

THE OKRA NEWS

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

February 2019

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 listserv on our website:
[www.recycleok.org/get involved](http://www.recycleok.org/get_involved)

Oklahoma School Recycles Trash into Art

Recently students from Eisenhower Middle School in Lawton won the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) statewide UpCycled Challenge for turning trash into art. Last year students at EMS recycled 3500 plastic water bottles and transformed them into pieces of art that resemble colored glass.

On January 18th, Jeanette Nance, Executive Director, KOB and Mike Patterson, Director, Oklahoma Dept. of Transportation traveled to Lawton to have a pizza party celebration with Ms. Berry's winning 8th grade class.

Hanging from the school ceiling, the recycled plastic does indeed look like spiral-shaped streamers of multi-colored glass. It is like something you could imagine seeing in an art muse-



um, or maybe in a fancy restaurant or hotel lobby. Very festive and fun!

OKRA thanks KOB and all the schools that participated in the UpCycled Challenge. We want to encourage students to think outside the box and

look for new ways to recycle trash into art. This reduces the number of recyclables that enter landfills, saves money, and helps keep Oklahoma's lands and roadways free of litter.

Ms. Berry's winning class was also treated to an OKC Thunder game where they got to meet Steven Adams, a big (7 foot tall) proponent of recycling!



Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Recycling Program

Recycling in rural areas is something people have expressed an interest in, but the opportunities to do so are few and far between. There aren't many recycling facilities located within a reasonable distance of the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town. For this reason, the environmental department has acquired a recycling trailer to serve as a drop off location for recyclables.



This is the third year the Town has offered the recycling trailer and they see an increase in collections every year. The trailer is located in the parking lot of the Tribe's casino which is convenient for the casino patrons to drop off their recyclables on their way to the casino. The program currently accepts shredded paper, plastic, aluminum cans and cardboard. They are looking at the possibility of adding glass to the list of accepted products in the near future.

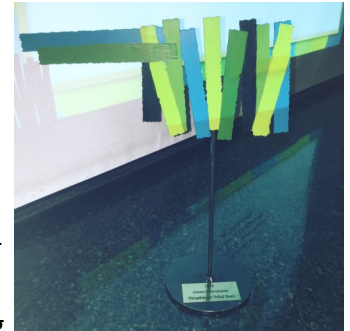
In addition to the trailer, the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town also has recycling bins throughout their facilities for visitors to have the convenience to recycle. As the Town continues to grow, the recycling program grows as recycling bins are placed in new facilities.

The hope is that recycling becomes a habit as Town citizens are repeatedly reminded of the practice with each recycle bin, outreach event, newsletter reminder and Facebook post promoting recycling and better environmental practices.



Thlopthlocco Tribal Town was recognized as a

green government at the America Recycles Day Banquet held in Tulsa in November of 2016. They were nominated and awarded this honor because of the recycling program they offer to tribal members and surrounding



citizens. The Town looks forward to continuing to grow their recycling program and is happy to offer the program to tribal members as well as surrounding communities.

By Kandice Taylor
Environmental Director
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Environmental Department



Environmental Law Enforcement Training Available In Idabel, Oklahoma

The Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service is joining forces with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to provide a FREE training on environmental law enforcement. The training will take place at the Idabel Public library on Thursday April 4th. Participants will gain expertise in environmental crimes investigations involving solid and hazardous waste, air and water pollution, open burning, and agency jurisdictional issues. Additionally, information about identifying resources for improving local enforcement programs and networking with others involved in environmental enforcement will be provided. Anyone interested in environmental law or who has a responsibility for preventing illegal dumping in their county is encouraged to attend. This includes law enforcement officers, tribal environmental representatives, county commissioners, city officials, and local citizens with an interest in sustainability. More information about the training and registration can be found at <http://agecon.okstate.edu/waste/files/Final%20Flyer.pdf> or you can contact Keima Kamara at keima.kamara@okstate.edu or (405)744-9827.



Fort Sill Apache Tribe America Recycles Day Celebration

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe hosted their 2nd Annual FSA Recycles Day event at their complex at Apache. The event was open to the public and involved local tribes, ODEQ, OSU Extension Solid Waste Division, and Jive Talk Radio. The public heard speakers from these organizations and ate lunch provided by Lil' Darlins of Apache. A collection of e-waste also coincided with the event. Tribes present included the Delaware Nation, Kiowa Tribe, and Comanche Nation. Each organization gave informational materials and free giveaways to guests, including free t-shirts offered by the Fort Sill Apache Tribe. Jive Talk Radio broadcasted live on the web from the event, inviting all to come out and see what was going on.

This event idea was the brainchild of Tribal Administrative Services, LLC. owner, Kelly Lewis in 2017. She felt it would be a great opportunity for tribes to be leaders in the area of recycling promotion, so she offered to sponsor the t-shirts and food through her organization, which also owns Jive Talk Radio.



The theme of this year's event was, "Fuel the Cycle." Rural southwest Oklahoma has very limited recycling opportunities for residents. This event

helps draw attention to the need for more services and to those that are currently available. It also helps reiterate the benefits of reducing, reusing, and recycling. The Fort Sill



Apache Environmental Programs (FSAEP) currently offers free recycling collection services to the Apache area community. Collected items are taken to the Recycle Center at nearby Fort Sill Army Base, which also provides services for free.

During the 2018 fiscal year, FSAEP was also contracted to collect all recycling from the Southern Plains Regional Office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anadarko, OK.



Roughly 15,000 lbs. were collected from that office over the course of the year.

By: Keima Kona Kamara
Assistant Extension Specialist
Solid Waste Mgmt Program
Oklahoma State University



It's easy to get connected with OKRA!
Like us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/RecycleOK.org/



NEWS FROM ADA!



Every year it is such a treat to meet ARC's "America Recycles Day" poster winning artists. Here they are with Kelly Bronnenberg holding their posters and \$25 checks: Tristan Murray, Marlee Palmer, Josalyn Bond, Ella Fortner, Mason Stepp, Jaydyn Jackson, Dyson Palmer, Sara Wilkerson, Kynzi Bingham and Natalie Jussely.

Photos taken by Richard Barron

The Ada Recycling Coalition's America Recycles Day mulching mower winner for 2018 was Mack Peterson. The mower was donated by Ada's Home Depot. Pictured are Brandon Prince, Bill Shane Peterson, Mack Peterson, Garmon Smith, Marilyn Ellis, Brad Stafford and Kelly Bronnenberg.



Queen Bees Help Keep Jones Beautiful

Nicole Glenn and the other members of the Queen Bees have been cleaning their adopted street in Jones, OK for the past 13 months. Even though Nicole now has to transport any glass recyclables to an OKC drop-off center, these gals remain committed to recycling as much as they can!



Above: A bag of recyclables and a bag of trash from the January 5, 2019 street clean-up

At right: Pictures from Queen Bee clean ups in 2018



Durant Intermediate School Receives OKRA Recycling Award



OKRA President 2018, Tracy Horst (right) presents \$100 check to the Durant Intermediate School (DIS) Green Team for their outstanding recycling efforts, including a waste stream analysis performed by the 6th grade students. The DIS recycling program was highlighted in an article in the Dec 2017 edition of the OKRA news.

POKES CELEBRATE AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Oklahoma State University celebrated America Recycles Day on the Stillwater campus November 15 by tabling in front of the Student Union with recycling information and asking passersby to take pledges to recycle right on campus. Students from several organizations (SGA Sustainability, Net Impact, RHA Eco-Reps, and Chi Omega) joined with Pistol Pete to collect approximately 250 pledges. First Cowgirl, Ann Hargis, even tried her hand at "Trasketball" with help from her dog Scruff!



OKRA Welcomes New Board Members for 2019

OKRA is pleased to welcome three brand new members to our 2019 board of directors; Stephanie Giacomo, Jay Hochenedel, and Keima Kamara.

Stephanie Giacomo is a Grant Writer and Public Information Officer for the City of McAlester, Oklahoma. She has a degree in history and has taught US History



as an adjunct professor for Eastern Oklahoma State College for 9 years. Stephanie has a life-long love for recycling and worked for many years as the director of Pride In McAlester (Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Affiliate) where she was able to promote and ex-

pand recycling options in the community. Stephanie looks forward to continuing to support recycling efforts on a statewide level.

Jay Hochenedel is the General Manager with Republic Services for Central and Western Oklahoma. Jay lives in Edmond, Oklahoma. He is married with 2 daughters (ages 3 yrs and 9 yrs), 2 dogs, and 2 cats. Jay looks forward to making an impact on driving membership and helping to educate the people of Oklahoma on why we recycle and what each of us can do daily to bring recycling to the forefront of everyone's actions.



Keima Kona Kamara is a Solid Waste Assistant Extension Specialist for the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service.

Keima is from Sierra Leone, but currently lives in Stillwater Oklahoma. Keima is interested in any work that promotes environmental sustainability. She believes that when a community works together, anything



can be achieved to ensure a better life for all. As an OKRA board member, Keima hopes to help the organization promote recycling education in Oklahoma (especially in rural areas of the state), and to continue to develop and grow a diverse, active member base.



Congratulations to the following people who were voted onto the Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) Board of Directors. We look forward to their leadership in 2019-2020.

Executive Committee

Sara Ivey – President
Maureen Turner – Vice President
Stephanie Giacomo – Secretary
Robert Pickens – Treasurer
Tracy Horst – Past President
Ilda Hershey – At Large

Board Members

Kara Berst
Chris Feeney
Jay Hochenedel
Keima Kamara
Trudi Logan
Jeanette Nance
Michael Patton
Garmon Smith



2019 OKRA Board Meeting Dates

March 15 – Stillwater
May 17 – McAlester
July 19 – Tulsa
September 20 – Oklahoma City
November 8 – Tulsa

HELP US GROW OKRA! Consider joining today!

To learn about membership levels and member benefits, such as discounts to OKRA events, see our membership brochure at www.recycleok.org or contact Ellen Bussert at okra.secretary@gmail.com.

To join or renew your membership :

- ♦ Send completed membership brochure and check by mail to OKRA, PO Box 521154, Tulsa, OK 74152-1154. (If renewing, write RENEW in subject line of check)
- ♦ 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).

Already an OKRA Member? Get More Involved in 2019 - Join a Work Group or Committee

There are many opportunities to join OKRA in promoting the business of recycling in Oklahoma. We are looking for members to serve on work groups and committees, and to champion causes in 2019. Term of commitment is one year, with the option to continue. Please look at the choices below and select an area to serve. Contact Ellen Bussert at okra.secretary@gmail.com for more information or to join one of these groups.

Work Groups

Advocacy (Open Chair Position): This Work Group aims to make OKRA better known among Oklahoma legislators. We would like OKRA to be the "go to" organization for recycling and resource recovery issues in our state. This group participates in the Oklahoma Center for Non Profits Advocacy Day at the Capitol.

Education (Chris Feeney): This Work Group recognizes schools that have successful recycling programs, with the OKRA "Recycling Award for Schools." In the past, it has also organized a recycle video contest for high school students in honor of America Recycles Day.

Committees

Conference Planning (Ilda Hershey, Chair): This committee handles the program, logistics and fundraising for the annual Oklahoma Recycling Association conference.

Communications (Open Chair Position): This committee updates OKRA website content, manages and posts updates to the listserv, maintains engagement via social media (Facebook), and publishes the OKRA Newsletter.

Membership (Ellen Bussert, Staff Chair): This committee facilitates membership renewals, solicits new members, arranges OKRA exhibit opportunities, updates the membership structure and brochure, and recognizes OKRA members.

Champion Causes

Composting (Annie Smith, Champion): Annie promotes composting as a resource recovery strategy and relays updates from the U.S. Composting Council, Biocycle and other compost organizations.

Materials Exchange (Ilda Hershey, Champion): Ilda promotes the online RENEW Materials Exchange, a free matching service for businesses and industries that want to find takers for the by-products they generate or acquire the by-products of other businesses.

Product Stewardship (Garmon Smith, Champion): Garmons collaborates with the national Product Stewardship Institute to solve waste management problems by encouraging product design changes that lead to sustainable end-of-life management.

Announcing the 2019 OKRA Membership Drive!

This year we have new corporate memberships available. 2018 OKRA membership expires March 1, 2019, so renew before then (see box at top of page). OKRA members will be listed in our next newsletter and government, non-profit and corporate members will be listed on our website.

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Basic - \$100	1 membership	Additional Memberships - \$25ea.
Bronze - \$250	2 memberships	Additional Memberships - \$25ea.
Silver - \$500	3 memberships	Additional Memberships - \$15ea.
Gold - \$750	4 memberships	Additional Memberships - \$15ea.
Platinum - \$1,000	5 memberships	Additional Memberships - \$10ea.

Need Recycling Bins? Borrow Them From Keep Oklahoma Beautiful!



Lend-A-Bin



Keep Oklahoma Beautiful wants to help you recycle at your office or events! KOB currently has 20 recycle bins available for you to use to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Neighborhood cleanups, business meetings, conferences, specialty events and concerts are just a few ideas of what your organization could use these bins for. Help spread the word that recycling is important across Oklahoma!

Keep in mind that KOB's office is based in OKC. Due to budget and the bulk of the bins they are unable to ship the bins to your organization. However, they will work with you to get you the bins. If you are located in the Tulsa area, another option is to coordinate with the M.E.T. in Tulsa to borrow some of their recycling bins.



OKRA is a proud supporter of the MET's America Recycles Day Banquet. The 2018 event was held at the Tulsa Zoo. Board Member Michael Patton and Ellen Bussert received recognition on behalf of OKRA for support of the MET and recycling activities in Oklahoma.

9 ALTERNATIVES TO SINGLE-USE STRAWS

REUSABLE PLASTIC



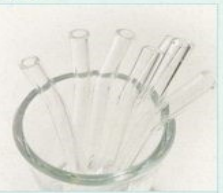
Still plastic but can be used over and over

ACRYLIC



Durable but can show signs of wear

GLASS



Elegant and fancy but breakable

METAL



Durable and nice for frosty drinks

BAMBOO



Renewable and cool-looking

PLANT-BASED



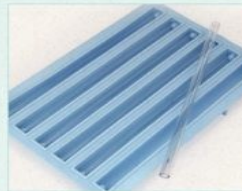
Easy to compost

PAPER



Whimsical, though prone to wilting

ICE STRAW



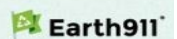
Pulls a disappearing act

NO STRAW



That's right; be bold and stop sucking

Learn more about sustainable living at Earth911.com.



With all the negative press surrounding plastic straws these days, Leigh Raper (Earth911) suggests 9 alternatives (above).

