

THE OKRA NEWS

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

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



EARTH DAY

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022

The official theme for Earth Day 2022 is, 'Invest In Our Planet. What Will You Do?' Whether you're hosting an event or attending an event there are so many actions both big and small to make the world better for everyone.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle are year around ways to make a difference. Earth Day is an opportunity to re-commit to the three R's in your everyday actions. **Reduce** your plastic consumption and food waste, **Reuse/ Repurpose** items such as clothing, **Recycle** materials that are accepted in your city's curbside program, and **Compost** food scraps. These are just a few ways to protect natural resources and keep our planet safe! Let us know how you or your organization participated for the chance to be featured in our next newsletter. Submit article to: shavara@okgreenschools.org.

Check out <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/> for ideas on how to participate in Earth Day 2022.

EARTH DAY INSPIRED EVENTS IN OKLAHOMA

Keep McAlester Beautiful- Spring Cleanup

KEEP MCALESTER BEAUTIFUL 2022

SPRING CLEANUP

**-BULK TRASH- -METAL-
-TIRES- -ELECTRONICS-**

APRIL 2-3 9-10 23-24 NOT EASTER WKND

SATURDAYS 9 AM TO 3 PM SUNDAYS 12 PM TO 3 PM

FORMER NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY AT 301 E POLK

APRIL 23RD ONLY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

PAPER SHREDDING

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS



NO LATEX PAINTS - REMOVE TIRES FROM RIM

DELIVER BRUSH TO CITY OF MCALESTER LANDFILL

MCALESTER RESIDENTS ONLY - NO COMMERCIAL BUSINESS PLEASE

Keep McAlester Beautiful OKRA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION COMPASS GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Join the M.e.t April 20th from 9 AM to 1 PM
at Guthrie Green to:

- Learn more about The M.e.t.
- Enter give aways.
- Experience a variety of food trucks!



EARTH DAY INSPIRED EVENTS CONT.



Recycling Volunteers are needed for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon on April 23rd and 24th!

The Department of Environmental Quality coordinates recycling each year at this event and relies solely on volunteers to collect over 1,000 pounds of recycling. Help make this event a success and divert these recyclables from the landfill!

To Volunteer:

1. Go to https://www.cuetoems.com/ocmm_2022/Volunteer.aspx
2. Create an account
3. Select that you are interested in "All"
4. Use the code GREENTeam22



The Collinsville, Oklahoma community clean up event will take place around EARTH DAY from Thursday, April 21 to Saturday, April 23, 2022. We will also be offering the citizens of Collinsville FREE Dumpsters to dispose of unwanted items and trash. We will also be offering E-waste and tire pick up through the M.e.t. Recycling Center. The E-Waste and Tire recycling pickup will take place exclusively on April 22 at the Veterans Community Center.



Norman Earth Day Festival

- Date(s): Sunday April 24th, 2022
- Time: Noon to 5 p.m.
- Location with address: Andrews Park, 201 W Daws St., Norman, OK 73069

Ardmore Beautification Council Earth First Expo

- Saturday, April 23.
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Location Thompson Square
- This event will include recycling options for a number of items, information about sustainability, and eco friendly products from local vendors available for purchase

Angels & Friends

- Saturday, April 16.
- 6:45 - 10:00 p.m.
- Location Bicentennial Park, 500 Couch Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73102
- Volunteers work the event to ensure compostable waste and recyclables are properly disposed of, educate attendees about proper disposal, and work to keep the grounds clear of litter. You are an ambassador of "going green!" Volunteers receive event admission and free food during their shift.

THANK YOU TRUDI LOGAN

By: Shavara Johnson

The Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) had the privilege of having Trudi Logan as Editor of the OKRA Newsletter for the past 15 years. I am honored to continue the amazing work she has put into making the newsletter what it is today, but rightfully not before paying tribute to Trudi Logan's impact. In addition to the newsletter, Trudi has served on the OKRA Recycling Conference Committee, working to organize, promote, and participating in the annual OKRA recycling conference. Ellen Bussert, longtime OKRA Member and Program Director had this to say, "I will never forget about the time she showed up to the 2018 Recycling Conference themed Recycling Avengers. Trudi showed up dressed as Recycle Woman in a green costume, now that is dedication and a fun spirit!"

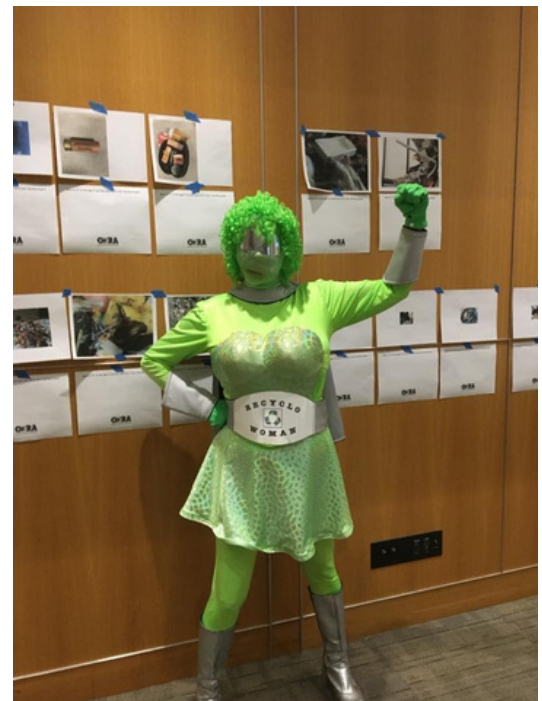
Logan has been the editor since 2007, and through her efforts the newsletter audience has grown exponentially and has led to an increase in the overall visibility of OKRA's dedication to assist and celebrate recycling efforts taking place across Oklahoma. From friends like Ilda Hershey, long time OKRA Member, "she always kept in mind the importance of making the newsletter fun and educational while celebrating the recycling efforts taking place around Oklahoma."

Earlier this year, Logan also retired from her position at Tinker Air force Base after over 30 years as the Chief of Environmental Compliance. Logan has always put an emphasis on recycling and recycling events in Oklahoma, while also spotlighting people who have contributed to recycling programs in Oklahoma. Trudi's positive attitude and willingness to do anything to support OKRA's mission has made her an amazing member who is cherished.

We thank you Trudi for your dedication and hard work.



Earth Day 2020 at Tinker AirForce Base



Trudi Logan as "Recycle Woman"



Trudi Loagn

THANK
YOU

OKRA LUNCH & LEARN 2022 KICK-OFF: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLASS RECYCLING IN OKLAHOMA

By: Shavara Johnson

On March 8th, OKRA hosted the Lunch & Learn, **Opportunities for Glass Recycling in Oklahoma**. Glass recycling has been a hot topic for years as waste haulers have grappled with the pro's and con's of hauling and processing it. Many haulers have opted to discontinue the curbside acceptance of glass due to contamination in single stream programs and the cost to haul glass. Oklahoma communities continue to desire the inclusion of glass in curbside programs due to the environmental benefits of recycling glass, which is endlessly recyclable.

The moderator for the event, Marissa Segundo, is the Senior Communications Strategist at Resource Recycling Systems. She is also the managing consultant for the Glass Recycling Coalition, Glass Recycling Foundation and works with Glass Packaging Institute to provide collaborative, circular solutions and fill gaps in the glass recycling system. Marissa began the event with a brief overview of the resources available through the Glass Recycling Foundation and the Glass Recycling Coalition. She then introduced each speaker and made sure audience questions or comments were shared for a truly interactive experience.

Speakers for the event include: Blair Polluck, (retired) Solid Waste Planner, Orange County North Carolina; Chris Knight, Solid Waste Manager, City of Stillwater OK; Lydia Gibson, Director of Corporate Development, Ripple Glass; Robert Hippert, Global Sustainability Leader for Manufacturing, O-I; and Patrick Riley, Environmental Programs Manager-Solid Waste and Sustainability, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Blair Polluck kicked off the discussion with his presentation on the success of the Glass On The Side program in, Orange County, Alamance & Durham Counties, North Carolina. This program ran a composition study in 2019 where they were able to extrapolate the glass that wasn't being recovered, which allowed them to adjust their program to recover more glass. A commercial program was initiated with a focus on bars and restaurants and staffed drop-off sites were started as well, which publicized via newspaper ads for program expansion.

Chris Knight was up next to speak on the curbside glass recycling program in the City of Stillwater. Glass is not accepted in the single stream program, but they figured out how to make it cost effective by removing one of the yard waste collection days and replace it with glass collection. The program was implemented in 2015 and is source separated in 18- gallon totes. The City of Stillwater also operates staffed recycling glass collection sites that anyone can utilize. The curbside/staffed glass recycling program collects an annual 120 tons of glass, with an operational cost of \$41,441. The curbside participation rate for residents is about 50% but is likely because of the once-a-month collection, which the city hopes to increase. The glass that Stillwater collects goes to Ripple Glass who joined us for the next presentation.

Lydia Gibson, from Ripple Glass discussed **Giving Glass a Second Chance**. In 2009 Ripple Glass recycled a total 46k tons of glass company wide their first year in operation. To date Ripple Glass recycles roughly 300 tons of glass annually from Oklahoma. In 2018 a study revealed that 93% of consumers expect to be able to recycle glass, which reinforces that people want to be able to recycle glass. Lydia also discussed how much glass an average city can produce based on a population of 40k being 260 tons and a population of 100k being able to produce 650 tons of glass respectively. The collection of glass often gets cut because of cost, but when glass is removed from waste streams it saves money. Lydia brought up the valuable point that glass recycling creates jobs, like the one she has at Ripple Glass. Glass is of low valuable or negative commodity when its contaminated, so it is very important to supply clean glass like that of Ripple Glass. Lydia shared a few tips for sustainable glass recycling which were, keeping collection regional, considering landfill tip fees, minimizing transportation, staying flexible and keeping it fun!

Robert Hippert from O-I Glass was the next speaker. O-I Glass is the largest glass container manufacturer in the world with 70 plants globally in 19 different countries. The sustainability goals for the company include, increase recycling content by 50% recycle content by 2030, renewable energy, water reductions, safety goals and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions. O-I Glass hopes that by improving the recycle content they will directly decrease the amount of greenhouse gas emissions produced when making new glass. Robert gave us a break down of what the glass container market is looking for regarding glass quality; color sorted, properly sized, consistent supply, and no contamination. Robert discussed the problem that contamination causes, which is fracture breakage, color instability and breakage. The most common forms of contamination are aluminum capsules, plastic capsules, corks/labels, and ceramics/pottery.

Patrick Riley from the Department of Environmental Quality was the final speaker of the day. He began his presentation by discussing solid waste grant opportunities and where DEQ receives their funding to provide these grants, for every ton of trash that goes into a landfill or waste energy facility DEQ gets a \$1.25, which allows for funding for Oklahoma solid waste projects. This grant also looks for opportunities to assist with circular economy goals. To be eligible for the grant you can be a local or statewide organization that represents municipalities or counties, a non-profit organization, a state system of higher education or units of government.

The Lunch & Learn concluded with an opportunity for Q&A with the dynamic panel of speakers, and networking opportunities amongst community members that wish to start glass recycling. The recording for past Lunch & Learn's can be found on the OKRA website: <https://www.recycleok.org/oklahoma-events-activities/okra-lunch-and-learns/>



GET INVOLVED WITH OKRA IN 2022 JOIN A WORK GROUP OR COMMITTEE

Would you like improved accessibility to recycling in Oklahoma?
Would you like to help strengthen Oklahoma's recycling network?
If so, please consider joining one of OKRA's work groups or
committees in 2022. Your term of commitment is one year, with
the option to continue. Select the work group you wish to join
when you renew your membership in 2022 or contact Ellen
Bussert at okra.secretary@gmail.com.

Committees

Conference Planning Committee (Chair: Ellen Bussert) This
committee handles the program, logistics and fundraising for the
annual Oklahoma Recycling Association Conference.

Communications Committee (Chair: Jon Barton) This committee
updates OKRA website content, manages and posts updates to
the listserv, maintains engagement via social media.

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

Work Groups

Advocacy Work Group (Chair: Michael Barton) The Advocacy
Work Group works to make OKRA better known among Oklahoma
legislators and decision makers. The ultimate goal is to make
OKRA the "go to" organization for recycling, waste reduction and
resource recovery issues in our state.

Education and Outreach Work Group (Chair: Sara Ivy) The
Education Work Group organizes Lunch and Learn workshops to
provide information on recycling topics and issues.

Glass Work Group (Chair: Chris Knight) The Glass Work Group is
working on developing initiatives to develop programs for the
communities in Oklahoma to reduce the amount of glass entering
the landfills in Oklahoma.

Composting (Chair: Natalie Mallory): OKRA promotes composting
as a resource recovery strategy and relays updates from the
Oklahoma Compost and Sustainability Association, U.S.
Composting Council, Biocycle and other compost organizations.

Materials Exchange (Chair: Zach Benedict): OKRA 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. This work group looks for other opportunities to
facilitate and promote materials exchange programs.

Product Stewardship (Chair: Amanda Scofield): OKRA
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.

For more information on OKRA's Committee go to
www.recycleok.org – "Get Involved"

DATES FOR 2022 OKRA BOARD MEETINGS

Third Friday of the
month Meeting from
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

May 20

July 15

September 16

Nov 18



Passionate about Oklahoma Recycling,
but not yet an OKRA Member?

Join our network of Oklahomans working
to improve recycling across the state! As an
OKRA member, you have contact with
Oklahoma businesses and governments
that are recycling in Oklahoma. Sharing
information and resources helps grow
Oklahoma's recycling programs and
industries.

OKRA members receive a discount to the
annual conference, recognition on the
OKRA webpage (for corporate, government
and nonprofit members) and newsletter,
and an annual membership directory.

To join, or for more info, go to:
www.recycleok.org, or contact
Ellen Bussert at okra.secretary@gmail.com



OKRA's 2022 SPONSORS

Platinum Corporate

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We'll handle it from here.™



Silver Corporate



BATLINER RECYCLING
A Pioneer Industries International Co.



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Natural Evolution, Inc.



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Keep'n Enid Green Curbside Recycling, LLC
Linn Paper Company
SCL Recycling

CORPORATE UMBRELLA MEMBERS

Jon Barton – CDR Global, Inc.
Tanner Atkinson – CDR Global, Inc.

HIGHER ED

OSU Cooperative Extension Services
OSU Facility Management

NON-PROFIT

Ardmore Beautification Council
Arkansas Recycling Coalition
Electric Synergy Foundation
Keep McAlester Beautiful
Keep Oklahoma Beautiful
The Metropolitan Environmental Trust
Oklahoma Compost & Sustainability Association
Oklahoma Green Schools Program
Show Inc.
Tulsa Master Recyclers Association
Tulsa Zoo

GOVERNMENT

Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
Cherokee Nation
Chickasaw Nation
City of Broken Arrow
City of Norman
City of Stillwater
City of Tulsa

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Honorary Member
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