

# THE OKRA NEWS

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

October 2018

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)

## Recycling Avengers Assemble 2018 Conference

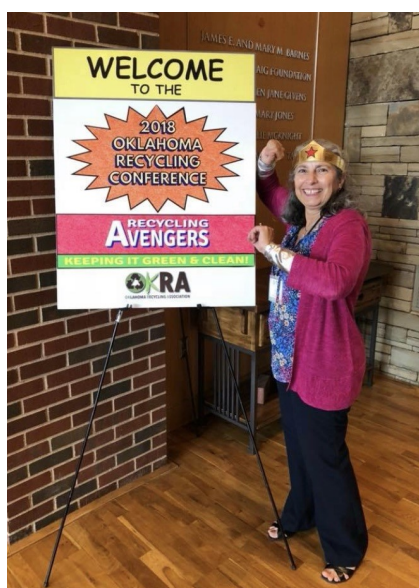
The 2018 Oklahoma Recycling Conference, held September 20 at the OSU Alumni Center in Stillwater, provided many networking and sharing opportunities. This year's theme, Recycling Avengers—Keeping It Green & Clean, focused on decreasing contamination and improving residential recycling programs across the state.

Oklahoma Recycling Association President Tracy Horst, with the Choctaw Nation, and



Plastic Man; Captain Cardboard; Paper Bale; and Steel Widow. Conference Planning Committee members also got into the mood by donning superhero accessories.

After a light breakfast with exhibitors, OKRA was delighted to have Oklahoma Representative Cory Williams, a Stillwater native, give the Welcome Address. Rep. Williams thanked participants for their behind-the-scenes recycling work and also expressed his pleasure with Stillwater's curbside recycling program.



*Conference Chairperson, Iida Hershey, welcomes attendees*

Admin. Asst. to the Board Ellen Busert were Wonderwomanful" as our hosts; they kept us informed, on time and entertained too! In keeping with the 2018 conference theme, table centerpieces featured the characters: Super Can;



*Representative Cory Williams' Opening Address*



## Recycling Avengers Conference ....

OKRA Treasurer Robert Pickens, with American Waste Control, spoke on “Recycling Today in Oklahoma & Market Updates.” He stressed that Oklahoma is not impacted by the China market as much as coastal states are. From our central location, it’s easier to find end markets within the U.S. However, Oklahoma is affected, nonetheless, by price increases. To read more about

commodity trends, contamination challenges, and education strategies, see Robert’s slides [here](#).

Keynote speaker Karen Bandhauer, of the Recycling Partnership, presented “Improving Residential Recycling.” Karen addressed ways that programs can increase access to recycling and use educational tools to help consumers make the right choices. She described how the Recycling Partnership offers expert assistance to

help align operations and education, troubleshoot challenges, and provide free tools and data. This helps programs that lack resources and allows them to compare their outreach methods. Learn more



about the national recycling landscape, “system solutions,” downloadable toolkits, and ways to be more successful from Karen’s slides [here](#).



Other morning presenters included Jeanette Nance of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Graham Brannin of the M.e.t. and Jason Lilley of the Choctaw Nation, who each spoke on the panel,





## Recycling Avengers Conference ....

"Recycling Away from Home." The one-hour session, moderated by Garmon Smith, reviewed two bin-loan programs that cover the entire state of Oklahoma, as well as the recycling program at Choctaw Nation. Find those slides [here](#).

After a delicious lunch of mostly locally-sourced food by Meditations Catering, Tom Mills of GreenShortz Media shared a series of recycling videos he created and tips for producing our own videos. Tom's key advice was to be sure to make a video at the sorting center where your material goes, and show what is accepted and what is not. Short pieces, such as Tom's "26-second Green" videos are very effective as well. See recycling videos at green-

shortz.com and find out where to download non-copyrighted music and other tips from Tom's slides [here](#).



**THE EXPERT ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS PROVIDED LIVELY DISCUSSIONS ON A WIDE RANGE OF RECYCLING TOPICS AND WERE WELL-RECEIVED BY CONFERENCE ATTENDEES**



The Expert Roundtable Discussions in the afternoon featured 12 topics: E-Waste & Product Stewardship; Recycling IQ Toolkit; K-12 Green Schools; Volunteering with OKRA; Diverting Food Waste; Recycling 101; Compost Programs; Holding HHW Events; Rural MRFs; Textile Recycling; Multi-family Dwellings; and, Curbside Collection Challenges. An expert on the given topic facilitated each table discussion, which proved to be a productive and fun way to communicate, given the lively interchanges.



## Recycling Avengers Conference ....

Maureen Turner of the City of Tulsa shared a wealth of best practices in “Branding Your Recycling Program: Education and Outreach Strategies.” Her presentation was a “how to” on using color, font sizes, word and picture associations, and more for successfully advertising your program. Check out Maureen’s slides [here](#).

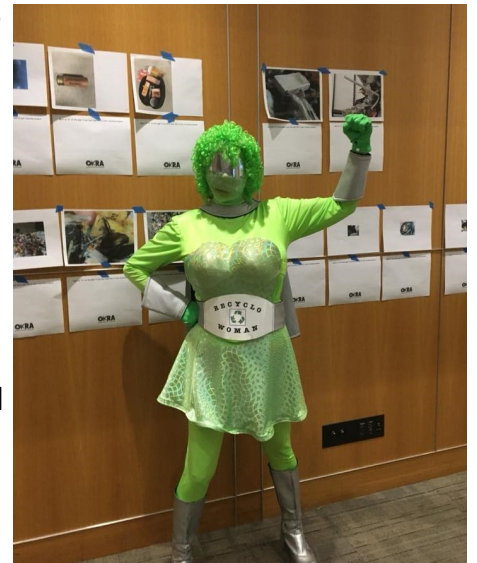
In closing, Tom Mills returned to premier the 2-minute video he made about one of OSU’s recycling programs just the day before. From conception to shooting to editing, the video project took only 8 hours, but the results were top notch. See *OSU Recycles* on OStateTV [here](#).

Concurrent post-conference sessions offered the option of touring the OSU Recycling Center or staying in Click Hall for the workshop “How to Create a Compost Hauling Service—Small Business Models Oklahoma City & Tulsa.” See the compost hauling slides [here](#).

The OKRA Board again would like to thank the Conference Planning Committee and all the sponsors and exhibitors for making this year’s conference possible. Sponsors include OSU Facilities Management, Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, City of Tulsa, Oklahoma Dept. of



Environmental Quality, American Waste Control, City of Stillwater, Cram-A-Lot, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Natural Evolution, Inc., Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Pinpoint Wire Technologies, and SWANA Indian Nations Chapter. We appreciate the support of these dedicated “Recycling Avengers!”



**RECYCLOWOMAN SHOWS HER SUPPORT AS A RECYCLING AVENGER**

## OKRA APPRECIATES OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS AND EXIBITORS...





## POST CONFERENCE TOUR OF OSU RECYCLING CENTER...



All conference slides referenced in this article are available on the OKRA website at [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org).

## 2018 Oklahoma Green Schools Summit



OKRA was honored to participate in the 2018 Oklahoma Green Schools Summit at Riverfield Country Day School in Tulsa on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to visiting with students and teachers about the importance of purchasing recycled content products, Ellen Busert encouraged everyone to tour a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) this fall. Find a list of MRFs in Oklahoma that give tours to school groups [here](#).



***It's easy to get connected with OKRA!  
Like us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/RecycleOK.org/](http://www.facebook.com/RecycleOK.org/)***



## Recycling Trunks Now Available from Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service (OCES)

The OCES Solid Waste Management Program is pleased to provide school teachers, youth educators, and others interested in recycling with portable "recycling trunks" containing tools and materials to help reach their intended audience.

Each trunk contains useful educational tools that provide insights about solid waste management. The trunks include curriculum materials, interactive activities for various age groups, CD-ROMs, DVDs, books, and much more. One of the most popular features is the "Close the Loop Display," a trifold tabletop exhibit detailing products made from recycled materials. Just as popular is the provided bag of sample products, which includes shoelaces made from soda bottles, roof shingles made from sawdust and PVC, a comb made from recycled plastic and U.S. currency, and countertop samples made from recycled glass.

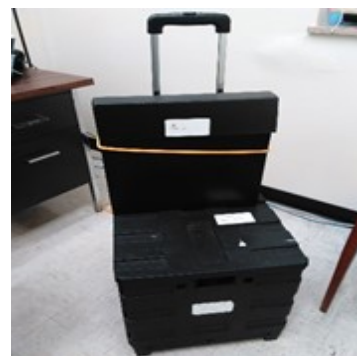


Keima Kamara Exhibiting OCES recycling trunk at OKRA's 2017 recycling conference

Each trunk also includes educational aids to cover such topics as Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; practical "how-to" tips on composting; resources on household waste and pollutants; illegal dumping and littering; and much more.

Materials are organized by topic and grade levels for use by kindergarten through grade 12. The trunks are designed to be used in a classroom setting, as part of an event (Earth Day, America Recycles Day, etc.), or as part of non-profit youth education programming.

The creation of the trunks was made possible by a grant from USDA Rural Development, and the Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) was instrumental in developing their content.



Trunk - Easy to Transport

Reserving the trunk is easy, requiring only an application and a \$25 refundable deposit. The trunks are located across the state, and we will work with you to find the nearest location to you. The trunks are on wheels, so they are easy to transport. To reserve a trunk, download the application at <http://agecon.okstate.edu/waste/files/Resource%20Trunk%202017.pdf>.

For more information, contact Keima Kamara at [keima.kamara@okstate.edu](mailto:keima.kamara@okstate.edu) or (405)-744-9827.

Have you seen local "Recycling Avengers" in action? Do you have recycling events or info that you would like to share?

Send photos and articles to OKRA newsletter editor (trudi.logan@us.af.mil) and we will try to include it in an upcoming edition of the OKRA news!

**Send in photos/articles from your 2018 ARD events!!**



America Recycles Day  
**NOVEMBER 15**