

APRIL 2023

THE OKRA OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION NEWS

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)



Celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023



The official theme for Earth Day 2023 is a continuation from last year, '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/take-action-now/> for ways to take action on Earth Day and beyond.

Earth Day Events In Oklahoma

RECYCLING
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
OKC Memorial Marathon
Green Team Recycling & Composting
Friday through Sunday
April 28 - 30, 2023
Register: <https://haku.ly/f4f090c232>



Recycling Volunteers are needed for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon on April 28-30, 2023

EARTH * FEST
April 22, 9:00 - 1:00 * Scissortail Park
 Celebrate, advocate, protect.

ENVIRO EXPO 2023
WEDNESDAY
04.19.2023
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
 on the Guthrie Green
 111 E. Reconciliation Way, Tulsa, OK

- Give-Aways • Food Truck Wednesday on the Green •
- An Exhibit from the Euchee Butterfly Farm •
- Enter to win a One-Night Stay at the Frontier Hotel in Pawhuska and \$50 Gift Card to The Mercantile •
- New Model Electric Vehicles on Display •

FREE DUMP DAY!
4/29/2023
7am-4pm
 Waste Management Quarry Landfill
 13720 E. 46th St. N, Tulsa, OK 74116



Live Music By:
 Desi & Cody

Food Trucks:
 Linam Up Grill-Burgers and Hot Dogs
 MASA-Empanadas
 Ruth's Chicken-Chicken
 V'Fresco-Mexican
 Ando Pizza-Pizza
 Pita Place-Mediterranean

Presented by **ONEOK**
 Supported by **REPUBLIC SERVICES**, **Jacobs**, **OKRA**, **PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF OKLAHOMA**

For more information, visit [MetRecycle.com](https://www.MetRecycle.com) or call 918.584.0584

OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS
EARTH DAY
PARK CLEANUP 2023

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
9:30 a.m. - Noon

BEAVERS BEND • BERNICE • LAKE MURRAY
 QUARTZ MOUNTAIN • ROBBERS CAVE
 ROMAN NOSE • SALT PLAINS • SEQUOYAH
 TENKILLER • THUNDERBIRD

OKLAHOMA STATE PARKS **OKLAHOMA Tourism & Recreation**

Lake Thunderbird State Park
 13101 Alameda Dr, Norman, OK 73026

Earth Day Events In Oklahoma Cont.

Carl Albert Park

1301 Gail Farrell Dr • Durant, OK 74701

Saturday, April 15, 2023
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

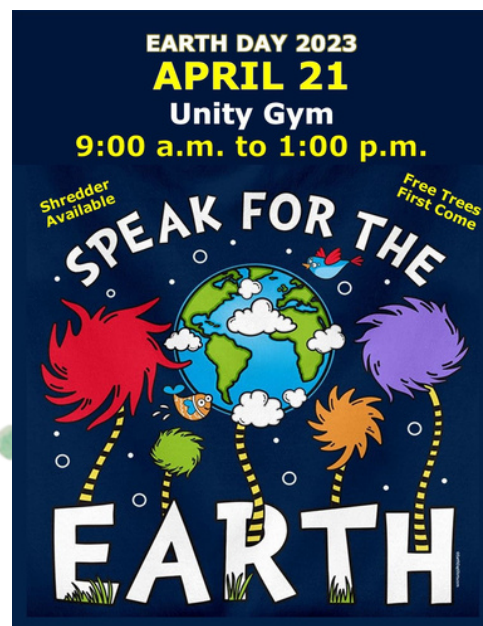


Anyone may bring the following items for **FREE** disposal:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plastics 1, 2, & 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cardboard | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tires (no rims) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shredded Paper | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronics |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Cans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel Cans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Styrofoam |

Choctaw Nation Tribal Police will be on site to dispose of unused medications.

Also accepting donations of used towels, blankets, and rugs for local animal shelters.



1956 E. Woodland Ponca City, OK 74601



KEEP MCALESTER BEAUTIFUL 2023

SPRING CLEANUP

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

APRIL 1, 2, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 NOT EASTER WKND
SATURDAYS 9 AM TO 3 PM SUNDAYS 12 PM TO 3 PM
FORMER NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY AT 301 E POLK

APRIL 29TH 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



Farewell to Dedicated OKRA Board Member Jeanette Nance



The Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) would like to thank Jeanette Nance for her years of service on the board and wishes her well as she steps down after many years of service. Jeanette is a dedicated civic servant with a heart for Oklahoma. She holds a degree in political science with emphasis in public administration from the University of Central Oklahoma.

Jeanette is currently in the Masters program for Public Administration at UCO. Before joining the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful team in 2013 as Executive Director, she served as a Division Director for Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry, External Affairs for ODEQ, along with other roles.

She has long served on the the OKRA Board, the OK Green Schools Board, the University of Central Oklahoma MPA Advisory Council, the OKSWANA Board, the OKC Rotary-Club 29 Board, and is a University of Central Oklahoma Foundation Trustee. Jeanette began participating in OKRA's board meetings in April 2014 as a member of the Advisory Council, and became a full board member in 2015. She has enjoyed working with OKRA for all these years!

She has received several recognitions which include being chosen as a 2022 Journal Record 50 Women Making a Difference and was recognized in the 2022 Inaugural Class of 55 Over 55 Inspiring Oklahomans. Jeanette is the mother of three and a grandmother of six.

She has always enjoyed being part of OKRA's annual conference and feeling like she contributed to decisions the OKRA board was reviewing. Jeanette considered OKRA's strategic planning retreats as always being a fun brain storming session creating lasting impact on recycling in Oklahoma. When asked what she will miss Jeanette had this to say, "While I will miss participating as a voting member of the board, I am hopeful to continue to be a part of their annual conference and on the advocacy committee. I am always up for being a part of the Ad Council and available for any questions from the public that the Ellen and/or the association want to shoot my way!"

She will be greatly missed as an OKRA board member, for her dedication to improving Oklahoma, her vast knowledge and passion for supporting OKRA's mission. Thank you from all of us at OKRA Jeanette and congratulations and good luck on your new roles!



Recap of OKRA's Lunch & Learn



"A Recycling Slam Dunk, without the Junk" Part 1 & 2.

Republic Services gave viewers a behind the scene view as they conducted their audit with the City of Midwest City for their Super Recycler Program. A surprise waste audit is done of the recycling bins.

Viewers were able to see exactly what criteria is necessary to be considered a Super Recycler. Tags were put on the recycling bins if there was a problem with what was in the container or suggestions for improvement (like tear down the cardboard boxes.) If it was perfect, they were designated as a Super Recycler. Republic Services gave them \$25.00 as reward for being a Super Recycler.

This competition happened during the first 2 weeks of October, and helps the City of Midwest City clean up its recycling program.



Picture left to right; Sara Ivey, Oklahoma Green Schools Program Executive Director & Crystal Bennett, Municipal Manager Republic Services



OKRA Board Member Paul Streets, Midwest City City Public Works Director, and City Councilman Rick Favors



Pictured left to right Jerry Summers, MWC Solid Waste Supervisor, Carrie Evenson, MWC Assistant Public Works Director, Crystal Bennett

The City of Comanche Hosted their Eighth Annual Trash-off and Environmental Cleanup Event in March.

By Chuck Ralls

This event was started by City Manager Chuck Ralls back in 2016. It challenges youth-based organizations to become actively involved in cleaning up their community and awards cash prizes to these organizations for their efforts. In addition to the usual elements of the event such as trash, tires, chemicals and other related items, they wanted to add something new. The City decided to partner with Wichita Mountains Prevention Network and Pathways to Healthy Living and host a drug take back event. The intent is to provide residents and opportunity to turn in any unused prescription drugs for proper disposal. Failure to dispose of unused and expired prescriptions can result in accidental poisoning for children or pets. It can also lead to confusion for seniors resulting in accidental misuse.

Another concern is intentional misuse, especially among young teens. It is common practice to dispose of unused prescriptions in the trash or flush them down the toilet. Both options have negative impacts. Throwing them in the trash can result in identity theft from bottle labels or environmental impacts such as poisoning of wildlife. Flushing medications can have an adverse effect on aquatic animals by polluting the water. Many municipalities also repurpose wastewater and common practices are unable to remove pharmaceutical chemicals which may end up back in your tap water.

The City of Comanche and it's amazing partners were able to collect and properly destroy over twenty-three pounds of prescription drugs during their first takeback event. This effort along with the thousands of pounds of trash, tires, paints, cleaning chemicals and everything else collected will continue to make Comanche a healthy and safe place to live for years to come.



Fertile Ground Cooperative Grand Opening

Ofelia Ochoa

Fertile Ground, a worker-owned cooperative, held its Grand Opening on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at its new facility at 2228 S Santa Fe Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73109. The event was a resounding success, with over 200 attendees from the local community. The cooperative repurposes compostable and recyclable materials to promote a circular economy, protect local ecosystems and cultivate an equitable workplace. During the event, community partners provided activities and educational information. And tours of the new facility were offered throughout the day. One of the facility's new features is the pay-what-you-can source-separated recycling and compost drop-off.

This involves separating different recyclable materials at the source, making recycling easier. They accept plastics #1, #2, #5, cardboard, paper, glass, aluminum, steel, and compost. By separating the materials, we can ensure that they are clean and that they are recycled properly.

The source-separated drop-off has several advantages over single-stream recycling. It reduces contamination, meaning more recyclable materials are recycled rather than ending up in a landfill. It helps promote a sustainability culture by encouraging people to be more mindful of what they throw away. It reduces the workload on recycling facilities and makes the recycling process more efficient.

Recycling is an important part of reducing waste and protecting our planet. It's crucial to understand the different types of recycling and the potential issues they may present. However you choose to recycle, we've got options for you. Thank you for being part of the solution!



The M.e.t host the Big Spring Clean

By Patrick Hayes

Recycling happens when and where it is accessible to people. Some must travel great distances for these services, where others have curbside and drop-off collection centers. Many residents have hard-to-dispose and hazardous materials in their homes unsuitable for municipal solid waste and traditional recycling services. This includes medication, medical sharps, paints, tires, electronics, flammable items, batteries, fire extinguishers, ammunition and more.

Solid waste facilities and haulers do not want what can be recycled in their operations. Their inclusion is an unavoidable byproduct, but these industries have an interest in recyclable items and hazardous materials being diverted for the simple interest of space and safety. In response, household hazardous waste collection facilities exist in Oklahoma, providing safe and environmentally sound disposal options for items like paint, aerosol cans, CFL lightbulbs, fertilizer, and auto chemicals.

Four years running, the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.) and Cox Media Group partner alongside 8 departments, organizations, and companies to facilitate the Big Spring Clean collection event at the Tulsa Fairgrounds. This event was held on March 4th, 2023, for five hours and attracted residents from across the Eastern half of Oklahoma. We collected e-waste, sharps, tires, ammunition, batteries, cardboard, medication, document destruction and more in a drive-thru, drop-off operation.

In five hours, 40+ volunteers and staff from participating organizations processed 1,306 vehicles and collected 57.918 tons of materials. We reached residents in 18 Oklahoma counties and saw some residents drive upwards of an hour to attend this event. By having professional collaborators share in the proper disposal of these items, people can trust that their effort in recycling is met with responsibility and confidence. Residents have an opportunity to take part in the preservation of our local environment by disposing of materials at events like the Big Spring Clean.

With 57.918 tons of material diverted from landfills and into recycling processes, it is evident that recycling and disposal events are beneficial to residents, the municipality, and our environment. When we create opportunities for best practices to be adopted, people come ready to learn and participate. When best-practices are accessible, they will become habits instilled in the next generation. And when generations of people are inspired, we will make a difference in how we see our world.



Get Involved with OKRA In 2023

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 2023. 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 2023 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: Vacant) 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: Vacant) 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: Amanda Scofield): 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.

Product Stewardship (Chair: Cat Ecker): 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"



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

Board Meeting Dates
May 19
July 21
September 15
December 1

OKRA'S 2023 Sponsors

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