

# THE OKRA NEWS

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

December 2020



Please feel free to share this 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: [www.recycleok.org/get\\_involved](http://www.recycleok.org/get_involved)

## Staying Green in Quarantine

The 2020 Oklahoma Recycling Conference, “Staying Green in Quarantine,” was held October 7th and 8th. Due to concerns about the coronavirus, the conference was held virtually over Zoom.

On Wednesday afternoon, October 7th, Oklahoma Recycling Association President Sara Ivey welcomed participants to the conference. She explained the rules of engagement and encouraged audience participation. Sara said OKRA chose the theme of the conference this year with the goal to improve recycling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sara thanked the OKRA Board, the Conference Committee and the OKRA Technical Council and gave a special shout out to this year’s conference sponsors and supporters.

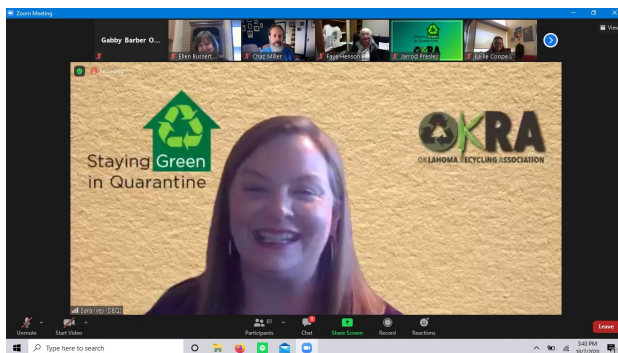
### “National Sword and Pandemic: What’s next for Recycling”

Sara introduced the first Keynote Speaker, Chaz Miller, with Miller Recycling Associates. Chaz gave an informative presentation on the state of recycling. He said that between the National Sword and the Pandemic it was like recycling was hit by twin tornadoes! Chaz explained that the National Sword was launched in China in 2017, and in 2018 it banned the import of mixed plastic and mixed paper. This cut off a substantial market for US recyclables and supply chains rapidly diminished.

Chaz reported that the National Sword has had little impact on US paper exports, since other countries have stepped in to replace China, but it has had a major negative impact on plastic exports. He also said that the US capacity to use both recycled paper and recycled plastic has increased significant-

ly, and domestic containerboard is now the largest end market.

Chaz said that the National Sword has caused us to focus on making cleaner recyclables, through technological advances such as optical sorting, robotics, and artificial intelligence.



Chaz stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic has had major impacts on recycling operations in the nation. Over 100 curbside and drop off programs were stopped, as well as many recycling collection services for non-essential businesses. He described changes in consumer spending due to the pandemic, which are important because what we buy is what we recycle (or throw away). He said the most important change was e-

commerce, up 37% second quarter 2020 from the first quarter, as more consumers purchased on-line to avoid in-person shopping.

Chaz said that, as a result of the pandemic, there has been less printed paper because of school and office closings, and more packaging because of e-commerce and home food delivery. The pandemic has also changed the PET (Polyethylene) market because of the decrease in clothing sales (fiber is largest recycled PET market). He said reuse has taken a big hit, stores are banning the use of reusable bags, bulk sales (nuts, grains) have been stopped, and coffee stores have banned reusable containers.

Chaz said that the overall change from the COVID-19 pandemic was a decrease in the amount of waste and recyclables generated from businesses and increase from residences, with a net decrease. He wrapped up by saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored industry’s reliance on recycling as a vital cog in supplying American Manufacturers with raw materials.

# Staying Green in Quarantine (cont.)

## Panel Discussion—"Municipal Challenges during and after COVID" - Moderator: Crystal Bennett, Republic Services

Next was a panel discussion with Bob Masterson, Edmond; Megan Waters, McAlester; Maureen Turner, Tulsa; Faye Henson, Weatherford; and Garmon Smith, Ada; who gave quick overviews of their recycling programs and spoke about challenges faced due to the COVID pandemic. Several panel members said they have seen an increase in plastics contamination, primarily from plastic bags (used more often now due to bans on reusable bags) and to a lesser degree from PPE (gloves and masks) that are thrown into the plastics bin. Faye Henson said "plastic bag syndrome" was Weatherford's top recycling issue. Garmon Smith said that plastic bag contamination is a big issue for Ada, as is trash that is thrown in the cardboard collection bins.

Panel members with city curbside recycling programs that have remained operational throughout the pandemic, such as Maureen Turner (Tulsa), reported an increase in both recycling and trash collected (due to more residents staying home). Bob Masterson reported that Edmond had to put two staff on alternating shifts at the recycling center, and said the bulk item program has been very busy as residents replaced appliances or did home improvement projects. Garmon Smith and Megan Waters reported that their programs had experienced periodic downturns, as the curbside program in Ada was suspended from late March until July, and the McAlester drop off center was closed for an extended period. Megan said that recycling rates have not been quick to return to normal, and she felt that residents just got used to throwing stuff away. She also said that the pandemic had a negative impact on the McAlester Clean Up Days. They usually hold two annually, in April and October, but this year were only able to hold one (in July). The weather was extremely hot, plus the need to wear masks and practice social distancing made things extra difficult.

When discussing how collection staff are impacted by the pandemic, Maureen said Tulsa employees are working longer hours due to the increased volume of recyclable and trash. She said trucks are being disinfected each night, and the drivers are now required to go straight from their personal vehicle to their truck. Bob said that the Edmond staff has been kept really busy during extended hours, because of the additional material collected and the number of consumer questions and concerns that are being addressed.

Garmon said that an Ada employee had to take two weeks off work because the recycling program shut down, and Megan said the volunteer group that processed the McAlester materials has not been able to work due to the pandemic, so they are down to just one city employee.

Faye said the Weatherford staff has been unable to keep Plastics #3-#7 out of the recycling stream (their vendor used to accept them all, but now they are restricted to #1 and #2 only). Maureen reported that one unexpected benefit has been that some employees have lost weight, since the pandemic closed many restaurants for a period, and made it more difficult to eat out.

In general, most panel members reported that the pandemic has not had significant impacts on recycling participation rates, and most communities were at about the same level as a year ago.

## Market Updates—Chaz Miller

Chaz Miller gave a detailed look at what's next for recycling markets. He said that we are in the "fog of the pandemic," that we have no idea how long it will last, when the economy will recover, when there will be a cure, or when things will return to normal. However, Chaz stressed that many things have not changed as a result of the pandemic—recyclables are still commodities, they are still bought and sold, buyers still have the same needs—they want reliable quantity and quality at a reasonable price.

Chaz said that over the past 10 years there has been a shift in production from printed paper to container board. He

### CHANGES IN US PAPER & PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION: 2009 - 2019

2009:

Printed Paper:

2009: 44%

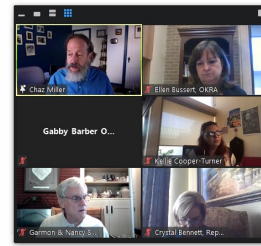
2019: 34%

Containerboard:

2009: 39.3%

2019: 48.6%

Tissue & Towel grew with population



said the price of OCC (old corrugated containers) jumped from \$27/ton a year ago to a current price of \$60/ton. The pandemic has resulted in a substantial increase in online purchases and grocery/meal delivery and containers are in high demand. In addition, Chaz

## Staying Green in Quarantine (cont.)

said there was a substantial increase in the price of mixed paper. However, most other recyclables have seen significant drops in prices since the start of the pandemic. For instance, aluminum cans have dropped to under \$0.46/lb from over \$0.54/lb a year ago, and steel cans have dropped to only \$78/ton from \$112/ton a year ago. Plastic prices are all lower than a year ago or in January 2020, with the exception of Natural HDPE (High Density Polyethylene.) The price for Natural HDPE today is over double that of a year ago.

The pandemic has also impacted our energy usage, and US fossil fuel consumption was down 10.4% in May 2020 (from the previous year). Similarly, crude prices were down to \$42/barrel in Sept 2020 from a 2019 price of \$64/barrel.

Chaz summarized by saying there is still a great deal of uncertainty with the future of the pandemic and the economy. Consumer and government spending have both decreased substantially from 2019, and unemployment has been as much as four times higher than pre-pandemic. However, there are signs of confidence in the US economy—and the business confidence is the highest it has been since 2019.

Chaz said paper recycling markets are likely to remain steady and plastic markets face challenging conditions (e.g. virgin resin capacity & recycled content resin/pellet capacity expanding, oil is cheap). Much depends on the demand for recycled content by the beverage industry.

Chaz left us with the question “Will Americans learn to recycle right?” He said that contamination in recycling remains consistent, and that although Americans want to recycle, they don’t want to recycle right. He suggested that we might have to focus on the major recyclables and forget the minors for a while. Perhaps narrowing the focus would help us recycle right. Chaz said that recyclers are generally resilient and optimistic. So, although the future may be uncertain, we will continue to look forward and recycle!

### Social Time - “Trash Talk” with Michael Patton

To wrap up the first day of the conference, we held a virtual social hour in the evening featuring OKRA Member and co-

median Michal Patton. Participants were encouraged to enjoy a BYO beverage while engaging in a lively discussion about various recycling topics. The conversation was both thought-provoking and entertaining as we heard tales of the most unusual items left in recycling bins and other recycling oddities. It was a perfect end to Conference Day 1.

Day 2 of the conference kicked off with a welcome by OKRA President, Sara Ivey. Then OKRA Secretary, Ellen Bussert spoke about OKRA membership. She encouraged non-members to consider joining OKRA. Ellen said recyclers are tenacious, flexible and problem-solvers. She said OKRA helps with recycling by facilitating networking and helping develop recycling ideas and solutions across the state.



### Panel Discussion: “Finding a Way to Recycle Glass in Oklahoma” - Panel Moderator, Megan Waters, Keep McAlester Beautiful

The first session of the day was a panel discussion on efforts to recycle glass. Panel members were Scott DeFife, Glass Packaging Institute; Josh Boyer, Ripple Glass; Graham Brannin, the M.e.t.; and Terry Craighead, Fertile Ground. Scott DeFife gave a brief rundown on the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI) and how it relates to the Glass Recycling Coalition and the

Glass Recycling Foundation. He said that Oklahoma has many glass end markets, but we lack facilities that produce good cullet. So our glass recyclers are, for the most part, buying their cullet from out of state. Scott said that in the US, about 35% of glass bottles are currently recycled back into glass, and that the goal is to increase to 50%. He said that Europe’s recycling rate is over 70%, and US states that have deposit collections are actually very close to the 70% (usually triple that of non-deposit states). Scott said there is value lost in the cost of transporting glass from one location to another, but that if you process a quality cullet, it is economically feasible to transport it quite a distance.

Josh Boyer said 93% of consumers think they should recycle glass. He also said that if 20% of OKC residents recycled, they could recycle 4,125 tons/year and save thousands of dollars in tipping fees. Josh said that Ripple works with Stillwater and Norman to recycle their glass. He said some benefits of glass recycling are that it saves raw material, saves energy and creates jobs. Josh said only 40% of collected commingled glass is recycled, compared to 90% of separated glass. Both Josh and Scott said that drop-off glass collections generally result in more glass being recycled, due to contamination issues with MRFs and the inability to properly separate the glass.



# Staying Green in Quarantine (cont.)

Terry Craghead explained how Fertile Ground partners with Dlubak Glass Company in Okmulgee on glass recycling. Dlubak provides large containers to Fertile Ground, and Fertile Ground collects the glass (curbside and at their drop-off facility in OKC). Fertile Ground then aggregates the glass and transports it to glass processors. Fertile Ground charges for the curbside pick-up, but glass drop-off is free.

Graham Brannin said the M.e.t. in Tulsa operates 10 recycling centers and they collect glass at all of them. He said it is aggregated at National Waste in Tulsa, and eventually ends up at Dlubak Glass Company in Okmulgee. Graham said it was important to know the numbers, and not lose money when recycling glass.

## Batteries Breakout Session: Moderator, Dr. Suna Bayrakal, Product Stewardship Institute

Suna Bayrakal (Product Stewardship Institute) began the breakout session by providing an overview of battery types and the products in which they are found. She highlighted reasons to recycle including: 1) the large and growing quantities of batteries purchased and used annually (billions, in fact!); 2) the low rate of recycling despite the valuable resources contained in batteries; and 3) the risks batteries can pose in terms of potential fire hazards and environmental contamination. She also reviewed existing laws and voluntary programs, where to recycle in Oklahoma, and best management practices. Following Suna's presentation, there was a good follow-up discussion on the recycling process, issues of landfill fires, Call2Recycle's recycling program, and education and outreach.

## E-Waste Breakout Session: Moderator, Traci Phillips, Natural Evolution and Amanda Scofield, ODEQ

The E-waste breakout discussion was a success! Traci Phillips of Tulsa's Natural Evolution began by explaining what E-waste is and why we should recycle it. Traci continued on to describe the steps in E-waste recycling and provided some great resources. Next, Amanda Scofield of the Department of Environmental Quality spoke of the state's role in electronic recycling, specifically through the Oklahoma Computer Equipment Recovery Act, Oklahoma's only EPR (Extended Producer Responsibility) law.

Amanda went on to describe national trends in the E-waste stream and the evolution of material composition of electronics over time. There was great discussion on electronic recycling standards, the use of precious metals in electronics, and consumer disposal options.

## Glass Breakout Session: Moderator, Scott DeFife, Glass Packaging Institute

The glass breakout session allowed further discussion on the issue of glass recycling. Participants asked what happens currently to glass that is collected. Scott DeFife said that that Waste Management (OKC) aggregates its collected glass and sends it to the landfill for daily cover (reuse, but not recycled). He said there are three glass manufacturing plants in Oklahoma, but we are missing a critical piece of the supply chain (processing the cullet). Terry Craghead from Fertile Ground said they do not have a dedicated glass route, but they do offer curbside pick-up of glass as well as drop-off collection in OKC. Josh Boyer said Ripple Glass has a commercial service in Kansas City. Bottom line is that we need glass processing plants in Oklahoma to make cullet to provide to manufacturers. This would "close the loop" and significantly increase glass recycling in the state.

## Food Waste Breakout Session: Moderator, Stephen Sturdivant, Sustainable Food Management, U.S. EPA Region 6

Stephen Sturdivant started the breakout by describing the problem of food waste in the U.S. He said schools should conduct food waste audits, to determine how much of specific foods they are throwing away and why. This could help them better plan menus to avoid waste. He said including students in food waste audits is very eye-opening for them! Steven shared information on states that have programs to reduce waste at the source, and those with food waste to landfill bans. He said composting alone is not the answer. Most of the greenhouse gases from food waste are generated at the farm. Composting reduces only about 17% of the greenhouse gases from food waste, versus the 100% reduction gained from food not wasted. There was good discussion on food

waste prevention and what we can all do to help, including buying only what you can eat. This helps prevent environmental impacts such as water depletion, river pollution,

and deforestation. EPA has a [Managing & Transforming Waste Streams](#) tool to help communities recover the lost value of material discards. As always, preventing waste in the first place is the best option.

**Sustainable Materials Management**  
CHANGING HOW WE THINK ABOUT OUR RESOURCES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

**Reduce Your Eco Footprint!**

Stephen Sturdivant (214) 665-6673 [Sturdivant.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:Sturdivant.stephen@epa.gov)

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Video inset showing participants: Crystal Bennett, Kara Best, and Stephen Sturdivant.

## Staying Green in Quarantine (cont.)

### "EPR in OK and Beyond" with Keynote Speakers Scott Cassel and Dr. Rachel Perlman

As we settled in for the last presentation of what was an amazing conference keynote, speaker Scott Cassel surprises us all with his opening, a harmonic song cover of the one and only Oklahoma native Woody Guthrie. This set the tone for what would be a truly engaging presentation. Scott Cassel has more than 35 years in private, public, and non-profit sectors, which all work to solve materials and management problems. Dr. Rachel Perlman, co-Keynote Speaker, is an environmental scientist with her expertise focusing around sustainable materials management. This dynamic duo came out with an information packed presentation that left all who were listening feeling empowered to do more as consumers and demand more from producers.

Dr. Rachel Perlman and Scott Cassel are both representatives from the organization Product Stewardship Institute (PSI), which works to safeguard the welfare of people and the planet by working to minimize the health, safety, and environmental impacts that result when consumer products and packaging enter the waste stream. PSI was founded in 2000 and has been a pacesetter for the product stewardship movement in the U.S. for two decades. At PSI, Rachel leads stewardship initiatives on pharmaceuticals and/or medical sharps in Oklahoma, and Scott developed the facilitation process that PSI uses for stakeholder engagement and consensus-building, which laid the foundation for the passage of most of the nation's extended producer responsibility laws. Talk about two very important people!

The great thing about Scott and Rachel's presentation was the fact that they made it clear that the individual consumer can make just as much of a difference as the large companies that they hold accountable for being mindful of a product's entire lifecycle. PSI helps to: specify funding, establish performance goals, enhance convenience standards, and implement disposal bans. The organization also came out with a program called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which is a more mandatory type of prod-

uct stewardship. The EPR policy has two fundamental features: (1) shift financial and management responsibility, with government oversight and (2) provide incentives to manufacturers to incorporate environmental considerations in the design of their products and packaging. Now more than ever, we need people like Scott and Rachel and organizations like PSI to continue to demand for more responsible environmental actions. Being environmentally responsible for PSI means organizing prescription drug take back programs, increasing sharps collection, and calling for the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. PSI has set the standards high for us all to do our part as both producers of products and consumers and OKRA thinks we are all up for the challenge!

### Conference Wrap-up

OKRA President, Sara Ivey, thanked participants for attending the 2020 OKRA conference. She announced that OKRA founding member, Fenton Rood, is retiring after a long career with the ODEQ this year and she wished him the best on the next chapter of his life.

Sara thanked our 2020 Conference sponsors and supporters, and she encouraged all participants to fill out a survey so we can improve the conference for future years. Sara said that attendees should reach out to OKRA for additional questions. She said slides and recordings of the OKRA Conference 2020 would be available on the OKRA website to all paid registrants and members.

The 2020 Oklahoma Recycling Conference was a virtual success! Despite the challenges of not being able to meet in person, we were able to share recycling stories and experiences, and gain valuable insight about recycling in Oklahoma. We are optimistic that we left the conference better equipped to "stay green in quarantine."

*OKRA thanks the following individuals for their contributions to this article:*

Shavara Johnson  
Trudi Logan  
Amanda Scofield  
Ilda Hershey  
Dr. Suna Bayrakal



Wishing you

A VERY MERRY  
**CHRISTMAS**  
and Happy New Year!

from



# OKRA thanks our 2020 Conference Sponsors



**OK COMPOST  
CONFERENCE**



*the  
Chickasaw  
Nation*

## Additional Support Provided by...

### Metals Level

Okla. Green Schools Program  
Covanta

### Fibers Level

American Waste Control  
Natural Evolution, Inc.  
OSU Coop Extension Service  
Pinpoint Wire Technology

### Glass Level

Ripple Glass

*Special thanks to Crafting Wood for a Better World for donating beautiful handmade bowls and pens for the speaker gifts/prizes*

## SUSTAINABLE GIFT GUIDE

The holidays are here and may look different this year, but one thing has not changed: we still want to express gratitude toward our loved ones. So, the Sierra Club Cimarron Group has put together a simple Sustainable Gift Guide for us! There are so many ways to give sustainably and the great news is that sustainability is not an all-or-nothing feat. One great tip is to wrap gifts with newspaper, or buy your wrapping paper from The Curbside Chronicle out of OKC (traditional wrapping paper is not always recyclable as it often contains non-paper additives, like laminates). Another idea is to give consumables (like homemade foods)



### Sustainable Gifting

Ask your giftee what they want  
(avoid gifting them something they don't want, need or already have)

Include a gift receipt

Buy second hand at thrift & antique stores  
or FB marketplace & Nextdoor

Handmake your gifts

Regift (i.e. unopened lotion)

Gift an experience

Choose local shops & artists

Chose Etsy instead of Amazon

Buy Sustainable goods

Here are some fun ideas and examples!

### Local Experiences

Zoo membership

Local horseback ride

Gift card to local restaurants  
(bonus for outdoor seating options)

### Local Shops

Bookstores

Plant shops

Farmers Markets

Boutiques

Artists

### Sustainable Gifts

Research the brands you're shopping

Donate to charity on behalf of another

Gift Reusable / Zero Waste Products

or houseplants. We encourage you to get creative and really consider what your giftee may really want or need this year.

Think less waste and more sincerity.

You got this!

Sierra Club Cimarron Group

<https://www.sierraclub.org/oklahoma/cimarron>





## Thank You for 20 Years, Broken Arrow!

This year, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the M.e.t. recycling center in Broken Arrow. During the last two decades, the M.e.t. has been located at 302 N Elm Place, in the heart of B.A. We accept a wide variety of recycling at this center including more difficult recyclable items like scrap metal, all types of batteries, antifreeze, motor oil, cooking grease, and electronic waste! Thousands of dedi-

cated Broken Arrow citizens bring their recycling to our center every month. Our center is staffed with workers with disabilities. All of them are happy to be employed, passionate about recycling, and love being able to help B.A. citizens. We cannot thank Broken Arrow residents enough for the beautiful relationship they have developed with our workers and their unwavering commitment to recycling.

Since our Broken Arrow center opened in 2000, we have diverted **almost 29 million pounds** of solid waste from the landfill. During this last year, we helped recycle **60,432 pounds of e-waste** into new electronic materials; collected **9,630 pounds** of antifreeze, grease, and motor oil for processing; and protected Oklahoma's soil and waterways by properly recycling over **27,000 pounds of batteries**. We look forward to providing B.A. with 20 more years of high quality recycling services!

Bailey Veal  
Intern, The M.e.t.



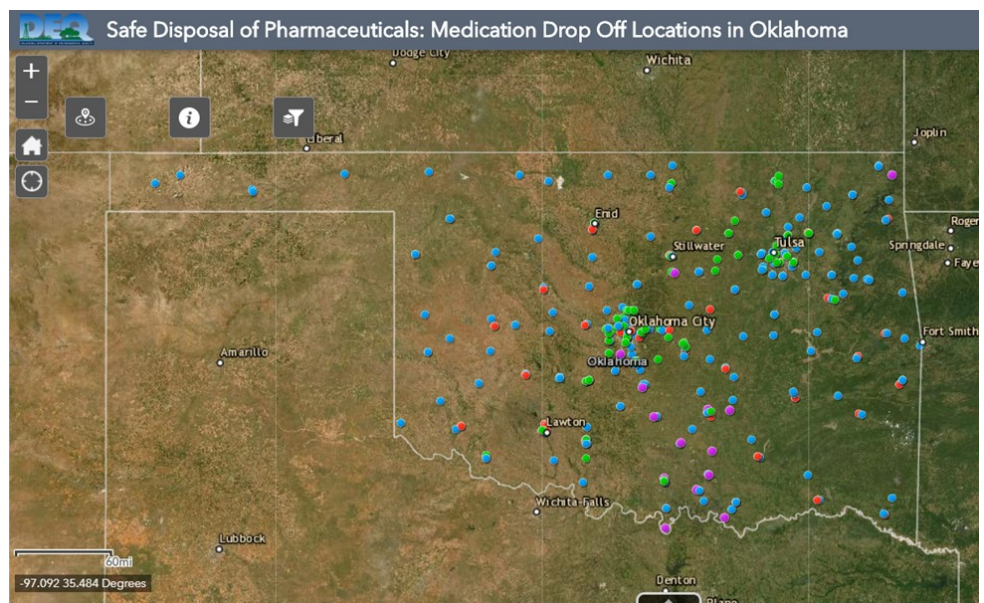
## Safe Disposal of Pharmaceuticals in Oklahoma

The Pharmaceuticals and Medical Sharps Safe Disposal Workgroup is an ongoing forum for stakeholder discussions with the overarching goal of developing a statewide safe disposal program. The Workgroup is coordinated by the Product Stewardship Institute and Oklahoma's DEQ. In 2020, the Workgroup reached consensus about the recommended methods for disposing of pharmaceuticals and medical sharps, respectively, and distilled these into fact sheets that contain readable, clear instructions for what residents should do with these materials. These fact sheets are available [online](#) and the Workgroup is currently working to promote the adoption of these factsheets by other OK-based organizations.

The areas with the least access to pharmaceutical collection sites are the Northwest region of the state (including Oklahoma's Panhandle), along with the counties that make up the western border with Texas. The Workgroup is currently working to identify strategies for making pharmaceutical collection more accessible, as well as identifying cost-effective solutions for medical sharps take back programs. If you are interested in joining the Workgroup, email [rachelp@productstewardship.us](mailto:rachelp@productstewardship.us).

By Rachel Perlman  
Product Stewardship Institute, Inc. (PSI)

In 2020, the Workgroup also created a database and map of current pharmaceutical collection sites. By using the map found at <http://bit.ly/okmeds>, residents can now easily search for medication drop off sites near them. The database has 479 pharmaceutical collection sites within the State of Oklahoma. Every county within OK appears to have at least one law enforcement site collecting pharmaceuticals. However, many counties have no pharmacies with collection kiosks. The majority of pharmacy sites are located near Oklahoma City and Tulsa.





# KOB Announces Finalists for Uncapped and UpCycled Contests *“Every Litter Bit Hurts”*



## UnCapped Finalists

**UnCapped** engages elementary school students to take action in understanding the importance of recycling in Oklahoma by creating a work of art from plastic bottle caps and submitting a class-collaborative essay about why recycling is important.

### A Good Habit

E.E. Emerson Elementary, Coalgate  
 Ms. Mauk's 4th Grade Class



### Help Oklahoma's Nature

Cleveland Intermediate Elementary  
 Ms. Johnson's 4th Grade Class



### ReCAPture Oklahoma Pride

Terra Verde Discovery School, Norman  
 Ms. Miller's 3rd Grade Class



## UpCycled Finalists

**UpCycled** is a program for middle school students to understand the consequences of litter and the hazards/dangers of landfills. The classes were also required to write a class-collaborative essay describing what they learned throughout the program, explaining why it is important to recycle and the harmful effects of littering.

### Crazy Crayon Quilt

Duncan Middle School  
 Ms. Farrar's 7th Grade Class



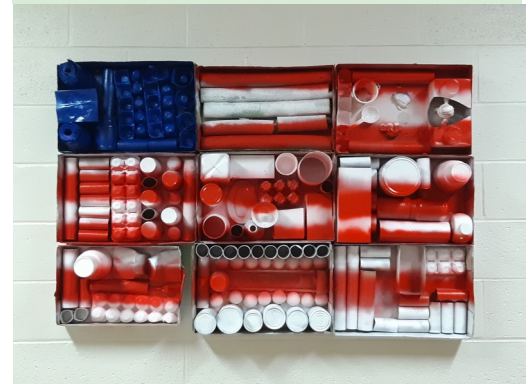
### Pokemon Trash To Treasure

Ft-Cobb Broxton Middle School  
 Ms. Gray's 8th Grade Class



### America the Beautiful

Duncan Middle School  
 Ms. Farrar's 8th Grade Class



KOB Announces Finalist in Every  
 Litter Bit Hurts, Litter Education 2020-  
 2021

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB)  
 announces the winners of our Litter

Education Elementary and Middle School con-  
 tests, UnCapped and UpCycled! These KOB  
 contests, with the mantra of “Every Litter Bit



# OKRA Celebrates America Recycles Day (ARD)

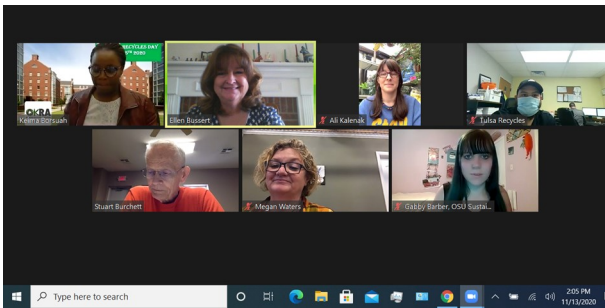


In honor of America Recycles Day, OKRA held a Facebook live event on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. to promote activities across the State. America Recycles Day is November 15<sup>th</sup> every year.

The OKRA event started with a brief introduction from the host (Keima Borsuah) about ARD and why the day is celebrated. Keima emphasized that this year's ARD celebration is special, because Governor Kelvin Stitt proclaimed November 15<sup>th</sup> as America Recycles Day in Oklahoma. Following this, Ellen Bussert read the Governor's proclamation to OKRA's Facebook audience. The proclamation talked about the challenges Oklahoma recyclers faced in 2020 as well as the importance of recycling. She encouraged recycling enthusiasts to use the Governor's proclamation to help promote the day and recycling in the state of Oklahoma.



Representatives from organizations including; Keep McAlester Beautiful, City of Tulsa, The M.e.t in Tulsa, Weatherford Environment Group, and the Oklahoma State University Energy Management and Sustainability Program talked about their organization and the amazing work they are doing to boost recycling efforts in their communities. Additionally, they talked about their plans to celebrate and promote America Recycles Day which include; (1) doing a virtual and Facebook Live event, (2) collecting recyclables and (3) encouraging people to take the recycling pledge for a prize.



There are many other communities that promoted America Recycles Day this year. On behalf of the Oklahoma Recycling Association, we want to say Thank You! Be sure and visit our Facebook page and tell us about your local celebration.

## ARD in Ada

Pictured drawing from pledge cards collected are ARC members: Marilyn Ellis, Glenda DeShazo, Kelly Bronnenberg and Garmon Smith.



Each year the Ada Recycling Coalition (ARC) conducts a drawing of recycling pledge cards for America Recycles Day. This year's winner of an "electric" mulching mower, donated by Home Depot of Ada, was Frank Stout. ARC Encourages Ada citizens to mulch their grass and leaves and not to bag them.



Pictured with Frank Stout, Mower Winner (middle), are ARC members: Kelly Bronnenberg (seated) Marilyn Ellis, Garmon Smith and Trudy Nevland. At right is Assistant Home Depot Manager, Jim Shields.

# OKRA's 2020 Corporate Members

## Platinum Corporate Member



## Gold Corporate Member



## Silver Corporate Members



## Bronze Corporate Members



Natural Evolution, Inc.



An Electronics Recycling Company

## OKRA 2021 Membership Drive

The Oklahoma Recycling Association is holding its annual membership drive from January 1 – February 28, 2021. The OKRA website will be updated to reflect 2021 membership in March. In April, 2021 OKRA will publish the names of members in good standing in that month's edition of the newsletter. The publication of the OKRA Membership Directory (for members only) will also be in April.

Membership in OKRA is open throughout the year, but only those who renew during the membership drive will be featured in the publications.

Renewing your membership is easy. Fill out the [membership form](#) on the OKRA website. If you are interesting in stepping up in your membership and need more information, please take a look at the [membership benefits chart](#) also on the OKRA website.

For more information about membership, contact Ellen Bussert at [okra.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:okra.secretary@gmail.com)

**JOIN TODAY!**

