

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

Tuttle Elementary Champions Smart Recycling

Recently students from Tuttle Elementary School participated in a recycling contest that collected over 28,000 plastic bags in 8 days!

The contest was sponsored by Republic Services to remove plastic bags from the recycling bin. This program teaches kids to not place the bags in recycling carts. Plastic bags get caught and tangled in recycling machinery, which causes sorting facilities to shut down, sometimes for hours.

Principal Dombeck is looking into donating the bags to a group that crochets them into mats for the homeless. Crystal Bennett, Municipal Manager with Republic Services has held this contest in other schools, but none as successful as Tuttle. The overwhelming response to the contest has set the benchmark for other schools.



Principal Susan Dombeck, 1st grade teacher Ms. Nancy Jones, Crystal Bennett and Jay Hochenadel with Republic Services and Ms. Jones 1st grade class

Mrs. Jones' first grade class won the 1st place prize for collecting 5,125 plastic bags. Her winning class received a \$100 gift card, a pizza party and a recycling certificate.

Republic Services is proud to partner with the Tuttle community and they look forward to several more programs to educate on recycling.

Creative Ways You Can Recycle Plastic Bags

Search the internet for a multitude of ways to repurpose single-use plastic bags at home. Some of them are super easy (such as using them as filler for throw pillows)! Other ideas include making plastic bag pom poms, tutus, pot scrubbers, or flowers; weaving them into jump ropes, bracelets, sandals and baskets; fusing them into coasters; making coin purses; and creating yarn (called plarn) for crochet or knitting from strips of plastic bags. And of course, plastic bags make good liners for small trash receptacles.

THE 2019 SOUTHEASTERN OK GREEN SCHOOL SUMMIT

Exploring Sustainable Living

On May 15th, the 2019 Southeastern Oklahoma Green School Summit took place at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant. Advertised as an adventurous day of learning about sustainability, the event was impactful and positive. Over 140 people (mostly students) attended and enjoyed a variety of activities, workshops and presentations focused on learning to live sustainably. Schools in attendance included Silo High School, Hugo Middle School, Durant Intermediate School, and Durant Middle School. Hosted by the Durant Green School Program in partnership with the Oklahoma Green Schools Program, the summit was a community driven event with many people and organizations working together to explore sustainable living.

The day began with Durant students providing presentations about their sustainability work and learning, as part of the Durant Green School Program. Their presentations featured school projects, including a tree planting project and waste stream analysis, and their understanding of key environmental science concepts such as the carbon cycle, greenhouse effect, and global warming.



Next, the event switched into high gear as participants explored workshops, exhibitor tables, and activities. Workshops included recycling, container gardening, and KidWind (building wind turbines). Exhibitors included Southeastern Electric Cooperative (solar energy), Bryan County Health Department (healthy living), Bob's Bees, OK Alliance for Geographic Education, OK Gas and Electric, OSU Extension (solid waste/recycling), Keep Oklahoma



Beautiful (product life cycle), Mr. Leon's Gardening (planting), The Green School Marketplace, Oklahoma Green Schools Program, and the Durant Green School Program. A tool table was also provided in the exhibitor room for participants to learn about the safe use of gardening tools.

A range of adventurous activities were available, including composting, and games about the carbon cycle and recycling. The Chahta Foundation staff provided a game about sharing natural resources called 'Minute to Lose It.' For exploration, a treasure hunt was provided; students were given a map that led to the discovery of a labyrinth located on Southeastern's campus.



THE 2019 SOUTHEASTERN OK GREEN SCHOOL SUMMIT

Exploring Sustainable Living (cont.)

The event provided a stage for students, teachers and the community to come together and enjoy a positive day of learning and action. Many of the activities and tables were managed by the Durant Green School Pro-



gram students, who had been working to prepare and help host the summit. The event also featured a student sustainability research fair. Students submitted a range of projects about various sustainability topics, including plastic in the ocean, rewilding the red wolf in Oklahoma, building with bamboo, and many others. Each project included a narrative and visual display. One student created a Powtoon (online animation) about the life cycle of a plastic bottle.



One of the primary goals of the summit was for it to be a zero-waste event, which was weaved throughout the event from lunch, to beverages, and exhibitor

takeaways. For lunch, veggie wraps were served wrapped in reusable cloth napkins, placed in paper lunch bags. All leftovers were composted and cloth napkins were saved for the next event. Drinks were provided in aluminum cans, which were recycled. Throughout the day, a drinking water station was available, operated by students. Participants drank filtered water in a reusable cup, then washed their cup so that it could be used by someone else. The water station featured clean glass jars, wash and rinse tubs with washcloth and towel, dish drainer, and a sign for guidance. Many students worked together to service the table throughout the day, it was popular.



The day ended with a round table discussion, announcement of the sustainability research fair winners, and a raffle for prizes including several trees provided by the Durant Green School Program and model kits provided by Southeastern Electric Cooperative. A facebook event page has been set up to continue the dialogue as well as plan for next year. A committee is also being formed to help coordinate next year's event. For more information or to be involved next year, contact Sara Ivey (sara.ivey@deq.ok.gov) or Libby Callicoot (elizabeth.callicoot@durantisd.org).

by: Libby Callicoot, Teacher
Durant Green School Program



Tulsa M.e.t.'s Enviro Expo

This year's 21st Enviro Expo, hosted by The M.e.t. was a huge success with 25 booths and over 1500 people in attendance. The M.e.t. puts on this event to bring awareness to what different organizations are doing on the environmental frontier. The following organizations helped make the expo possible with their sponsorship: OKRA, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Natural Evolution, Tulsa Master Recyclers, PepsiCo, Covanta, ONEOK, PSO and Holly Frontier. The M.e.t. looks forward to celebrating their 22nd annual Enviro Expo next year on Earth Day, April 22, 2020!



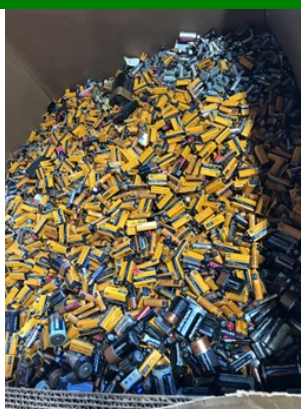
Ali Kalenak
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust
M.e.t. Educational Outreach Manager
educator@metrecycle.com



How to Recycle Hard to Recycle Items: BATTERIES

We use batteries every day. From garage door openers to hearing aids, remote controls to cars, batteries run much of our life. However, they can be a tricky item to recycle. Batteries aren't allowed in normal recycling streams, while certain batteries are even considered hazardous waste. Companies like Lowe's, Interstate All Battery, and Best Buy will recycle lithium ion batteries. However, it is harder to find recycling programs for alkaline batteries because of the cost associated with recycling and safely transporting these kinds of batteries.

The M.e.t. continues to budget for alkaline battery recycling and batteries are accepted, free of charge, at any our centers around the Tulsa metropolitan area. Once alkaline batteries are dropped off at our facility, they are



properly loaded onto a truck to be recycled by Global Tech Environmental. These batteries are recycled using a process called smelting, where the metal constituents of batteries are melted down and skimmed away. In addition, the zinc and manganese found within batteries is extracted and re-used in fertilizers.

Next time you need to replace batteries in an appliance, remember to properly recycle the old batteries with one of the organizations above, or call The M.e.t. for more information at (918) 584-0584.

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-Carolyn Holmes
The M.e.t.

News and Events from Around the State



OSU's popular Earth Fest celebration took place at the Student Union Plaza in Stillwater on Earth Day



Nicole Glenn, Jones, OK, borrowed bins from KOB's Lend-A-Bin program and had them out May 3rd-4th at the Old Chicken Farm Vintage Barn Sale. She recycled aluminum cans and plastic bottles. The fall event is set for September 6th-7th and Nicole plans to borrow the bins again!



Use the 3Rs to Keep Oklahoma Beautiful

Hello green friends! I want to talk about a special day of observation that was just a few weeks back; Earth Day, a day dedicated to putting your very best green foot forward. In honor of Earth Day, which was observed on April 22, I wanted to take some time to highlight the catchy line that I always use to end my rants (*I mean posts*): **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**, which is not actually a form of creative genius on my end, but a well-known line used to describe methods for lowering our environmental impact.

The popular slogan started as a result of the success of the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 created by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson. Earth Day is now celebrated in over 100 countries around the globe... hats off to Senator Gaylord! The excitement at the inception of Earth Day is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement. This movement caused people to become concerned about their environmental impact, and thus the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was born. Most of my fun facts come from EPA's website in case any of you feel inspired to discover more environmental topics that I haven't covered. **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** simplifies the method we should apply to lower our environmental impact spelling it out in a way that everyone can understand, and happens to be pretty darn catchy.

The idea is to **REDUCE** the amount of waste you produce, **REUSE** items that have a further purpose and **RECYCLE** whatever you can. The best way to eliminate waste is to simply not create it *hint, hint*; I'm referring to the first 'R' *reduce*. The more we *reuse* the less new material has to be produced, which ultimately ends up either in a landfill or a recycling center. Reprocessing material into something new makes up our final 'R' *recycle*, and the key difference between reusing and recycling is that reuse prolongs the life of an item whereas recycling takes a material and forms it into something new.

There is some debate on which 'R' is the most important, but I like to think that all three methods make for a positive impact, and at the very least it is better to be practicing one of them than to be doing

nothing at all. By incorporating just one 'R' into your everyday life you can keep materials from taking an immediate trip to landfill land. I know what you're thinking, "don't landfills have to exist, and how not so terrible they must be to have been around for so long?" Yes and no, landfills to an extent are a necessary evil, but they still create environmental problems that can be reduced if we manage our personal role in not turning the planet into one giant landfill. One way to lower our impact is to buy products that can be reused such as; reusable bags, water bottles and utensils. Try buying products with less packaging and avoid using items that only have a one-time use (like the dreaded plastic bag). Support companies that use recycled material to make their products; aluminum cans, car bumpers, carpeting, laundry detergent bottles, paper towels and trash bags just to name a few (epa.gov). You can find creative ways to reuse items and by doing so keep them out of the waste stream for longer.

I'm going to give a shout out to a few stores I came across in the great state of Oklahoma that make it a part of their mission to use recycled and repurposed material. **STASH**; uses ethically made products, and sustainable ingredients with longevity in mind. **Green Bambino**; has a curated selection of sustainable and eco-friendly products. **Plenty Mercantile's** mission is to "purchase with principle" specializing in obtaining resources that have been rescued, and recycled and uses packaging that is recycled, reusable, biodegradable and compostable.

With all of this information I've thrown at you I hope you feel equipped to go out into your community every day and not just Earth Day and practice the three 'Rs' with pride and confidence! As always **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**.

KOB's very own,

Shavara J

References:
epa.gov
Sciencing.com
Reusemn.org
Recyclenation.com



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

OKRA Welcomes our New and Renewing Members for 2019!

Corporate Platinum Member



Corporate Gold Member



Corporate Silver Members



Natural Evolution, Inc.



An Electronics Recycling Company

Corporate Bronze Members



Corporate Members

Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce
Closed Loop Recycling
Cox Communications
DocuGuard Confidential Document Destruction
Green Vision Recycling LLC
Keepin Enid Green
Linn Paper Stock Company
NeWSolutions
Northeast Waste Solutions, LLC
Professional Recyclers
Ripple Glass
U.S. Cellular Corporation

Government Partners

City of Midwest City
City of Norman
City of Stillwater
City of Tulsa
OK Department of Environmental Quality
OSU Facilities Management
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

Non-Profits

Ada Recycling Coalition
Arkansas Recycling Coalition
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful
Pride in McAlester
Solid Waste Institute of NE Oklahoma
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust
Tulsa Master Recyclers

Individuals

Matt Albright
Kara Berst
Kelly Bronnenburg
Ellen Bussert
Julie Crawford
Susie Derichsweiler
Matt Faulkner
Ilda Hershey
Tracy Horst
Patrick Ivey
Sara Ivey
Jason Kanady
Trudi Logan
Donald Mallory
Natalie Mallory
Linda Pelton
Robert Pickens
Carol Preston
Fenton Rood
Garmon Smith
Robert Stewart
Larry Wright
Tomoko Yoshida

Students

Kristen Ball
Madison Feeney
Makayla Feeney
Maria Feeney
Emily Leupp
Sydney Mantzke
Frances Nelson
Rebecca Richardson
Elise Rodman
Crystal Trac
Ashleigh Warren

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/membership-levels-benefits/ and access the online membership form. 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).

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.