sullivan

Wade Thomson

Larry Wright

Student Member

Lauren McClafflin

K-12 Recycling Coordinator Member

Robin Willmon

Membership Pledges

(The following have made membership pledges for 2011, however, payments had not been processed by the time this newsletter went to press)

Amazon Environmental

Jim Bologna

Larry Burrow

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Chris Daniels

Verona Deer

Chris Feeney

Kurtis Gare

Angela Heim

OGE Energy Corp

Pam O'Halloran

Solid Waste Institute of No. OK

Darren Stefanek

Teresa Swoyer

Tahlequah Recycling

Thank You 2011 OKRA Members!

If you notice any errors or have questions about your 2011 membership status, please email

info@recycleok.org