

October 2009

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

### Cleaning products get green seal of approval in Oklahoma City

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CHEMICALS ALSO CREATES HEALTHIER WORKPLACE

Hospital custodians aren't the only ones who smell cleaner fumes. Patients can inhale the vapors, too.

So when Mercy Health Center switched to environmentally friendly chemicals, the workers weren't the only ones to benefit, said Paul Moreillon, manager of environmental services for the hospital. Reducing noxious fumes from the air helps employees, who use the chemicals every day, and patients, particularly those with respiratory problems. We're making the right choices for our people and for our patients and visitors," he said.

Mercy and other state companies are part of a national trend to switch from traditional cleaners to green chemicals.

More than 3,300 products are certified green, said Linda Chipperfield, spokeswoman for Green Seal, the nonprofit agency that tests and ap-

proves green products.

The demand for green products is increasing, particularly products individuals can use in their homes, she said. That increasing demand means more companies are offering green options, and prices are dropping.



The trend bucks the perception that environmentally friendly products are expensive, Chipperfield said.

"They don't have to cost more, especially if there are enough products on the market," she said. "The demand creates supply. If you have enough products, the price comes down."

The availability of certified products is helpful for businesses and individuals looking to switch, said Fenton Rood, an environmental programs manager with the Department of Environmental Quality, which also uses green cleaners.

"It sends the message to us as consumers that it's a legitimately green product, and it works for its intended purpose," he said.

The products are working well for staff at the Oklahoma City Zoo, said Jennifer D'Agostino, the zoo veterinarian and a member of the zoo's Green Team. The zoo has been using Green Seal-certified products for about two months. As at Mercy Health Center, the products are safer for the workers who use them. But at the zoo, the animals benefit, too.

"Even if you're not using it directly in an animal exhibit, if there are fumes in the area, it can be really harmful to the animals' lungs," D'Agostino said. "I don't worry at all about the animals' health using these (green) products."

By Carrie Coppernoll

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### NO BOTTLE CAPS PLEASE!

In the last issue of the OKRA Online Newsletter, we reprinted an article from Earth911.com titled, "Recycling Mysteries: #5 Plastics." While this article is a fine summation of the state of #5 plastics recycling in the nation, we regret it does not reflect current Oklahoma market information.

Here we interview Michael Patton, OKRA Treasurer and Executive Director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust, to set us straight on plastics recycling in Oklahoma. In particular we want to know: Should we leave caps on bottles or not?

**OKRA: Hey, Michael. So why can't we screw the caps back on plastic bottles for recycling?**

*MP: Well, first of all, not all plastics are created equally. Bottle caps are typically #5 plastic, or polypropylene, which doesn't melt at the same temperature as #1 and #2 plastic.*



**OKRA: But we learned from the Earth911 article that other communities are recycling #5 plastic.**

*MP: Some states have recycling processing companies that can process several types of plastic, including #5. At this time, the companies in our state can only process #1 plastic (PETE or Polyethylene Terephthalate) and #2 plastic (HDPE or High Density Polyethylene).*

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NO BOTTLE CAPS, PLEASE! ... Continued from Page 1

**OKRA: What should we do with our #3 - #7 plastic containers?**

MP: The first thing we could do is avoid purchasing products packaged in these containers. We have a choice as consumers. Packaging can be reduced by buying in bulk or opting for products and packaging that can be recycled in your community. Next, we can try to reuse plastic containers that are not recycled in Oklahoma. Be sure to wash thoroughly before reusing.

**OKRA: What if we've reduced and reused and end up with #3 - #7 plastics anyway?**

MP: As mentioned in the July issue of our OKRA newsletter, #5 plastics can be mailed to the Preserve Gimme 5 program and plastic caps can be taken to Aveda retail stores. Most #3 - #7 plastics will simply need to be put in the garbage can. It is important not to let these items loose in the environment as they are harmful to wildlife as well as being an eyesore given the hundreds of years needed for plastics to decompose.

**OKRA: What about Styrofoam?**

MP: Some #6 plastic (PS or Polystyrene) can be reused. Clean and unbroken packaging materials made out of expanded PS, also known as Styrofoam, can sometimes be reused by mailing and shipping stores (think foam peanuts and electronic packaging). Ask your local store if they will accept these materials. Other expanded PS products, such as foam cups, plates and trays, cannot be recycled or reused anywhere in the nation. Avoid buying these products if you can.



**OKRA: So, we've learned that keeping plastic caps off bottles is important in Oklahoma because the caps don't melt at the same temperature as the containers. Are there any other reasons for keeping the caps off?**

MP: Yes, plastic bottles full of air can explode a bale of plastic so, for safety reasons, it is disputed that consumers anywhere should tightly screw on caps. Plastic caps and lids can jam older sorting equipment as well.



**OKRA: Are there any other items that we think are recyclable but are not?**

MP: We need to remember that just because an item is marked recyclable does not mean it is necessarily recyclable in our local community. It's always a good idea to check with your recycler to see what is taken in your program. Also, this could change from time to time as recycling programs find new vendors to take materials or new processing technology is developed.

**OKRA: What are some examples of items that are tricky to figure out?**

MP: For example, some recycling programs take paperboard or chipboard (cereal boxes, etc.) with corrugated cardboard and some take it with mixed paper. Some programs take waxed paperboard, like milk cartons, or clean aluminum foil, but most do not. Some take phone books with mixed paper and some do not take phone books at all.

**OKRA: Thank you so much Michael for answering our questions. What words of wisdom would you like to leave with us on this subject?**

MP: Learn what is accepted in your local recycling program. Ask questions and keep on top of changes. Too many contaminants, or wrongly placed items, in a recycling load can cause it to be trashed instead of recycled. As the saying goes: **When in doubt, throw it out!**

## Summertime Recyclers in Mustang ...



**Michele Andrzejewski (left) recycles her plastic bottles and tin cans and Brad Brittain (right) recycles his glass at the Mustang Recycles drop-off recycling center on August 8, 2009**





# Arkansas Recycling Conference Recap: Recycling is Not Free!

by Ilda Hershey

In September, I attended the Arkansas Recycling Coalition's (ARC) 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Trade Show, "Recycling to Sustainability – 20 years of Success." ARC is celebrating 20 years of success since its inception in 1989. With a state recycling rate of about 36%, I'd say they've been pretty successful. (We believe the Oklahoma rate to be between 6-12%.)

In this article I will share my experiences over the three-day conference. Not all sessions will be covered as some were concurrent. A reoccurring theme across the conference was the mantra, "Recycling is Not Free." Although recycling is the right thing to do, we need to also remember that it is a service that costs money.



Part of Madison County's operation runs like a Materials Recovery Facility with volunteers sorting recyclables every three weeks.

Solid Waste & Recycling Center, near Huntsville. The motto of this center is, "We take everything except live and dead animals," which I found to be true. The facility is a transfer station, recycling center, metal buy-back center, sensitive document shredder, HHW station and thrift shop all in one. Started by a recycling group of volunteers led by Larry Karigan-Winter in 1989, the County-run center now operates on an annual budget of \$600,000, has 4.5 employees, numerous volunteers, and makes \$40,000 in profit just from their reuse center. This is particularly impressive when con-



A bird's eye view Madison County's Center (photo by Brandon Morris)

sidering the populations of Huntsville (only about 2,000) and Madison County (less than 20,000). Initial grant funding was provided by the State of Arkansas' Recycling Grants Program and Wal-Mart. Madison County funded the \$100,000 equipment start-up expense.

In the conference's opening session, "History of Recycling in Arkansas," speaker Bill Lord suggested several times that "the hippies had it right," referring to those who settled (and practiced conservation) in NW Arkansas back in the 60s. In 1988, a Franklin Associates report proclaimed NW Arkansas a recycling model for the rest of the country. Many programs have started since then, and yet materials still get landfilled sometimes. Lesson learned: Markets Rule! Another setback was a 1996 NY Times article that stated recycling is a waste of time and money. However, we have since learned about Life Cycle Analyses, which allow us to compare the full cost of recycling versus the cost of using virgin materials. "The hippies were right after all," proclaimed Bill. This session served as a timely reminder of the setbacks and progress that can be associated with pursuing conservation.



Madison Co. Solid Waste & Recycling Center, Huntsville, AR (photo by Larry Karigan-Winter)

In "Community Relations," Sarah Sexton emphasized the importance of perception. Perception is everything! What we are "selling" in recycling programs is a positive lifestyle choice and good quality of life for future generations. Again the mantra, Recycling is Not Free; it's a utility and it can keep trash bills down. Recycling actually adds value

to trash, which is a message we need to get out there. Credibility is also important, so keeping good records is essential. Sarah recommends marketing messages such as:

- **Smart, famous, and responsible people recycle.**
- **What is the price of not recycling?**

We also heard from Tim Warren with the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) about their program. Although batteries in the waste stream are not a volume or weight issue, they are a toxic substance issue. The national Call2Recycle program by RBRC is a product stewardship initiative funded by the five largest US battery makers. At this time only rechargeable batteries are included in the program, however RBRC is currently running a pilot program in Little Rock to collect all types of batteries. We can only hope this will be expanded to the rest of the nation. (Continued on Page 4)

## Arkansas Recycling Conference Recap ... Continued from Page 3

We can only hope this will be expanded to the rest of the nation.

In the afternoon, we learned about successful recycling programs. I was particularly impressed by the City of Fayetteville's program. Brian Pugh, Fayetteville Waste Reduction Coordinator was another proponent of the Recycling is Not Free mantra. This city uses trash service fees to offset some of its recycling program expenses. Fayetteville has a Pay-As-You-Throw refuse program that offers residents a choice of monthly fees and cart sizes:

- \$18.96 for 96-gallons
- \$13.35 for 64-gallons
- \$8.75 for 32-gallons

These prices include an 18-gallon recycling bin, yard waste pick up, one free bulky waste pick up and 4 "free pass" bags per year. Brian does not recommend offering the 32-gallon trash bin as residents try to cram too much in them (extra charges apply in that case). In 2008, Fayetteville collected 13,078 tons of garbage and 5,760 tons of recyclables from residents.

The final day of the conference began with keynote speaker Chaz Miller of the National Solid Wastes Management Association. Chaz also reiterated, Recycling is not Free! during his presentation, "2008-2009: Riding the Rollercoaster." Chaz talked about the collapse of markets across the board in late 2008 and the accompanying media stories that declared recycling to be trouble. In January 2009, the markets hit bottom; media stories focused on there being less trash due to the recession. In late spring, 2009, prices start to improve, however state and local governments are dealing with massive revenue shortfalls. In August, the National Recycling Coalition declares bank-

ruptcy. In September, prices continue to improve. What happened to the business of recycling? The bubble burst as worldwide demand for raw material declined.

Chaz continued by showing commodity price patterns and how prices had fallen substantially in past years: 1989, 1995 and 2001. The 2008 collapse was much quicker and deeper due to a host of global economic issues, which decreased demand for end products. Chaz also talked about the changing profile of waste. Paper is down; plastic and food waste are up (I would add electronics are up too). The response to down markets has been warehousing, burying and burning, but material has started to move again. The take-away message seems to be that recycling cannot depend on market value; strong emphasis is needed on lowering costs and managing programs as efficiently as possible.

Final message from Chaz: "Recyclers need to make the case for recycling as a greenhouse gas reduction tool and a smart way to manage our garbage, and be honest about the costs of recycling." So, remember:

- **Recycling is not free**
- **No good things in life are free**
- **We get what we pay and work for**

More information about the Arkansas Recycling Coalition can be found at their website: [www.recycleark.org](http://www.recycleark.org).



Energy fuels cars, furnaces, national economies. It also costs money, affects our lives, and sometimes makes headlines. If you want to understand where your gasoline comes from, what determines the price of electricity, or how much renewable energy the United States uses, then you are not alone. Energy Explained from the U.S. Energy Information Administration tells you all of this and more at [www.eia.doe.gov/energyexplained](http://www.eia.doe.gov/energyexplained).



## CAUGHT IN THE ACT!

OKRA salutes students from Bethel Middle School who were caught recycling



The Bethel Middle School Student Council takes paper recycling seriously. Their program involves every classroom and office on campus. They also have the community active in their program.



# Awesome!



## First Recycled Glass Week Held in September

Following the success of last year's Recycled Glass Day, the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) hosted Recycled Glass Week Sept. 21-27 to encourage glass recycling across the country. "We asked consumers to recycle their glass bottles and jars to help reduce the amount of recyclable materials entering landfills and help create a 'greener' future," said Glass Packaging Institute President Joseph Cattaneo.

During the same week, FEVE (the European Glass Packaging Federation) also held "Choose Glass Week" in several European countries, creating an international platform to promote the benefits of and encourage glass container recycling in late September.

Changing our habits and our use of natural resources is not for the weak, but is truly for the strong at heart. Change is never easy, but we have a chance to begin making America's environment and economy stronger, even if you just participate one week a year to start. Many people routinely recycle cans and a growing number are also recycling glass.

There are many environmental benefits. Recycling glass saves raw materials, uses less energy and reduces CO2 emissions. One recycled beer bottle saves enough energy to run your computer for 30 minutes.

GPI hopes to help the industry reach a nationwide goal of 50 percent recycled content in the manufacturing of new glass bottles and jars by 2013. Using the EPA's benefits calculator, GPI estimates energy savings from using 50 percent recycled content (*Continued on Page 7*)



Go Green Oklahoma, located at <http://GoGreen.OK.gov>, is an OK.gov initiative that showcases how Oklahoma eGovernment is helping to reduce the carbon footprint in the state by minimizing paper consumption and citizen travel to government facilities. Currently, 25 state agencies are participating in the Go Green Oklahoma program and show that their online services have reduced paper consumption by over 37.5 million sheets of paper since January 2007 and have saved approximately 4,500 trees according to Conserva-tree.com. Visit the 'Go Green Data Center' to learn more.

The Go Green Oklahoma site was launched in May of 2008 and includes interactive features to drive visits including:

- An online calculator that calculates the value of time, travel, and environmental impact that are saved when government transactions are processed online versus in person.
- An integrated form for state agencies to easily report their green data that is updated in real time. An area where visitors can

sign up for "Weekly Green Tips" or view the "Go Green Oklahoma calendar" filled with pro-green events around the state.

In addition to unique interactive features, OK.gov hosted an eRecycle event at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Earth Day 2009 with tremendous success. Oklahoma citizens and businesses donated more than 2,000 cubic square feet of used computer equipment and used cell phones, which generated at least 150 refurbished computers for disabled Oklahomans and over 11,500 minutes in talk time for Oklahoma soldiers in the Middle East. The incredible response of Oklahomans has provided OK.gov with a charity opportunity to host every Earth Day for years to come. Pictures from the event are available under 'eRecycle event' on the left navigation of the Web site.

The broader impact of the Go Green Oklahoma Web site is the cultural shift within state government - that by moving government services online, state agencies generate internal efficiencies and cost savings by removing paper-based processes from their workflow and reducing traffic to their office.

Visit Go Green Oklahoma today to learn more: <http://GoGreen.OK.gov>

## Hats off to Roff's Redneck Recyclers !

For the past couple of years, the freshman boys, aka "Redneck Recycling", at Roff High School have taken the initiative to recycle. They have put boxes around campus collecting paper and plastics. The boys are very interested in recycling, and actually have their parents and grandparents collecting everything imaginable to recycle. They have even volunteered their parents to come to the school and pick up the recyclables every week and take them to the recycling center. This year the "rednecks" hope to add some "class" to their project by procuring some attractive recycling bins to place in the student center and some of the classrooms.



**Redneck Recyclers**

## Register for Oklahoma Recycling Seminar

"Recycling through a Recession" is the title of this year's Oklahoma Recycling Seminar to be held on Tuesday, December 8 in Stillwater. This full day seminar will cover everything from recycling markets and operations to organics diversion and container deposit bills.

Michael Patton, of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust, will begin the program with an update on current recycling markets and the economic outlook for recycling. Sessions on how to set up a recycling center and how to measure recycling efforts will also be offered by Patton and the Cities of Ada and Miami. On the recycling processing end, Al Drinkwater of Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies Inc. will present information about AERT's new plastics processing facility in NE Oklahoma.

Given that a very large portion of municipal waste is biodegradable, the seminar will feature an Organics Diversion

Panel. Representatives from the cities of Edmond, Miami and Norman will present case studies and answer questions about their composting and mulch operations.

The seminar will end with a discussion about container and bottle deposit programs and the current

bottle bill being considered by the Oklahoma legislature. Jim Bologna, Site-Energy Manager with Saint-Gobain Containers, Inc. will be one of the experts on hand to present the benefits of a bottle deposit program and its implications for increasing recycling, reducing waste, saving energy and generating revenue in Oklahoma.

Designed for city and county government officials, recycling professionals, community leaders, educators, students and concerned citizens interested in the business of recycling and expanding local programs, December's seminar will include plenty of opportunities for learning and sharing as well as networking over lunch and during breaks with exhibitors.

Recycling through a Recession, is hosted by the Oklahoma Recycling Association and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and OGE Energy Corp. The seminar will take place at the OSU Alumni Center in Stillwater. For registration and exhibitor information, visit [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org).



*"A Beautiful City Is Good Business!"*

## Recycling Forum & Online Survey Create Public Interest in Ardmore

Ardmore recently had a Recycling Forum (October 22) to educate about how to start a community recycling program. Michael Patton, executive director of the Tulsa-based Metropolitan Environmental Trust was their guest speaker. His agency operates twelve recycling drop-off centers in nine different Oklahoma communities ranging in size from Glenpool to Tulsa. He has helped communities across eastern Oklahoma design solid waste programs that vary from buying trucks to contracting out services. The focus of his talk was developing strong community recycling programs.

Former State Representative Greg Piatt moderated the event and facilitated a question and answer session after the talk with guest panelists Fenton Rood, Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality; Ilda Hershey, Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Solid Waste Programs, Garmon Smith, CHMM SHEM Program Manager U.S. EPA/OR&D/NRMRL/GWERD/TASS Robert S. Kerr Research Center; J. D. Spohn, Acting City Manager, City of Ardmore; Heather Schmuki and Greta Calvery, Waste Management; and Mack Peterson and Dana Nickell, Chickasaw National Environmental Services.

Recycling was recognized as one the top four topics of community interest during the Ardmore Chamber of Commerce's 20/20 Visioning process that was held earlier this year. The Ardmore Beautification Council has worked to educate the community on recycling and the two organizations have collaborated on a survey to get public input. To participate in the survey, link to <http://forabc.org> on the Internet. This link will be available through December 31.

While Ardmore has no curbside recycling program, they have two drop-sites, one provided by the City of Ardmore at their Operation Pride location 317 Carol Brown Blvd. and one provided by Michelin at MTC Credit Union 2001 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW. Recycling information for Ardmore is available on the City of Ardmore's TV cable station and on the ABC website at [www.forabc.org](http://www.forabc.org).

Norma Lynne Paschall (580) 223-2230

## Keep an eye out for Oklahomans Recycling ...



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

## The Benefits of Buying Recycling Bins Made of Recycled Content

By: Carla Kostiak

Whether an environmental fanatic, moderate participant or someone simply seeking information we must work together toward the very real, immediate and necessary conservation of our natural resources and energy. Without such efforts our environment cannot sustain itself. One of the ways in which we can contribute to environmentalism is by encouraging the design, manufacturing and purchasing of products which contain recycled content, such as, recycling bins.

The benefits of purchasing recycling bins made of recycled content are fourfold. Firstly, it creates a use for recycled materials. Secondly, in using less virgin materials we conserve our natural resources. Thirdly, it generates a market for recycled materials. Fourthly, it supports the continual manufacturing of the products which enables the cycle to evolve.

In reducing the amount of raw materials used by substituting them for recycled content we are able to foster sustainability and revolutionize our future. Corporations which manufacture and design recyclable containers made of recycled content generate a market for recovered materials. This market is developed as a result of the commoditization of recycled content, whereby the materials can flourish. If a market is not readily available the process cannot excel, and neither can our environment.



plastic recycling bin made of recycled content

After a market is generated for recycling bins made of recycled content the products must be purchased in order to complete the recycling loop. In today's unstable economy consumers must be made aware of the benefits and be interested in their results so to take the needed step toward purchasing them, otherwise the containers will not profitable for various corporations to produce and inevitably cease to exist.

In conclusion, the responsibility weighs heavily on each consumer to select products which are environmentally friendly and to hold corporations accountable for producing such products. If each of us takes this responsibility to heart we can truly effect change.



For information: [www.buschsystems.com](http://www.buschsystems.com)  
Contact: [Carla@netgainseo.com](mailto:Carla@netgainseo.com)  
Phone: (705) 797-2455

All products, including the environmentally conscious containers mentioned above, are available at Busch Systems International.

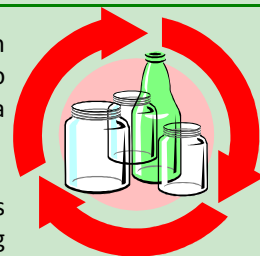
**OKRA board members strongly support a bottle bill for Oklahoma.**

We hope you do too! More info will be forthcoming at the Dec. 4 Recycling Seminar, the OKRA list server and in our next newsletter.



## First Recycled Glass Week ... Continued from Page 5

in all glass packages manufactured in the U.S. could save enough energy to power over 45,000 households for a year.



Collection events and competitions were held to encourage glass recycling across the United States, with two events held in Oklahoma. Employees at the Anchor Glass plant in Henryetta offered a glass container collection event at their plant site and also placed collection bins at six other locations throughout the community.

The City of Muskogee teamed up with Owens-Illinois Inc., the largest manufacturer of glass containers in the world, to place a city glass drop at the local recycling center. Consumers who brought glass containers to be recycled were given a chance to win prizes.

Jim Bologna, Site-Energy Manager for Saint-Gobain Containers in Sapulpa, Oklahoma will be speaking about Oklahoma's glass industry at the Oklahoma Recycling Association's Recycling Seminar coming up December 8 at the OSU Conoco-Phillips Alumni Center in Stillwater. For more details on the seminar, see Page 6 of this newsletter.

*Adapted with permission from an article by Jim Roth in the September 21, 2009 Journal Record with additional information from Earth 911.*

## HELP COX COMMUNICATIONS RECYCLE WARMTH!

Cox Communications is hosting a Winter Clothing Drive in recognition of National Recycle Day on November 15. Each of the Cox Retail Store locations in the Oklahoma City area are accepting your gently used winter clothing donations. The stores will be accepting these donations from 11/2 to 11/15.

Cox Store hours are 9am-7pm M-F and 9am-3pm on Saturday, with the exception of the South Western Store, which is open 8:30-5 M-F. All the donations will be recycled to local charities in an effort to help those in need. If you have any questions or have a large donation please contact Jonathan Cramer at (405)314-4084.





## OKRA CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOV-DEC 2009

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
November	Ada Poster Contest/Pledge	Ada, OK	trudy.nevland@adaok.com
November	Recycling Contest / Pledge	Midwest City Library	Linda Temple (405) 732-4828 ext 3
Nov. 2-12	ODOT Public Meetings on Statewide Transportation Improvement	Tulsa, Muskogee, Lawton, Woodward, McAlester, Ada, Clinton, Ponca City, OKC, Chickasha	See schedule and/or submit comments online here: <a href="http://www.oklongrangeplan.com">www.oklongrangeplan.com</a>
Nov. 2-15	Cox Communications Winter Clothing Drive	OKC Metro Locations	Jonathan Cramer (314-4084)
Nov. 3-5	Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference	Reed Conference Center, Midwest City	<a href="http://www.owrb.ok.gov/news/waterconference.php">http://www.owrb.ok.gov/news/waterconference.php</a>
Nov. 12 9am-1pm	Ardmore Shred It Day / Pharmaceutical Take-Back	100 N Commerce, Ardmore	Norma Lynne Paschall <a href="mailto:ABC.ardmore@sbcglobal.net">ABC.ardmore@sbcglobal.net</a>
Nov. 12- Feb. 11	Sustainable Travel Workshops	Broken Bow, Tulsa, OKC, Tahlequah, Duncan, Enid	Jessica Blackstock <a href="mailto:Jessica@TravelOK.com">Jessica@TravelOK.com</a>
Nov. 15	Recycling Collection Event	Jenks East Elementary	Jean Yaeger (Jenks East PTA)
Nov. 16 6:00-8:00pm	America Recycles Day Awards Banquet (by invitation only)	OK Jazz Hall of Fame, Tulsa	<a href="mailto:news@metrecycle.com">news@metrecycle.com</a> (918) 584-0584
Nov. 17	Keep Oklahoma Beautiful	Skirvin Plaza, OKC	<a href="http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.co">www.keepoklahomabeautiful.co</a>
Nov. 21	OK Student Summit: "ReEnergize Oklahoma"	UCO-Edmond	Eric Pollard (405) 226-7663 or <a href="mailto:ewpollard@gmail.com">ewpollard@gmail.com</a>
Nov. 30 ddln	Great American Cleanup in OK	Register by Nov. 30!	<a href="mailto:sonny@keepokbeautiful.com">sonny@keepokbeautiful.com</a>
Dec. 8 9am-4pm	Oklahoma Recycling Seminar: <i>Recycling through a Recession</i>	OSU Alumni Center, Stillwater	<a href="http://www.recycleok.org">www.recycleok.org</a> (See Page 6 of this newsletter)

**National ARD Information: <http://www.americarecyclesday.org/>**

**Are you an *individual* with free stuff to give away or would you like to find free stuff?**

### TRY FREECYCLE!

The Freecycle Network organizes a worldwide system of "gifting" groups aimed at diverting reusable goods from the landfill. "Changing the world one gift at a time" is the Network's official tagline. How it works: When you no longer need something like a baby stroller, moving boxes, or pasta maker, you simply "offer" your item through the Freecycle email service to your local Freecycle group. If you need something, you can send a "wanted" email.

**Find Freecycle groups in Oklahoma here:**  
[www.freecycle.org/group/US/Oklahoma](http://www.freecycle.org/group/US/Oklahoma)



### Reuse, It's Better Than Recycling!

**Are you a *business* with free stuff to give away or would you like to find free stuff?**

### TRY RENEW!

Oklahoma is a member of the regional Resource Exchange for Eliminating Waste (Renew). This tool is designed to allow business, industrial or manufacturing facilities to exchange valuable "waste" materials. RENEW allows you to see materials available at a facility, or post your own materials. Avoid disposal costs for your solvents, textiles, paints, sludge, etc. Give it away on the Exchange and you may even reduce your regulatory burden. Search for available materials and find items for your facility at a reduced cost, often free. **Visit the Oklahoma Materials Exchange here:**

[www.zerowastenetwork.org/RENEWDEV/index.cfm](http://www.zerowastenetwork.org/RENEWDEV/index.cfm)





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

## OKRA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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Garmon Smith (EPA/Ada Recycling Coalition)	At-large	smith.garmon@epa.gov

## OKRA MEMBERS as of Oct 15, 2009 - Thank you for your support!

### **CORPORATE PLATINUM**

#### **PARTNERS**

Cox Communications

### **CORPORATE BRONZE**

#### **PARTNERS**

AbitibiBowater

Choctaw Nation

The M.e.t.

### **CORPORATE BASIC**

#### **PARTNERS**

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Ada Recycling Coalition

Ardmore Beautification

Council, Inc.

City of Eufaula

City of Stillwater

IOWA Tribe of Oklahoma

OK Asphalt Pavement Assn.

OK Dept of Environmental

Quality

OK Environmental Manage-

ment Authority

OSU Tulsa

OK Sierra Club

Solid Waste Institute of NE

Oklahoma

Tulsa Master Recyclers

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Paul Bussert

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Harry Ming

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**If you have not yet joined OKRA, please complete our online membership form at <http://www.recycleok.org/formmembership.php>.**

**Should you have questions about membership, or if you would like a supply of supply of OKRA membership brochures to share at your next event, please contact Ilda Hershey, OKRA Membership Chair, 405-744-9806 or [ilda.hershey@okstate.edu](mailto:ilda.hershey@okstate.edu).**