

July 2010

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

The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center

A sign placed inside the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center clearly states its mission: "We are not here to make a profit, we are here to make a difference in our environment." Since its opening in January, the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center has been making a difference in the environment and in the lives of local residents.

Located in Ada, Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center, wholly owned by the Chickasaw Nation, is operated by the tribe's Department of Environmental Services.

Start-up funds for the center were

provided by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center is the 2nd reuse center in the state and the 2nd Native American-owned center in the United States. The partnership of funding between the Chickasaw Nation and the EPA's grant has managed to fully support the operation of the center. As a result, there is no charge for any of the services provided by the ReUse Center; it's free and open to anyone to drop off or pick up any item that the center accepts for reuse.

Since opening, business has been brisk – up to 75 customers visit each day the center is open. And while the

Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center has had a measurable impact on the environment – the center's staff has accepted more than 32,500 lbs. of reusable material and redistributed more than 29,000 lbs. since opening— the impact the center has made as a much-needed community resource was unexpected. The ReUse Center now regularly sees families in need who have been referred to the center by various local social service programs and churches. The demand for items, especially for children's clothes, furniture and basic kitchen/household goods, often exceeds the supply of items available.

The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center has also initiated a number of community outreach efforts during its first year of operation. In early spring, *Continued on Page 2)*



DEER CREEK GOES GREEN!

An OK Green Schools flag was recently presented to Deer Creek Middle School in Edmond. JD Strong (Secretary of Environment for State of Oklahoma) presented the flag to Deer Creek MS and is pictured with their "green team". Inola Middle School also received an OK Green Schools flag for completion of Level One of the OK Green Schools Program. Free workshops outlining the 2010-2011 OK Green Schools Program requirements will be held July 29 in OKC and Aug. 3 in Tulsa. Sign-up for these workshops online: <http://www.okgreenschools.org/form-training.php>



ReUse Center staff went on a "Road Show" tour of neighboring communities and set up collection points for people to donate items. They also hosted an appliance and television recycling drive to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

The Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and every other Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 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.

Did You Know? *It pays to be green!*

The Tinker AFB Base Exchange recently began giving customers 5 cents back for every reusable shopping bag used in place of a plastic bag. They hope that changing consumer behaviors today will lead to a cleaner (and greener) tomorrow. Good idea!

Recycling Winners

Each year Ada Recycling Coalition conducts a telephone book collection contest. This year's first-place \$150 winner is Sulphur Environmental Club, collecting 2,330 of the 9,888 phonebooks collected over all. Pictured with ARC representatives Trudy Nevland (left) and Marilyn Ellis (right) are (from left) Tracy Krug, Maria Krug and Emily Randolph.)



Norman Hotel and Conference Center Earns First ECO Platinum Certification

National Center for Employee Development is Most Sustainable Facility in State

Oklahoma's largest hotel and conference center has become the first property to earn the highest sustainable travel certification offered by ECO – Encouraging Conservation in Oklahoma – the state's premiere sustainable travel program.

The National Center for Employee Development, located off State Highway 9 in Norman, earned the Platinum Travel Standard certification by meeting set criteria and implementing sustainability programs.

Hardy Watkins, Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department executive director, said the NCED is a good sustainability practices model for all conference centers.

"Since NCED is the largest conference facility in the state, its environmental impact is significant," Watkins said. "By

implementing sustainability programs and joining ECO in our conservation efforts, NCED is not only helping Oklahoma reduce its carbon footprint, but is also providing a benchmark that other large conference centers around the nation should seek to meet."

NCED began implementing green programs about seven years ago, said Yves Badaroux, NCED general manager.

"Going green makes perfect business

sense, and can be a significant driver of guest satisfaction, as well as associate engagement," Badaroux said.

Some of the sustainability efforts include using environmentally-friendly laundry and cleaning products, recycled office supplies, low-VOC paints and converting the chlorine pool and spas to salt water. In addition, an herb

garden is planted every year, and food scraps are donated to the Little River Zoo.

During a renovation in 2009, more than 64 tons of wall vinyl and carpet were recycled. Between 2008 and 2009, the facility reduced gas consumption by 18.3 percent, and began using glass water bottles, which eliminated the use of 80,000 plastic bottles a year.

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.

*Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept
News Release, May 26, 2010*



AERT's Facility in Watts, Oklahoma Receives Silver LEED Certification

SPRINGDALE, Ark., April 22, 2010 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc. a leading plastic recycler and manufacturer of green building products, announced today that its new Green Age Recycling Facility had recently received silver certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program operated by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC).

"Gaining LEED certification for the new plant is a significant milestone for us," said Joe Brooks, CEO of AERT. "We are very pleased to be one of the ten facilities in Oklahoma and the only plastic reclamation facility nationwide to achieve LEED certification. Going through the LEED process has taught us a lot about how we should evaluate buildings for our use and it has also given us a new appreciation for the products we produce for others' use in their Green initiatives."

"Buildings and building sites are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems," said Rick Fedrizzi, President, CEO & Founding Chair, U.S. Green Building Council. The AERT project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come. According to Fedrizzi, "The Advanced Resource Recovery Plant's LEED certification demonstrates tremendous green building leadership. The urgency of USGBC's mission has challenged the industry to

move faster and reach further than ever before, and AERT serves as a prime example with just how much we can accomplish."

The AERT Green Age facility, also known as the Advanced Resource Recovery Plant, achieved LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water conservation and recycling, and materials recovery, as well as for incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. AERT worked with Crossland Construction to build what is the first LEED certified plastic recycling facility in Oklahoma and the United States. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for businesses and taxpayers, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and contributing to a healthier environment and economy for workers and the larger community.



"Another aspect of this plant's contribution to energy and the environment is what we do here," said Al Drinkwater, Sr. Vice President for AERT. "The new plant is capable of reclaiming up to 500,000 pounds of polyethylene scrap per day. The energy and environmental impacts of recycling polyethylene are enormous. Each pound of polyethylene recycled saves enough energy to run a 100 watt light bulb for 100 hours. Not only do we have a building and site that have been developed in an energy and environmentally responsible manner, we are also contributing to sustainability by doing what we do every day," stated Drinkwater.

CONTACT: AERT, LEED Certification
Al Drinkwater
479-756-7400, aldrinkwater@aert.cc

Lean and Green – Free Green Job Skills Training for Oklahoma Businesses

The University of Oklahoma Lean Institute will be officially launching its new Lean and Green training program for Oklahoma businesses in Fall 2010. Lean and Green teaches organizations how to identify and eliminate environmental waste from their own operations through three intensive days of training spread over 10-12 weeks. Between class sessions, participants work on a real world improvement project at their business, under the guidance of the instructor. By the end of the training, participants not only have enhanced green job skills, but they have measurable improvements in their business. This program is funded as part of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce's "Oklahoma Green Project," making it free to participating businesses, and is applicable to businesses from all fields. There will be training locations set up as needed across the state.



The Lean Institute conducted a test of the Lean and Green curriculum in partnership with the City of Norman in Spring 2010. Six students drawn from the operating staff of the City's water treatment and wastewater plants produced projects outlining cost effective ways that they could eliminate over \$105,000 annually in energy waste, chemical usage, and excess material transportation from their operations with very reasonable ROIs. Their projects are now being implemented at their facilities.

This training is a great tool to not only make Oklahoma businesses greener, but to make them stronger and more competitive as well. The Lean Institute is currently recruiting businesses from across the state who would like to take part in this program over the next three years. To learn more or sign up for this program, visit www.lean.ou.edu or contact Dr. Marc Jensen at 405-325-9135 or marc.jensen@ou.edu.

**Save-the-Date
Friday, Oct. 15, 2010**



2010 Recycling Seminar

**OSU Conoco-Phillips
Alumni Center
Stillwater, OK**



ARC New Officers / Board Members

Ada Recycling Coalition's 2010/2011 officers are pictured May 13, 2010.

Front row: Secretary Trudy Nevland, Chair Garmon Smith, Vice Chair Doug Weirick and Treasurer Glenda DeShazo.

Back row: board members Marilyn Ellis, Betty Parham, Steve Timmons, Joe Braly, Dana Nickell and Ambrie Walker. Not pictured is Lisa Sharp.

Target Launches Recycling Stations in All Stores



MINNEAPOLIS, April 6
PRNewswire

Target® has launched permanent community recycling stations in all 1,740 stores to kick-off a month-long celebration of the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. Throughout the month, the celebration also included the launch of an online eco-boutique where guests can find eco-friendly products and learn more about the company's commitment to the environment, a month-long sweepstakes, a reusable bag giveaway and a unique Target circular.

Located at the front of each store, the recycling stations offer guests a convenient way to recycle aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers, plastic bags, MP3 players, cell phones and ink cartridges. A full description of recyclables that are accepted is available at Target.com/eco-friendly.



"We know that eco-friendly living is top-of-mind for our guests, and the launch of store recycling stations allows us to continue to partner with them to curb unnecessary waste in our stores and our communities," said Shawn Gensch, vice president of brand marketing, Target. "Target is committed to the preservation of the environment and to giving our guests eco-friendly options that will help them live more sustainably."

Target strives to be an environmental steward, taking a holistic approach to sustainability throughout its stores and operations. This includes building and maintaining energy efficient stores, improving transportation operations and carrying a variety of eco-friendly products at Target and online at Target.com.

—From Target Pressroom

Keep an eye out for Oklahomans Recycling!



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!



OSU's Tulsa Campuses Launch Paper Recycling Campaign on Earth Day

TULSA (April 19, 2010) – Oklahoma State University's Tulsa campuses increased their sustainability efforts by launching a paper recycling campaign on Earth Day, April 22, 2010.

Howard Barnett, president of OSU-Tulsa and OSU Center for Health Sciences, kicked off the campaign at 9 a.m. in OSU-Tulsa's Courtyard.

"Recycling is the next major goal in our commitment to sustainability," Barnett said. "We've made a lot of progress with our energy conservation efforts and now we're taking the next important step. With this new program, everyone on OSU's Tulsa campuses can do their part to help us drastically reduce the amount of paper we send to area landfills."



The paper recycling program is the second phase of OSU's conservation efforts. In 2007, OSU launched an energy conservation program that included analyzing and auditing the campuses for energy-saving opportuni-

ties. Students, faculty and staff learned about and were encouraged to use responsible energy practices.

Barnett said OSU-Tulsa has saved \$393,190 in energy costs from January 2008 to January 2010, representing a 22.8 percent savings. OSU-CHS experienced savings of \$361,773, a 28 percent energy savings.

Angelyn Holmes, energy education manager, is coordinating the recycling efforts and expects to see the same success for the new program.

"Thanks to the commitment of our students, faculty and staff, we are making great strides to change our campus culture and make conscious decisions that will protect the environment and our resources," Holmes said.

Holmes said the initial goal is a 25 percent reduction in waste, which will benefit OSU financially by reducing waste disposal charges. She also anticipates the program will expand in the future to include other recyclable materials.

- From the OSU-Tulsa News



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Tulsa, OK 74152-1154

Help grow OKRA online!

www.recycleok.org

OKRA MEMBERS

Corporate Silver Partners

Greenstar-NA
OGE Energy Corp.

Corporate Bronze Partner

Choctaw Nation

Corporate Partners

AbitibiBowater
Amazon Environmental Inc.
Cornerstone Metals
Oklahoma Recyclers Association
Service Recycling

Non-Profit/Government Partners

Ardmore Beautification Council
City of Tuttle
Delaware County Solid Waste
Fort Sill US Army Post
McCurain County PHMA
Citizens Organized to Recycle our Environment
(Norman)
Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority
Solid Waste Institute of NE Oklahoma
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust
Tulsa Master Recyclers

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Matt Albright
Jim Bologna
Novice Boyd
Steven Brown
Linda Brown
Ellen Bussert
Ray Collier
Pamela Curtis
Wesley Dedmon
Verona Deer
Bill Dinsmore
Brian Figgins
Jerome Hale
Terrie Hannam
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Carol Preston
Mike Reyes
Melissa Robinson
Fenton Rood
Mike Shanahan
John Shelton
Susie Shields
Garmon Smith
Chris Smithey
Lena Sullivan
Teresa Swoyer
Travis Tatum
Shelley Umezawa
Kathy Walker
Shawn Willis
Rhonda Willmott

Student Members

Christopher Bargas
Jack Bussert
Paul Bussert
Laura Carter
Ky Le
Shanna McFeeters

If you have not yet joined OKRA, please complete our online membership form at 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.

EPA Awards \$130,000 Grant to Delaware Tribe for Community Outreach and Recycling Program

(Dallas, Texas – June 7, 2010) The Delaware Tribe in Oklahoma is working to build environmental awareness amongst its tribe. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded a \$130,000 grant to the tribe. The tribe will use the funds to develop and manage their environmental programs. The funds will also be used for grant writing initiatives, community outreach, environmental training and development of a recycling program.



to build environmental regulatory programs. In 1992, Congress passed the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act which authorizes EPA to provide General Assistance Program grants to federally-recognized tribes and tribal consortia for planning, developing, and establishing environmental protection programs in Indian country.

EPA provides grants to tribes and intertribal organizations

EPA Press Release: 06/07/2010

Contact: Joe Hubbard, 214-665-2200 or r6press@epa.gov

OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS JULY-OCTOBER 2010

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 10	Green Star Recycling Education Trailer Outreach	Akins Natural Foods, Fontana Shopping Center, Tulsa	Shayne.Brown@greenstar-na-com
July 10	Recycling for Kids. Turning plastic bottles/jugs into bird feeders	Ponca City Library, 10:00am	Janel Hutchinson hutchjl@poncacityok.gov
July 13	Green Drinks Event—Celebrating Sustainable OKCs 5th Anniversary	Flips Wine Bar and Trattoria 5:30pm-7:30pm (OKC)	Everyone is welcome!
July 14-18	Recycling Volunteers needed Woody Guthrie Music Festival	Okemah	Melissa Adler-McKibben madler@deq.ok.gov /702-5218
July 24	How to Cook & Save the Planet	Turtle Rock Farm	http://turtlerockfarmretreat.com
July 29	OK Green Schools Presentation	OKC Zoo (OKC)	http://www.okgreenschools.org
July 30-Aug 1	Green Star Recycling Education Trailer Outreach at Tulsa Home and Garden Show	"Green Zone", QT Center of the Tulsa Fairgrounds	Shayne.Brown@greenstar-na-com
Aug 3	OK Green Schools Presentation	Fulton Academy (Tulsa)	http://www.okgreenschools.org
Aug 6	Annual Illinois River Clean Up	Illinois River, Tahlequah OK	Ed Fite 918-456-3251 ed.fite@oklahomascenicrivers.net
Aug 21	OKC eCycling Drop-off Event	State Fair Park 8am-4pm	Debbie Ragan 297-3363
Sept 13-15	20th Annual Arkansas Recycling Coalition Conference/ Trade Show	Little Rock, Arkansas	www.recycleark.org
Sept 19-25	Pollution Prevention Week	various	For list of activities, contact Betty.Reaties@deq.ok.gov
Sept 29-30	E-Scrap 2010: North American Electronics Recycling Conference	New Orleans, Louisiana	www.e-scrapconference.com
Oct 2	2nd Annual Prairie Dinner/Concert	Turtle Rock Farm	http://turtlerockfarmretreat.com
Oct 9	Yukon Fall Recycling Event (used oil, tires, car batteries, white goods, metal, ewaste)	111 Ash, Yukon	Anna Waggoner: awaggoner@cityofyukon.gov
Oct 15	OKRA RECYCLING SEMINAR	Conoco-Phillips Alumni Center	Ilda.Hershey@okstate.edu