

March 2009



NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please share the 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

America Recycles Day 2008 Prize Winners

by *Susie Shields*

DEQ, OKRA, KOB and the M.e.t. annually encourage citizens to make a pledge to do their part in keeping recycling working. In fall of 2008, participants were automatically entered into drawings for three categories of state prizes.

The 2008 prizes included two high tech bicycles (won by Kevin Tedder, Sand Springs, and Kelsie Becker, Tulsa) in the youth drawing, a Xerox Phaser Solid Ink Printer (won by Penny Sheehan, Collinsville, for her husband Michael) in the workplace drawing,



ARD prize winner De'Ambra Hensley and Garmon Smith (Ada Recycling Coalition)

and two Black & Decker cordless rechargeable electric lawnmowers (won by De'Ambra Hensley, Ada, and Cachet Ramsey, Vinita) in the general public drawing.

Sponsors for the November 2008 celebration were OGE Energy Corp, Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA), Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)-Oklahoma Chapter, Bicycle Alley, Xerox Corporation, Waste Management-Recycle America, Sierra Club-Oklahoma Chapter and DEQ Pollution Prevention Program.

Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act

by *Jarrett Keck*

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), discarded electronics are the fastest growing portion of the United States' waste stream. This is up almost 8 percent from 2004 to 2005, despite an overall decline in municipal wastes. To encourage computer recycling and reuse in Oklahoma, the State Legislature enacted the Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act. Starting January 1, 2009 the law requires most computer manufacturers to provide computer and monitor recycling services free of charge to Oklahoma consumers. Examples of this may include a mail-back system, collection events, or contracts with state electronic recycling shops. Information about the recycling services available must be provided to consumers at the time of sale, on the packaging, and on the manufacturer's

website. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will evaluate all recovery plans to verify compliance with the new law. A manufacturer that does not have an approved recovery plan will be prohibited from selling computers and monitors, and from participating in bids for state contracts. The law does not cover televisions.

Currently several manufacturers have submitted recovery plans to DEQ for review. While DEQ is accepting recovery plans, the Agency is currently unable to meet its obligations to review and approve the plans. The Oklahoma Legislature passed the new law and gave DEQ the task of implementing it. However the Legislature did not provide authority to hire employees to carry out this mandate. DEQ is evaluating several options for meeting its responsibilities.

The agency plans to propose rules through the Solid Waste Advisory Council to the Environmental Quality Board. Proposed rules will include a fee system for computer manufacturers and criteria for approval of the recycling plans. DEQ will seek extensive public input throughout the process of developing those rules.

DEQ maintains a current list of computer equipment recyclers throughout Oklahoma on its website at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/ewasteindex.html>. The list is updated regularly, so please notify DEQ of any electronics recyclers not on the current list. The site will also provide additional updates and a list of approved manufacturers as the program develops.

For more information, contact Jarrett Keck, Department of Environmental Quality, at (405) 702-5219.

Electronics Recyclers Gear Up for Digital Broadcasting

WASHINGTON, DC, January 29, 2009 (ENS) - In two weeks, Best Buy Co., Inc. will bring its electronics recycling program to all of the company's 1,006 stores across the United States, the company announced Wednesday.

Starting February 15, consumers can bring up to two units per day, per household, for recycling at any U.S. Best Buy store, except those in Puerto Rico, which will join the program next year.

Best Buy will accept most consumer electronics, including televisions and monitors up to 32 inches, desktop computers and notebooks, small electronics, VCR and DVD players, and phones, as well as accessories such as keyboards, mice, and remotes. Televisions or monitor screens greater than 32 inches and console TVs cannot be accepted through the Best Buy recycling program.

A \$10 recycling fee per unit will be charged for items with screens, but consumers will receive a \$10 Best Buy gift card in exchange for the fee.

The Best Buy program will start just two days before the government-mandated switch from analog to digital television broadcasting takes effect on February 17.

Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels but it could make millions of TVs obsolete.

Viewers will be left without a television signal unless they purchase digital television sets, connect to cable, satellite, and alternate delivery systems or purchase a digital-to-analog converter box. More than 6.5 million

(U.S. households, or 5.7 percent of all homes, are not ready for the upcoming transition to all-digital broadcasting and would be unable to receive any television programming at all if the transition occurred today, the Nielsen Company reports. This is an improvement of more than 1.3 million homes since Nielsen reported readiness status at the end of December.

Among the 56 local markets that Nielsen measures with electronic meters, the one that is least ready is Albuquerque-Santa Fe, New Mexico, with 12.4 percent of the households completely unready. The most prepared market is Hartford and New Haven, Connecticut, with only 1.8 percent of homes unready.

On Wednesday, the House of Representatives defeated a bill to postpone the transition from analog to digital television broadcasting by four months.

House Republicans were able to attract enough Democ-

ratic votes to trash the bill, less than two days after the Senate unanimously passed the plan.



This viewer in St. Paul, MN watched the inauguration of President Obama on an analog TV that pulled the signal from the air with antenna known as rabbit ears. (photo by Sarah Deer)

The defeat is a setback for the Obama administration and Democrats on Capitol Hill, who are concerned that too many Americans are not ready for the change.

In addition to the recycling program at Best Buy retail stores, many electronics manufacturers are taking back obsolete televisions for recycling.

For instance, Sony has teamed with participating Waste Management eCycling drop-off centers where unwanted Sony products can be recycled for free.

Three of the biggest television makers have formed a company to help manage the mountain of electronics waste that is expected with the start of digital television.

Panasonic, Sharp, and Toshiba have established the Manufacturers Recycling Management Com-

pany to operate a national take-back and recycling program that is open to all manufacturers.

As of January 15, the MRM Recycling network began providing recycling opportunities at 280 locations with at least one recycling center located in each state, making it one of the most comprehensive national recycling networks.

"MRM is focused on enhancing the environmental sustainability of individual company brands and product offerings through convenient, environmentally sound and efficient recycling," said David Thompson, president of MRM. "With the establishment of the nationwide recycling program, one of most comprehensive in the industry, we have proven that collaborative effort is the most effective way to provide consumers with convenient recycling opportunities."

MRM will continue to expand its program and expects to have established at least 800 drop-off locations by 2011.

Once the obsolete televisions are collected, they go to companies that strip out the valuable materials and dispose of the waste. Nationally, only six states enforce laws governing the environmentally safe disposal of old-fashioned monitors called cathode ray tubes - California, Iowa, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Maine.

(Continued on Page 3)

Electronics Recyclers International is the largest volume recycler of CRTs in the United States and it is endorsed by many environmental groups for its responsible practices. ERI offers the most accurate verification system in the recycling industry, utilizing a bar code tracking system, video verification, and offering environment sustainability reports.

For a list of manufacturers' recycling options, click [here](#) to go to the My Green Electronics website.

For basic information on the analog-to-digital switch from the Federal Communications Commission, click [here](#).

—Copyright Environment News Service (ENS) 2009. All rights reserved. <http://www.ens-newswire.com>



Editors Note: On Wednesday, February 11, 2009, President Obama signed the legislation delaying the mandatory conversion from analog to digital signals from February 17 to June 12, 2009. Although this delay makes some of the info in this article outdated, the primary article content (concerning electronics recycling) is still valid.

OKRA Board Visits Stillwater Convenience Collection Center

by Ellen Bussert

The drop-off recycling facility in Stillwater, Oklahoma is extremely popular. Operating Monday – Friday from 7:00 a.m.

until 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. until noon, the City of Stillwater Recycling Facility has been operational since April of 2008. The OKRA Executive Board took a tour on February 12, 2009 and was extremely impressed by what they saw. Recycling in Stillwater is as easy as driving on to the site and unloading the items you brought. Upon arrival, customers are assisted by staff on what to do. The site has the capability of handling (13) roll-off containers placed for collection. In addition to the common recyclables collected, the City of Stillwater also collects e-waste, yard waste, construction waste, household hazardous waste, and bulky items (such as mattresses and furniture).

"It wasn't always this clean and easy," said David Higgins, operations manager for the Stillwater Public Works Department. He said that number one complaint of their program was cross contaminations of the recyclables. "When we realized that what we had in place just wasn't working well, we sat down and brainstormed about how we could fix the problem. Our solution was to staff the site."



Now, the facility averages around 170 people per day. According to Site Manager Jimmy Dileonardo, "Many people like to come during their lunch hour. We also see quite a few college kids recycling too." The City of Stillwater has entered into partnership with EMpower (formerly the Sheltered Workshop of Payne County) who provide the personnel to greet and assist the citizens utilizing the recycling facility. Jimmy says that the staff from EMpower take great pride in their job and generally love coming to work.

In addition to preventing cross contamination, the workers talk to the people who come about how to recycle. "It is neat to see how the recyclers have become friends with the workers and even bring them little gifts."



The OKRA Board was extremely impressed with the cleanliness and efficiency of the facility. According to Board Member Garmon Smith, "We commend the people who have made recycling a reality in the City of Stillwater and hope that citizens will take advantage of this excellent facility." Representing OKRA on the tour was: Ilda Hershey, Trudi Logan, Sarah Kimball, Garmon Smith, Traci Phillips, Kole Kennedy, Michael Patton and Ellen Bussert.

For more information on the City of Stillwater Recycling Facility go to: <http://stillwater.org/publicworks/waste.php>

Solid Waste Management Resource Trunks for Educators

By Ilda Hershey

Three solid waste management resource trunks are slated to be ready for loan by May. Once completed, the trunks will be housed with OKRA board members at OSU Stillwater, DEQ in Oklahoma City, and the M.e.t. in Tulsa, although check-out will be administered through the Cooperative Extension Service at OSU. Trunk curriculum and materials will cover reduce, reuse, recycle, composting, and litter topics.

One component of the trunk will be a "Close the Loop" display, which features samples of items made from recycled materials and display sheets that explain the materials and recycling processes. Materials in the display will include: samples of kitchen countertops made from recycled glass; samples of roof tiles made from recycled plastic and wood; carpet samples, shoe laces and shopping bags made from recycled plastic soda bottles; pencils and pens made from recycled denim, recycled newspaper and more. The trunks also will include books, DVDs, and activity exercises with props.

Resource trunk check-out details were discussed at the February OKRA board meeting and are still being finalized. One issue that came up is trunk loan deposit. Given the value of materials in the trunks, the board felt it fair to charge a refundable deposit. Although \$25 does not cover

the cost of the trunk and contents, it seems to be an appropriate good faith deposit amount.

As trunks are large and heavy, borrowers will need to pick them up and return them to one of the three loaning locations. Anyone interested in promoting solid waste management issues, such as K-12 teachers, 4-H educators, and community groups, may check-out the trunks. Reservation procedures and length of loan are still being determined.

USDA Rural Development is providing support for this project as well as a 2010 expansion to place three more trunks around the State, which will make them more accessible to rural areas. Although the trunks are not ready to loan yet, feel free to contact Ilda Hershey for more information in the meantime: ilda.hershey@okstate.edu.



Samples of items made from recyclable materials for the "Close the Loop" display

From Ada: Roff 6th grade Class Wins ARC Contest

ADA- During the Ada Recycling Coalition phone book contest, 9,039 phone books were collected for recycling. Roff sixth grade class won the competition out of 11 participating schools. The class collected 1,944 phone books. ARC presented a check for \$150 to the class in addition to the class winning T-shirts and a pizza party.



"The Ada Recycling Coalition appreciates all the schools and the coordinators that participated in our annual telephone books collection contest," ARC Chairman Garmon Smith said. "We had 11 schools participate this year with the students collecting a total of 9,039 phone books. "This number is down somewhat from previous years and, I believe, is a result of how even our phone companies are cutting back on costs of doing business.

"However," Smith continued, "ARC knows this is an effort we need to continue to make to help reduce recyclable materials from entering our landfills and to help teach our students and par-

ents the importance of recycling items that DO go into making new products manufactured at Oklahoma industries."

Listed below are the 11 participating schools, the winning teachers and the number of phone books collected.

1. Roff Elementary = 1,944 / Mrs. Wellington 6th grade class (1,171) -- Students in Mrs. Wellington's class will also receive T-shirts.
2. Sulphur HS Environmental Club = 1,385 / Ms. Dixon (563)
3. Latta Elementary = 1,348 / Ms. Jamar (953)
4. Glenwood = 1,290 / Ms. Ardrey (794)
5. Allen Elementary = 1,100 / Mrs. Deaton (1,100)
6. Hayes Elementary = 977 / Ms. Rhynes (246)
7. Washington Elementary = 333 / Mr. West (105)
8. Homer Elementary = 237 / Mrs. Roberts (237)
9. Tupelo Elementary = 202 / Ms. Bills (163)
10. Byng High School Cosmetology = 133 / Terry Sanders (133)
11. Pickett-Center = 90 / Ms. Prince (90).-

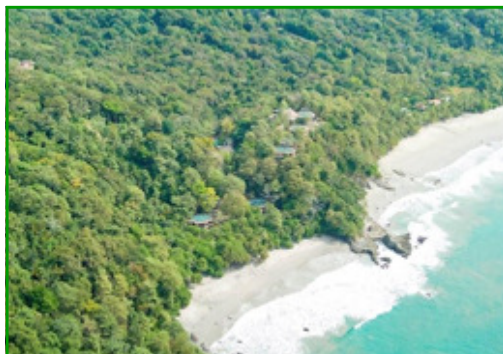


(Above) Doug Weirick, of ARC presents a check for \$150 to Mrs. Wellington

Need a Vacation? Make it Sustainable!

by Trudi Logan

On a recent trip to Costa Rica, I had the opportunity to spend several days on the beautiful Pacific coast at the Hotel Arenas Del Mar. This hotel prides itself on its ecological protection and its designation as a "sustainable tourism" destination. This was my first stay at a sustainable hotel, but I certainly hope it will not be my last!



Aerial View of the Hotel Arenas Del Mar

Hotel Arenas Del Mar facilities cover only about 25% of the hotel property. The remainder is a private nature reserve that acts as an ecological corridor to expand the buffer surrounding Manuel Antonio National Park. The hotel was built on an old plantation farm. Over the last 20 years, the hotel has actively reforested the grounds, planting thousands of native trees and endemic plants.

The hotel is so integrated into its surroundings that it is nearly impossible to see the hotel from the beach or even from the air. In fact, several roofs have trees penetrating the eaves because they did not want to cut any trees to construct the buildings. In many places the hotel buildings almost disappear into the forest canopy where it is integrated. The colored roofing shingles and recycled plastic tiles were designed and fabricated specifically to blend in with the local flora.

Sustainable features of the hotel include many that are invisible to the average hotel guest. These include solar panels used to

heat hot water, underground electricity systems that don't interfere with the area's wildlife, chlorine free ionization systems to clean pool water, energy efficient lighting and illumination, and advanced wastewater treatment systems, allowing treated water to be used for watering the hotel gardens and ensuring that water leaving the property does not affect the surrounding water sources.

Other sustainable features include roof tiles made from discarded plastic bags (from the banana industry), and onsite soap production made from leftover cooking oil from the hotel kitchen. In addition the hotel utilizes an advanced vermiculture composting system, where earthworms break down organic waste from the hotel kitchen, and produce a rich fertilizer which is used to maintain the hotel gardens and grounds.

While at the Hotel Arenas Del Mar, some of the sustainable features were very evident. Only electric cars are allowed on the hotel property to minimize carbon emissions and reduce the noise impact on the wildlife.



Recycling drop off facilities were placed strategically throughout the property to facilitate convenient collection of many types of recyclables.

During my stay I didn't see one plastic cup or straw on the hotel premise. Glass cups are provided in the hotel rooms and the hotel uses sturdy drinking straws made from bamboo, which are composted after use. Information about energy conservation and sustainability is in each hotel room. Guests are encouraged to reuse towels and bed linens and to turn off fans when not in use.

On the hotel grounds, monkeys could be seen playing in the trees or running across rooftops. Iguanas dozed by the hotel pool, and small lizards dotted the ceiling of the open air restaurant. A resident sloth was often spotted in a tree near the main lobby, and a variety of colorful birds chirped in the treetops. It felt like we were staying in a tropical paradise. And what made it very special was that the hotel was so earth friendly!

Before you take a trip, research sustainable hotels. Maybe there is one at your next vacation spot too!



The Results are in... Waste Line Reduced on the Waste Diet!

Many folks find it hard to keep their New Year's Resolutions to trim down. But, not so with the Engelmohr family of St. Louis, Missouri. Beginning in January 2008, the Engelmohrs stuck with their WASTE DIET project for a full year. Their goal was to reduce the amount of landfill waste that they produce to 32lbs per month. To do this, they changed their shopping habits, got serious about recycling, and began composting in their backyard.

Although the Engelmohrs didn't quite reach their ideal weight of 32lbs per month, they came very close! Their monthly average landfill trash averaged about 40 lbs, which eliminated over a ton of trash from the landfill!



Maren Engelmohr, mother of the family of four, says that most of the weight in the trash was cat litter because they were never able to find a good solution for the cat litter. Ironically, both the Engelmohr's cats died within a month of finishing the WASTE DIET. Without the cat litter, the Engelmohrs would have been down to a scant 15lbs per month! Maren says that overall, they learned a "ton" and had a lot of fun doing the project. The Engelmohrs plan to use what they have learned over the past year to live a more sustainable lifestyle in the future. To learn more about the WASTE DIET and what you can do to trim your Landfill Waste, go to www.thewastediet.com.

Oklahoma Green Schools Program Ready for Kick-Off

by Susie Shields

The Oklahoma Green Schools Committee hopes to unveil the entire Oklahoma Green Schools program within a couple of months, but this article provides a brief overview of the three levels that will be available for school assistance. You may start on any level (outlined below), or you may start at level one and work your way up. The Oklahoma Green School certification process and how your work will be rewarded is yet undetermined.

A 2006 study sponsored by the American Federation of Teachers and USGBC found that building green could save a typical school about \$100,000 annually in energy costs, enough to offset the average 2% premium cost of state-of-the-art building materials within a year. "Green" or "sustainable" buildings use key resources like energy, water, materials, and land much more efficiently than buildings that are simply built to minimum codes. They also create healthier work, learning, and living environments, with more natural light and cleaner air, and contribute to improved employee and student health, comfort, and productivity. Sustainable buildings are cost-effective, saving taxpayer dollars by reducing operations and maintenance costs and lowering utility bills. In case your school is anxious to get started, I will send via email (or CD) additional resources besides the study mentioned above.

If interested in keeping up with Oklahoma Green Schools funding and resource opportunities, sign-up for the Green Schools list server here: <http://www.oksustainability.org/form-greenlist.php>

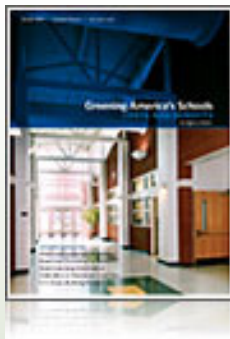
GREEN SCHOOLS HIERARCHY

LEVEL ONE: First Steps

This level includes free educator training and materials from Project Learning Tree, design assistance for green school related service learning projects, and opportunities for low level funding of green projects.

Coordinators

- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (lead on school greening efforts) Contact - Susie Shields (Sustainability Educator): Susie.shields@deq.ok.gov / 405.702.5166
- Oklahoma Forestry Services (lead on educator training & green school related service learning projects) Contact - Christina Stallings Roberson (Project Learning Tree Coordinator): christina.stallings@oda.state.ok.us / 405.227.8858



Resources (currently available - many more will soon be listed on our forthcoming website)

- PLT GreenWorks! Grants: www.plt.org/cms/pages/21_22_18.html
- DEQ EE License Tag Grants (2009 application period not open yet - green school projects will be added as a category): <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/pubs/lpd/eegrant08.pdf>
- DEQ and Sierra Club have committed low-level funding for small projects, but details are yet to be determined.
- PLT will also provide a variety of school audit forms later this year.

LEVEL TWO: Major Renovation

This level focuses primarily on major energy retrofits in school buildings.

Coordinator: Oklahoma Department of Commerce State Energy Office Contact - Carolyn Sullivan: Carolyn_Sullivan@odoc.state.ok.us / 405.815.5347

Resources (now available)

- State Energy Office Energy Loan Fund (ELF) low-interest loans (repay from energy cost savings): http://staging.okcommerce.gov/test1/dmdocuments/Energy_Loan_Fund_for_Schools_Guidance_and_Application_251007225100.docx
- Energy rebate program of \$2 per lamp to convert from T-12 to T-8 or T-5 bulbs. Contact - Donney Dorton: dorndr@oge.com

LEVEL THREE: LEED for Schools

This level assists school interested in achieving LEED certification for new and/or renovated schools.

Coordinator: Oklahoma Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council Contact - Jeff Wegener: JWegener@lwpb.com

Resources

- USGBC Green Schools: www.buildgreenschools.org
- The Collaborative for High Performance Schools: www.chps.net
- National Clearinghouse for Education Facilities: www.edfacilities.org



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OKLAHOMANS RECYCLING!

Catch someone in the act of recycling and we will publish their photo in our next OKRA newsletter!

Send PHOTOS, NEWS and EVENTS for the OKRA website and newsletter. Email them to Trudi Logan at trudi.logan@us.af.mil

DEQ Hosts Community Recycling Seminar

On October 30, 2008, the DEQ hosted a community recycling seminar for municipalities, recyclers and interested citizens.

The seminar provided valuable information on recycling services and programs designed to help get cities start up a recycling operation or expand current recycling programs.

The program included Michael Patton, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.) in Tulsa who discussed available markets in Oklahoma and the current downturn in prices. Garold Beasley, Greenstar NA, spoke on the operations of single-stream recycling. Traci Phillips, President of Natural Evolution, spoke on e-waste problems and solutions. Gail Ederer, Executive Director for Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, presented information from their recently completed "New Com-

munity Improvement Guide". Ande Reed, Greenstar NA and Michael Patton spoke on education and promotional ideas for recycling programs. Chris Day, Commercial Recycling Manager for the City of Plano spoke on Plano's recycling and composting programs.

Luncheon speaker was Marilyn May, Environmental Co-op, Kaufman County, Texas. Marilyn spoke on many aspects of recycling including single stream recycling, office recycling, construction and demolition recycling and organic waste recycling.

The seminar concluded with an interactive workshop led by Fenton Rood (DEQ) and Traci Phillips, based on the new Community Recycling Toolkit. Participants were well pleased with the seminar and look forward to similar events in the future.

(Below) Seminar attendees look on while Chris Day describes the City of Plano's recycling and composting programs



Time to Renew your OKRA Membership!

Did you know that annual membership in OKRA runs from March 1st to the end of February? Some of you already have renewed your membership for 2009 and we thank you. If you have not yet submitted your 2009 dues, please help grow OKRA and renew now!

The easiest way to join or renew is to complete our online membership form at <http://www.recycleok.org/form-membership.php>. After you select "Submit Membership" you will be prompted to mail a check or pay online with PayPal. You must have (or be willing to create) a PayPal account to pay via PayPal. OKRA does not accept credit cards, however, PayPal does. Alternatively, you can mail a purchase order and will we invoice you.

OKRA Membership Levels
\$1 Student Member

\$25 Regular Member

\$75 Non-Profit/Government Partner

\$100 Corporate Basic Partner

\$250 Corporate Bronze Partner

\$500 Corporate Silver Partner

\$750 Corporate Gold Partner

\$1,000 Corporate Platinum Partner

Member benefits include receiving our newsletter and information about OKRA activities throughout the year via email. Regular members also are eligible to elect and/or serve as OKRA officers and board of directors. Depending on the number of memberships OKRA receives, regular members may also be eligible for National Recycling Coalition benefits, including voting privileges, annual congress discounts, online resources and more. Corporate, Non-profit, and Government Partners also re-

ceive newsletter and website recognition in proportion with their membership level.

OKRA provides a forum for networking, encourages local end-markets, and works to create a unified voice for Oklahoma recyclers. This is evidenced in part by our successful October 2008 Community Recycling Seminar and recent legislation to establish a recycling goal for the state of Oklahoma. For the first time ever, the state set a goal to recycle at least 10 percent of all municipal waste collected in Oklahoma by 2011.

If you have questions about OKRA membership, or if you'd like a supply of OKRA membership brochures to share at your next meeting or event, please contact Ilda Hershey at ilda_hershey@okstate.edu or (405) 744-9806.



PO Box 521154
Tulsa, OK 74152-1154

www.recycleok.org

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

We need your help to grow OKRA . . . Join us online!

OKRA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

Name (Affiliation)	Position	Email
Traci Phillips (Natural Evolution)	President	recycle@naturalevolution.com
Ande Reed	Vice-President	earthdayande@yahoo.com
Ellen Bussert (DEQ)	Secretary	ellen.bussert@deq.ok.gov
Michael Patton (The M.e.t.)	Treasurer	recyclemichael@yahoo.com
Susie Shields (DEQ)	Past-President / ARD Chair	susie.shields@deq.ok.gov
Vacant	Advocacy Chair	
Chris Daniels (Goodwill)	Market Development Chair	Chris@goodwill.org
Ilda Hershey (OSU Cooperative Extension)	Membership Chair	ildahershey@hotmail.com
Trudi Logan (Tinker AFB liaison)	Newsletter Editor	trudi.logan@tinker.af.mil
Kole Kennedy (DEQ)	Materials Exchange Chair	Kole.kennedy@deq.ok.gov
Heather Schmuki (Recycle America)	At-Large	hschmuki@wm.com
Kathy Moore (OK Composting Council)	At-Large	anichinimoore@hotmail.com
Garmon Smith (EPA/Ada Recycling Coalition)	At-Large	smith.garmon@epamail.epa.gov

OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 9-11 EPA Region 6 Sustainable Skylines Conference, Dallas <http://www.epa.gov/sustainableskylines/>

March 17 Green Drinks for St. Patrick's Day (5:30-7:30 p.m.), Trattoria il Centro, Main & Walker, Oklahoma City (Hosted by Sustainable OKC): <http://www.sustainableokc.org/>

March 20-21 "Sustainability: A New Declaration of Independence," OSN 2009 Conference, UCO Nigh University Center, Edmond: www.oksustainability.org

March 26 E.O. Wilson, legendary biologist and Pulitzer Prize winner, 7:30pm, University of Science & Arts, Chickasha: <http://www.usao.edu/>

March 30-31 CLE Oklahoma Water Law Seminar, Renaissance Hotel, Oklahoma City:
http://www.cle.com/product.php?proid=1077&page=Oklahoma_Water_Law

April 1 Green Building - Low Impact Development Conference, Home Builders Association of Greater Tulsa, 11545 E 43rd St <http://www.tulsacountyconservationdistrict.org/rmcbrochure2009.pdf>

April 9 OKRA Board Meeting, White Owl Café, Tulsa (11:00 a.m.)

April 18-25 Use Less Stuff Week (*Proclaimed annually by Governor Brad Henry since everyone can Use Less Stuff to honor Earth Day.*) Contact: Susie.shields@deq.ok.gov

OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Cont.)



April 18 **Statewide Trash-Off - To Register for the ODOT Trash Off**
call 405-521-4037 <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us/beauty/trashoff/ideas.htm>

April 18 **Rethink: Recycle: Redesign Art Show, IAO Gallery, 811 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City (7:00-11:00 p.m.):** <http://www.rethinkrecycleredesign.org/>

April 19 **Little River Zoo “Kids For Kindness” Earth Day Festival scheduled for from noon-6:00 p.m., Reaves Park, Norman. Contact Lil Kenney, (405) 366-7229**

April 22 **Earth Day at UCO, Edmond (10:00am-3:00 p.m.) around Broncho Lake north of student union, contact: Dr. David Bass, (405) 974-5772 or dbass@ucok.edu**

April 22 **Earth Day at OSU, Stillwater, library lawn, Watch for details online at: www.orgs.okstate.edu/ecoosu/**

Oklahoma City's Earth Week Events

Oklahoma City's future is not just bright – it's green. You are invited to start “greening” Oklahoma City by joining us for Earth Week events, April 22-26.

Ride the Bus Free

METRO Transit will honor Earth Day by offering free bus and trolley rides from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. Bus service in Oklahoma City, Tinker AFB, Norman and Edmond is included in the offer. Get route information and learn how to ride the bus by visiting www.gometro.org or call 235-RIDE (7433).



Free Downtown Bike Riding Class

Not only is cycling good for the environment, it's also healthy, saves money and can be an enjoyable way to commute short distances. Learn the basics of bicycle riding by signing up for a brown bag

lunch-and-learn at noon on Friday, April 24 on the east steps of City Hall. Stay for an optional 90-minute bike ride around downtown. Bicycle and helmet required. Call 297-3908 or e-mail lanc.gross@okc.gov to register.

Earth Fest at Martin Park

Join Martin Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 for Earth-friendly educational booths and free seminars.

- 10:30 a.m. Save the Earth with Little Blue
- 11:30 a.m. Cooking with the Sun
- 1 p.m. Earth-Friendly Lawn Care
- 2 p.m. Recycling Rainwater
- 3 p.m. Composting 101

Kids can make recycled art all day long. Visit with a mechanic at our hybrid car show featuring natural gas and electric vehicles from the City's fleet. Call Martin Park at 755-0676 for details.



Recycle your tires, ammo and computers

A special household hazardous waste collection will be held for ammunition, tires and computer equipment from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 25 on the south side of the State Fairgrounds. Enter from Gordon Cooper Blvd. (Gate 5) off north May. The collection is open to Oklahoma City residents only. Recyclers must bring their current Oklahoma City water bill stub to prove residency. Televisions, wheels, rims and oversized tires such as equipment or farm implement tires will not be accepted.



Mercury-Free Thermometer Giveaway

The first 100 residents that drop household hazardous waste off at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, 1621 S Portland, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on April 25 will receive a free mercury-free thermometer. Don't forget your water bill stub to prove residency.

Party for the Planet at the Oklahoma City Zoo

Leap into action and discover the importance of conserving wildlife and wild places. Enjoy fun, family activities, live music, giveaways and more from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. Free with Zoo admission. For information call 424-3344 or log on to www.okczoo.com.

Great OKC Tree Giveaway

Oklahoma City is partnering with the Tree Bank Foundation and Apache Foundation to provide 1,000 free trees to citizens in April. Citizens must pre-register online at www.okc.gov starting March 11 to receive a tree. The tree distribution will take place April 25. Call 297-2283 for more information.

