

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

OKRA Seeks to Educate Consumers About Contamination in Recycling

By Kara Berst

The 2017 Oklahoma Recycling Conference, hosted by the Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) was held Wednesday, October 11, at the OSU Alumni Center in Stillwater. This year's theme was Recycling Right: Reducing Contamination.



Breakout sessions took place throughout the day, with topics such as Recycling Today in Oklahoma & Market Updates, How to Talk With Your Legislator, How to Participate in Environmental Rulemaking, Textile Recycling, Product Stewardship and Curbside Subscriptions: Rural Options.

Opening the conference were Tracy Horst, Director of Environmental Sustainability at the Choctaw Nation, and Ellen Bussert, Administrative Assistant at OKRA. Horst



Unique table centerpieces highlighted ideas for hard-to-recycle items

was glad to see the turnout, remarking, "this conference provides an important forum for networking, and in that sense, it fulfills

the key objective of the Oklahoma Recycling Association: to serve as the central communication point for the exchange of ideas about recycling among business, industries, government entities, public and private organizations and citizens."

Keynote speakers Chaz Miller, Director of Policy & Advocacy at the National Waste & Recycling Association, and Ken Purdue, National Manager of Sustainability for Staples Business Advantage, each spoke at length about consumer outreach. Miller's focus was on the importance of communicating with consumers about what items



Chaz Miller speaks on the importance of communication

OKRA Seeks to Educate Consumers About Contamination in Recycling (cont.)



Ken Purdue speaks on consumer outreach and recycling initiatives at Staples

Can actually be recycled, in order to avoid contamination in the recycling process, while Purdue shared what his organization is doing to convince consumers to purchase recyclable products and products made with recycled content.

Representatives from a variety of recycle-related organizations were also on hand in the exhibit hall to showcase their programs and to hand out information and product samples to conference-goers. The conference wrapped with two different options for attendees—a



tour of Stillwater's Convenience Collection Center, a local center that offers drive-thru service for disposing of non-hazardous recy-

clable items, household garbage and trash and yard waste; or a workshop titled "Start a Master Composter Program in Your Community," which was presented by horticulturist Anne Napier.



Chris Feeney speaks on curbside recycling at one of the breakout sessions

If you missed this year's conference or just want another look at the information presented, presentation slides from most of the conference speakers are available on the OKRA website at www.recycleok.org.



The conference ended with an expert Q&A Panel

OKRA invites everyone to join the discussion about resource conservation in the state of Oklahoma. For more information about future conferences, or to inquire about membership, please visit www.recycleok.org.

Left and below: Exhibitors were on hand to represent their organizations and to provide information to conference participants



Above: Matt Faulkner gives conference attendees a tour of the Stillwater Convenience Collection Center

Ada Celebrates America Recycles Day 2017



The Ada Recycling Coalition (ARC) celebrated ARD by accepting a proclamation from Ada Mayor, Guy Sewell. Mayor Sewell proclaimed November 15, 2017, America Recycles Day in Ada. Pic-



tured above (left to right) are ARC Member Kelly Bronnenberg, ARC Chairman, Garmon Smith, Mayor Sewell, City of Ada Recycling Coordinator Tommy Underwood and Tanya Chapman. *(Photo by Richard Barron)*



Each year, ARC sponsors a local pledge-to-recycle drawing for a mulching lawn mower. This year the drawing was live on Facebook. The 2017 winner was Estelle Moss, who donated her prize to Trinity Baptist Church. Pictured below (left to right) are ARC's Glenda DeShazo and Trudy Nevland, Trinity Baptist Associate Pastor David Grey, Estelle Moss, ARC's Chairman Garmon Smith, Home Depot Manager Brad Stafford and ARC's Kelly Bronnenberg. *(Photo by Richard Barron)*



Above: Garmon Smith and Ada Mayor, Guy Sewell, draw the winner from the pledge card entries. The mulching mower winner was Estelle Moss. *(Photo by Richard Barron)*

ABOUT OUR MEMBERS... City of Stillwater

Each edition of the OKRA News is going to highlight one of our members by asking them to answer a few basic questions. The spotlight this month is on the City of Stillwater, particularly the Stillwater Convenience Collection Center. Answers provided by Chris Knight, Waste Management Director and Safety Manager for the City of Stillwater.

What are your biggest recycling challenges?

The biggest recycling challenge to Stillwater's drop off recycling center is space. The Convenience Collection Center has become so popular that at times it becomes very crowded. This is the main reason we had to stop accepting trailers from entering the facility.

Which material would you like to add to the recycling program? I would like to add compost. I would like to have different types and colors available for residents to come by to get if they would like to.

There are many challenges with recycling.

Why do you do it? The City of Stillwater recycles for two simple reasons. The citizens of Stillwater demand recycling and it is the right thing to do for the environment.

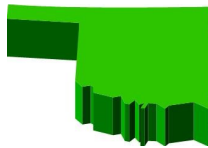


Oklahoma Communities Consider Recycling

On Dec. 4, 2017, the Broken Arrow City Council unanimously approved a pair of pilot programs for curbside recycling in the community. This was after survey results indicated that the majority of the city's residents would be interested in recycling more if curbside recycling were available. The two pilot programs will run concurrently; one will continue the collection of garbage in plastic bags, but will add a plastic cart for recyclables. The other will provide one cart for garbage and another for recyclables.

In Sept. 2017, the community of Nichols Hills turned down a proposal for curbside recycling from Republic

Services. The curbside program would have cost each resident over \$27/month, and most residents felt the cost was just too expensive. Currently Nichols Hills residents can drop their recyclables off at either of two nearby Goodwill stores.



The city of Bethany is currently looking for volunteers to serve on a 7-member committee that will research recycling possibilities for the city. Currently, Bethany residents can take recyclables to the Bethany public works facility, but only when staff is present, from 7am to noon, and 1pm to 3:30 pm Mon thru Fri.

PepsiCo's National Pilot Study

PepsiCo Recycling is proud to offer a National pilot opportunity to the Oklahoma Recycling Association. For OKRA Members with immediate beverage container recycling needs, the PepsiCo team has collection equipment available to invest with the goal of increasing our recycling rates.

If you have an existing recycling material handling process in place, PepsiCo Recycling has programs that deliver away from home recycling resources at no cost. Programs are available for:

- ♦ **K-12 Schools** - teaches students the importance of recycling and improving the environment
- ♦ **Colleges & Universities** - supports campus' zero-impact journeys

- ♦ **Communities** - Makes recycling easier and more engaging
- ♦ **On-the-Go** - provides convenient recycling bins at convenience stores, gas stations, parks and event venues

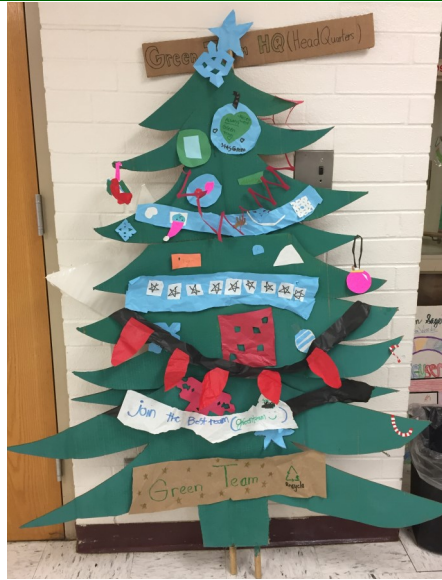
The National pilot was implemented with OKRA starting in 2017 and will track recycling/waste diversion rates through 2018 and beyond.

If you are interested in joining PepsiCo to make public recycling more convenient or would like more information about this program, please contact Chris Weber at Chris.Weber@pepsico.com.

Durant Intermediate School Green Team - Recycling and Compost Systems

Article written by the DIS Green Team Class

At Durant Intermediate School (DIS), we began recycling about a year ago when we started our student green team. We partner with Choctaw Recycling, which is an organization that collects all of our recyclable materials and sells them to companies that make them into new materials that we use in our everyday lives. We collect and sort our recycling into categories based on what Choctaw Recycling can take. We recycle paper, cardboard, plastic containers (#1,#2,#5), plastic film (#2,#4), aluminum cans and Styrofoam. We put a lot of effort into teaching our school how to recycle correctly. We have even developed our own recycling game and worksheet. The first task for new green team members is to commit to learning how to recycle.



paper than others, as well as other recyclables like plastic bottles. In the Green Team classroom we have a complete station to collect everything that can be recycled in our community.

We use things from our waste stream to create and manage our recycle stations, especially boxes from the cafeteria. We also use scrap paper to make the signs so that everyone knows where to put their recyclable materials. We actually use waste items for most of our projects, even our Christmas tree was made out of waste - the only new part was some paint and glue.

Most everyone in the school helps with recycling, and the Green Team manages and designs the system. Currently, we're doing a waste stream analysis of our school so that we can figure out how to improve. There is a lot of waste

In our building, we have three primary recycling stations, one for each grade's main hallway. We collect several bags of recyclable materials a week from our stations. We also collect Styrofoam cups from the cafeteria. Our Green Team members pick up, sort and move recyclables to the outdoor pick up stations.

Our school uses a lot of paper, and we recycle more than half. To capture as much as possible, we place paper collection bins in the classrooms. Green Team members take the bins to the main recycle stations and empty them. We sort through an enormous amount of paper each week, pick out any trash, and



DIS Green Team load boxes of paper for recycling

coming from our cafeteria each day, but unfortunately a lot of it can't be recycled in our town.

We also collect food scraps in the cafeteria for our composting system, which is located in our outdoor classroom. Some days we get almost a bucket full of food scraps and other days we get very little. We're still figuring out how to collect more from the cafeteria, but we're making progress in learning how to compost. We currently have three different compost piles. Green Team members take turns doing the compost each day.



DIS Recycling Station #1

then pack it into boxes. Choctaw Recycling makes a special trip to our school to pick up our paper recycling, because we have so much. Some teachers are especially good at recycling and collect more

At DIS, the Green Team is doing our part to **green** our school and help the environment!

The M.e.t. America Recycles Day Banquet 2017

On Thursday, November 16, 2017, the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.) held its annual America Recycles Day banquet. Each year, with the help of sponsors, the M.e.t. hosts its supporters, sponsors, and honorees to celebrate recycling in the Tulsa metropolitan area and honor some outstanding groups and individuals who have taken great strides to make their communities "greener." This year's event was held at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Tulsa and featured music by Joesf Glaude and Bill Jones. The Director, Graham Brannin, and emcee Meagan Farley from KOTV-News on 6 gave introductions, followed by a Cherokee blessing by Dennis Sixkiller. After dinner, awards were given to the winners.



Jill Norman, Terry Ball, Shawn Price, Andrew Douglas

Special Award of Appreciation: Soundpony (right)

The owners of this eclectic bar were the first to join the M.e.t.'s IDL recycling program for restaurants and bars. This partnership set the recycling model for 6 other establishments that joined the program later. The M.e.t. is thankful for everyone at Soundpony and their commitment to recycling.



Mike Wozniak, Jill Norman, Terry Ball

Green School for Innovation:

McClain High School Recycle Team (above)

The Special Services students have enthusiastically embraced recycling at McClain High School. The program started last spring, after they had a field trip to the M.e.t.'s downtown depot where they used public transportation and walked part of the way to the site. The class took it upon themselves to lead recycling for the entire school. They collect materials weekly from 75 classrooms, filling up 2 large recycling bins. The students have learned the importance of recycling and have used their knowledge in their homes. The M.e.t. loves to see young people dedicated to bettering their communities through recycling.

Green Partnership: City of Broken Arrow (right)

In the spring of this year, PepsiCo offered to equip the City of Broken Arrow with sturdy bottle recycling bins for use in indoor and outdoor public facilities. The offer was well-received and they began using the bins in the summer. Now, there are 46 bins around the city. The City Parks and General Services Departments pick up the bags and take the recyclables to the M.e.t. Depot for processing, keeping workers with disabilities employed. In September, they collected approximately 4,400 cans and bottles that otherwise would have been thrown in the trash. The partnership between corporate, city, and non-profit made for successful, affordable recycling in Broken Arrow's public facilities.



Brian Miller, Chris Weber, Graham Brannin, Jennifer Hooks

The M.e.t. America Recycles Day Banquet 2017

Green Government: The City of Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility (right)

The Household Pollutant Facility was opened to Tulsa residents in January of 2016. Shortly after, the service was made available to all M.e.t. communities surrounding Tulsa. This year, the facility has served over 1600 customers and collected over 90,000 pounds of pollutants. The facility opened up a shop this spring so that high quality products can be used rather than being disposed of. Many of the materials are bulked and used as fuel. The use of this regional facility continues to grow.



Lauren Colbert, Don Hinson, Scott VanLoo, Terry Ball

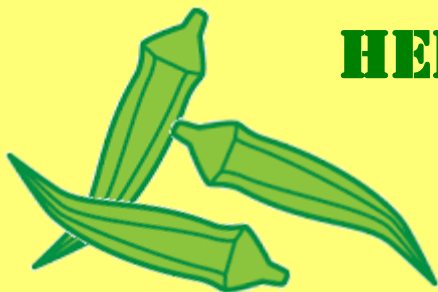


Fenton Rood, Randy Norman, Julie Alexander

Green Event: The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival (left)

This annual festival is held in July in Woody Guthrie's birthplace of Okemah. In 2003, folk icon Pete Seeger headlined the festival. Ever the activist, Pete Seeger asked the organizers why they were not recycling. The organizers then decided to work with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to organize the volunteers and infrastructure to recycle cans, bottles, and cardboard. Other entities including the City of Okemah, The M.e.t., Creek Nation, Anchor Glass, and a team of volunteers support the festival's recycling efforts by offering supplies or hands-on help. Okemah leaders estimate that recycling reduces the festival's waste by one-half.

Article by Julia Richardson,
The M.e.t.



HELP US GROW OKRA IN 2018!

Interested in recycling, but not yet a member?
OKRA needs you! Consider joining OKRA in 2018
and help us increase recycling across Oklahoma!
See back page for details on how to join.

2017 OKRA MEMBERS!

Corporate Gold Partner

Republic Services

Corporate Silver Partners

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Batliner Recycling

Corporate Bronze Partners

American Sanitation

American Waste Control

Covanta Energy

Natural Evolution

Smurfit Kappa North America LLC

Corporate Partners

Closed Loop Recycling

DocuGUARD

Dryvit Systems

NeWSolutions

Ripple Glass

Service Recycling

Sue's Recycling and Sanitation, LLC

United Electronic Recycling, LLC

Waste Management

Non-Profit/Government Partners

Ada Recycling Coalition

Ardmore Beautification Council, Inc.

Arkansas Recycling Coalition

Chickasaw Nation

City of Ada

City of Edmond

City of Midwest City

City of Moore

City of Norman

City of Okmulgee

City of Tulsa

City of Yukon

Electric Synergy Foundation

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful

Metropolitan Environmental Trust (the M.e.t.)

Oklahoma Baptist University

OK Department of Environmental Quality

Oklahoma State University

Otoe-Missouria Environmental Dept.

Pride in McAlester

Show, Inc.

Steel Recycling Institute

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Sarah Riley

Jayne Tuck

Not a current member of OKRA?

Consider joining in 2018!

*To learn about membership levels and member benefits, such as discounts to OKRA events, see our membership brochure at-
www.recycleok.org.*

To join or renew your membership :

♦ **Send completed membership brochure and check by mail to OKRA, PO Box 521154, Tulsa, OK 74152-1154.**

♦ **Go to www.recycleok.org/join-us.php and access the online membership form toward the bottom of the page. You can pay online via PayPal, by mail, or by credit card (follow the PayPal link and select "Pay by Credit Card" instead of PayPal).**

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Choctaw Nation**

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Keepin' Enid Green**

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www.recycleok.org/okra/about-us/**