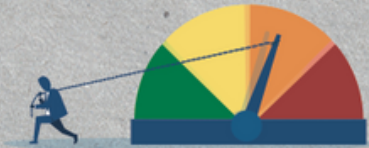


JULY 2023

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



OFFSETTING THE RECYCLING OBJECTION

SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

Chickasaw Retreat and
Conference Center, Sulphur

Thursday: Cook out and
Corn Hole Tournament
Friday: Conference

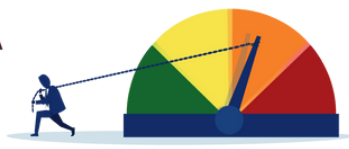
Contact info@recycleok.org
or visit RecycleOK.org for
more information.

Scan to
register
today!



Mark your calendars for
September 28 & 29, 2023 and
join us for the Oklahoma Recycling
Association Annual Conference
“Offsetting the Recycling Objection.”





OKRA's 2023 Oklahoma Recycling Conference:

"Offsetting the Recycling Objection"

Friday, September 29, 2023, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center,
Sulphur, Oklahoma

Corn Hole Tournament & Cook Out Thursday,
Sept. 28, 5:00 PM

Keynote Speaker Vincent Leray, The Recycling
Partnership "Community Tools for Local
Governments."

Session Topics:

- Commodities market update by Chaz Miller
- Wood Waste
- Innovations in Chickasaw Nation Recycling Program
- Reuse - Refillery Stores
- What is happening with E-Waste
- OK Solid Waste Infrastructure Study
- Funding Opportunities
- Expert Roundtable Discussions
(Composting, Glass, Recycled Fashions,
Policy, Styrofoam, Super Recycler Program)

Exhibit Room - door prizes

Cook Out sponsored by Rehig Pacific

Breakfast Sponsored by
Republic Services & Batliner

Registration Fees

- OKRA Member: \$85 (Earlybird discount \$65 until August 31)
- Non Member: \$105 (Earlybird discount \$85 until August 31)
- Senior (65+)/Student: \$30

*Fees include cookout, breakfast, luncheon
buffet and beverages*

Conference Lodging:

Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center
Conference rate \$98

We currently do not have online booking for
our group so guests will need to call
(580)993-2327 and give them the group code
OKRAC23

Overflow lodging at the Artesian Hotel -
Casino-Spa. Call (580) 622-8100 and give
them the group code OKRAC23

Rate: \$179.00 for standard Kings or double
queens



Recap of OKRA's 2022 Oklahoma Recycling Conference



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
July 21
September 15
December 1

PLASTIC FREE JULY®

By Plastic Free Foundation

Join millions of people reducing their plastic waste!

Plastic Free July® is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution—so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics?

Easy Ways to go Plastic Free

1. Use reusable cups & bottles
2. Ditch the plastic bag when you shop
3. Reduce plastic in your beauty routine
4. Wrap your food in fabric
5. Buy less
6. Say no to single use take away cutlery
7. Be prepared

Still not sure what plastics you can change?
Take the Pesky Plastics Quiz below.

<https://survey.thinkfieldpanel.com.au/wcfs/29402>



OKRA 2023

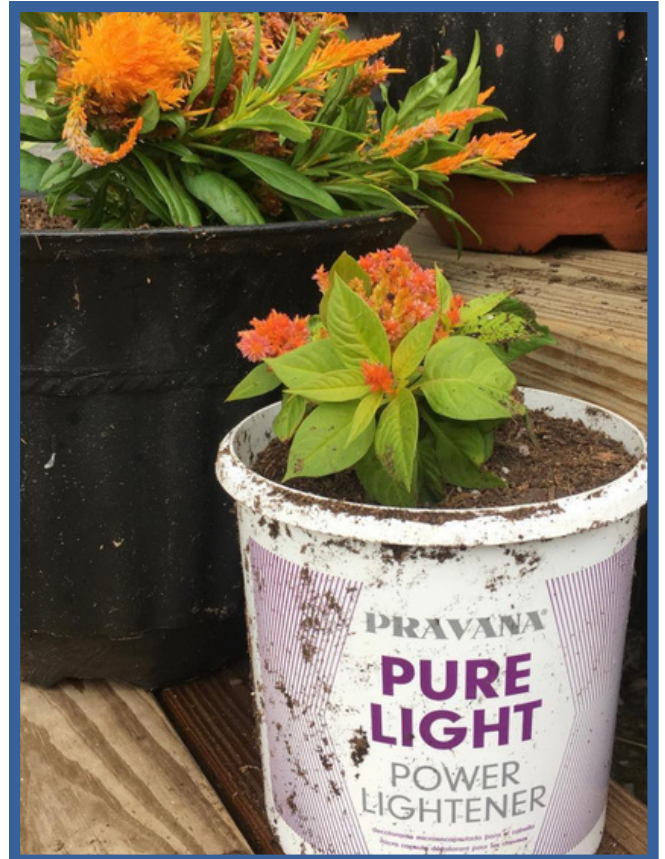
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Photo Contest

From all of us at OKRA, we would like to congratulate Mazey Heydman, owner of Sustain Salon, for winning first place in the Reuse and Reduce categories and Shawn Wright, for winning first place in the Recycle category in OKRA's Reduce, Reuse or Recycle Photo contest.

We had some amazing submissions and want to thank all of our participants for showcasing the creative ways in which they Reduce, Reuse or Recycle.

We hope that photos like Mazey's and Shawn's inspire all Oklahomans to consider the ways in which they can Reuse items!



Mazey Heydman, category Reuse-first place winner



Mazey Heydman, category Reduce-first place winner



Shawn Wright, category Recycle-first place winner

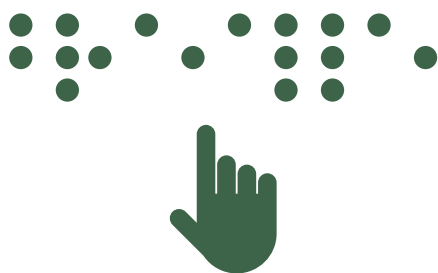
Braille labels available for garbage and recycling carts for the visually impaired

Taking out the trash and recyclables is getting a little bit easier for the City’s blind or visually impaired customers who read Braille. Beginning June 5, the City of Broken Arrow will be the first municipality in the area to offer recycling and garbage labels for each cart written in Braille.

“We pride ourselves in being inclusive, and we’re interested in making sure that everybody can participate in the programs that we release to the public,” Jerry Schuber, Director of Solid Waste and Recycling, said. “These labels are a great example of another way we have enhanced the essential service of Solid Waste and Recycling collection for our customers.”

Ronita Smalley is legally blind and serves as the Rehab and Community Outreach Manager for NewView Oklahoma, an empowerment agency benefitting people living with blindness and low vision. She says steps like these are moving the city in the right direction.

“Your self-esteem and ability to do things on your own builds your confidence and helps you feel like you can take care of yourself and be more independent,” Smalley said. “We all need help from time to time, but the more we can do on our own, the better we feel about ourselves.”



Schuber is excited to provide this service to the community. “If someone has a sight disability or is visually impaired and can read Braille, this gives them the opportunity that hasn’t been a part of our program,” Schuber said.

Broken Arrow customers who would like to receive braille labels may call the Solid Waste and Recycling Department at 918-259-7000, extension 7356, or make a request on the My Broken Arrow Action Center App available in the App Store or Google Play.

People with a physical limitation that prevents them from safely rolling their carts to the curb can apply for the [Physically Limited Accommodation Program](#).



Recycling at the OKCMM

By Amanda Scofield

Each year, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) coordinates recycling for the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon (OKCMM), a special, high-energy, high-spirited event attended by thousands of runners and spectators (over 18,000 runners signed up this year!) 2023 was the first year that DEQ incorporated food scrap collection (compost) and leftover food collection (donations) in addition to collecting recyclables. It was successful to say the least! The volunteer team consisted of over 50 volunteers over three days who collected 1,020 pounds of mixed recycling, over 3,000 pounds of compost, seven 60-gallon bags of Heatsheet blankets, and donated a truckload of non-perishables to Britville Food Pantry in Oklahoma City. Special thanks to the partners that helped the cause, including the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum and Scissortail Park for hosting the event, Oklahoma City Beautiful for promoting the volunteer opportunity, OMES for managing trash and providing a recycling roll-off, Fertile Ground for picking up the compost, and to all the volunteers that made it happen!

Mark your calendars to volunteer next year on the last weekend of April! The more volunteers the merrier!



OKC Festival of the Arts Go Green Committee

By Amanda Scofield

The Oklahoma City Festival of the Arts is proud to boast as a Zero Waste event. This means that at least 90% of the waste generated before, during, and after the event is diverted from the landfill. The Festival's Go Green Committee makes this happen. The committee is made up of a variety of stakeholders, including the City of Oklahoma City, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, Oklahoma City Beautiful, the Department of Environmental Quality, Fertile Ground, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, and more. The Go Green Committee ensures all food vendors use compostable products and that they strategically places compost, recycling, and garbage bins throughout the festival grounds, and recruits volunteers to work the event. The Committee also promotes the use of native plants and sells them during the festival. Volunteers help with plant sales in the tent, or are a "Go Green Ambassador," which means they float the festival picking up litter, sorting out contamination, and educating festival goers on which bin to use. Consider turning your community events into Zero Waste events!



Sponsorship Opportunities for OKRA's 2023 Recycling Conference

Sponsorship Opportunities for OKRA's 2023 Recycling Conference

Sponsorship opportunities are available for OKRA's 2023 Annual Recycling Conference "Offsetting the Recycling Objective." This year's conference will be on September 29, 2023 at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center near Sulphur, Oklahoma. There will be a cookout and corn hole tournament the night before for networking.

"Recycling is here to stay" said OKRA Board Member Bret Scovill, "Recycling is real. Our conference this year will provide you with information and ideas about how to change the perception of people who don't believe recycling is real. OKRA is offering us a venue for that purpose. This opportunity to learn, both from the guest speakers, and from each other is our best tool to encourage recycling in our State and surrounding areas. Please join us in this endeavor."

There are several levels of sponsorship.

Sponsor Spotlight \$1,000 (5 registrations included)
(Those who support the conference on the Sponsor Spotlight level will receive 5 minutes of conference time to promote their business.)

Level	Cost	Number of Registrations
Metals	\$ 800	4
Fibers	\$ 600	3
Glass	\$ 400	2
Plastics	\$ 200	1

Sponsorship of \$600 and above will receive an exhibit space (Table, chairs and meals.)

Some of the sponsorship benefits include conference registrations, OKRA website recognition, recognition in conference publicity before and after and exhibit table for Fibers and above sponsorship.

Your sponsorship will help cover conference expenses and OKRA's ongoing work to promote recycling in Oklahoma. For more information about sponsorship, please contact Bret Scovill at (405) 434-3373.
bit of body text

Registration is open for OKRA's 2023 Annual Recycling Conference "Offsetting the Recycling Objective." This conference will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023 at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center in beautiful Southeast, Oklahoma.

Vincent LeRay, The Recycling Partnership, will be the keynote speaker. He will be speaking on partnerships, community tools for local governments, and grant money for recycling programs. There will also be a market update, Recycling Markets 2023 and Beyond, by Chaz Miller, Recycling and Waste Expert and Waste 360 columnist. Other topics will include options for wood waste, the "refilling" business, and trends and info on e-waste issues.

In the afternoon, there will also be round table discussions led by experts on a variety of subjects. Conference registration is \$85 for OKRA Members (early bird rate is \$65 by August 31st) and \$105 for non-members (early bird rate is \$85 by August 31st.) For Seniors or Teachers/classrooms the rate is \$20.

There will be a free networking time on Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. It will be held outdoors at the Pavilion on the grounds of the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center.

In addition to great conversations, there will be hotdogs and fixings, soft drinks and a corn hole tournament. This social networking event is generously sponsored by Rehrig Pacific.

Additional conference support is welcomed! If you are interested in supporting this conference, please contact info@recycleok.org for support benefits and costs.

More detail to come. Check the 2023 Conference Page on the OKRA website to keep up to date!



Discover More About Showinc

By Ashton Terhune

Everyone has a different reason for wanting to recycle. Some people recycle because they believe in leaving this Earth better than how they found it. Some people do it only because it's convenient. Some people recycle just so it gives them something to do. Here at Show, Inc, we do things a little differently; we recycle to improve the quality of people's lives.

Our recycling center is part of the vocational services we provide and is the main revenue source for the other programs we have in place here at Show, Inc. We help adults with developmental disabilities find jobs within the community and/or at our recycling center. Working at our recycling center gives our workers the opportunity to make money, have responsibilities, and be active members within the community. The vocational service is for all peoples with disabilities and not limited to the Sapulpa area.

Drop-off and curbside are the two options for citizens within our community to have the ability to recycle. During the day, you pull up to our facility and our workers will get the recycling from your car and sort it. We also have a dumpster at our facility that can be used for drop-off on weekends and after we are closed during the week. Our curbside program allows citizens to have one of our recycling bins at their house where they can keep the recycling. Our workers then go around and collect recycling from these bins twice a month. This lets us integrate into the community even more and gives some flexibility for people who want to recycle but don't have time for drop-offs.

The Adult Day Service we provide operates Monday through Friday and allows for adults with developmental disabilities to get out and about! We provide them with games, arts and crafts, lunch, snacks, and community outings. All of this while in a safe and inviting environment where they can socialize with other adults alike.

We also have an Assisted Living program where we help adults with disabilities that are living on their own to continue living as independently as possible. We provide them with transportation, help keeping track of medication, teaching cooking skills, and much more. Recycling means more to us because it helps provide revenue to operate these programs.

Show's mission is to initiate and operate programs and services to meet the needs of persons with developmental disabilities in the Sapulpa and Tulsa area. We are a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and rely on government grants and other donations for operation. Show has been an advocate for people with developmental disabilities since 1964.



What's New with Keep McAlester

By Megan Waters

Keep McAlester Beautiful have a volunteer project every month. In May this year, we painted playground equipment at a local McAlester grade school, Will Rogers. KMB loves doing projects for the schools in McAlester, but we have to wait until school is out.

Giving old playground equipment a coat of paint is a form of recycling! Maybe we call it refresh and reuse. Just because the paint wears off doesn't make something trash worthy. A fresh coat of paint can go a long way in breathing life into old things. Old doesn't have to mean no longer useful. Pictures are included to show the fun had painting.



Glass items now accepted in Edmond recycling curbside pickup

Starting this month, the new contract with Republic Services for recycling pick up and processing means Edmond residents can again place glass items in their residential blue recycling cart.

Glass is accepted only for residential service. Just like plastic and paper items, glass items must be clean and dry before being placed in the recycling cart. Glass items are not accepted at the drop-off facility, located at 5300 Recycle Trail. The drop-off facility accepts only paper, cardboard, plastic, and cans.



Transforming Oklahoma's Communities: Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's Lend-A-Bin Program

By Beverlee Caraway

The mission of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) is simple. KOB empowers Oklahoma citizens to preserve and enhance Oklahoma's natural beauty and ensure a healthy, sustainable environment. This puts KOB at the forefront of promoting environmental stewardship and community engagement across the state. One popular initiative, the Lend-A-Bin program, continues to grow and thrive by encouraging sustainable waste management practices and fostering a cleaner and greener Oklahoma. The impact of the Lend-A-Bin program has transformed communities and inspired individuals to take ownership of their environmental impact.

With the help of PepsiCo Recycling, KOB partners with local municipalities, businesses, organizations, and individuals to distribute recycling bins specifically for plastic bottles and aluminum cans. Participants can borrow the bins for either a specified period, like for a community event, or for long-term, on-going use. The bins are then returned to KOB to be redistributed once again. KOB provides information on recycling guidelines to ensure participants are well-informed and empowered to make a positive impact. Also aiding in the proper recycling of the collected recyclables, KOB takes collection of these materials at our office located in Oklahoma City! If that's too far of a drive for you, we also offer a Recycling Directory on the KOB website that boasts more than 250+ recycling drop-off locations across the state!

The Lend-A-Bin program makes recycling more accessible. KOB seeks to encourage responsible waste management practices, divert recyclable materials from landfills, and conserve valuable natural resources through this program. Beyond providing bins, the Lend-A-Bin program focuses on community engagement and environmental education to instill lasting behavioral change. By actively involving the community, KOB fosters a sense of shared responsibility and empowers individual Oklahomans to become environmental advocates within their own neighborhoods.



In several Oklahoma communities, the Lend-A-Bin initiative has already achieved outstanding success. By offering accessible recycling solutions, the program has increased recycling rates and significantly reduced the amount of waste sent to landfills across the state. Since 2017, the program has saved nearly half a million units of recycling from being sent to landfills! This not only conserves natural resources but also minimizes pollution and greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfills. The program's impact goes beyond the environment; it also strengthens community bonds, promotes a sense of civic pride, and enhances the overall quality of life for Oklahomans.

By making recycling and environmental education more accessible in both the rural and urban communities of Oklahoma, a sense of ownership is fostered, and the Lend-A-Bin program will continue to make a significant difference in waste reduction and community engagement across the state. As the program expands, it holds the potential to create a ripple effect of positive change, cultivating a cleaner and greener Oklahoma for generations to come.

Through the Lend-A-Bin program, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful is empowering individuals to become stewards of the environment, demonstrating that small, daily actions can lead to significant, lasting environmental transformations.

To learn more about how you can get involved with any of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's programs, including the Lend-A-Bin program, visit www.KeepOklahomaBeautiful.com or contact us directly either by email at admin@keepoklahomabeautiful.com or by phone at (405) 286-9141.



Fertile Ground Announces Opt-In Recycle Service for Moore, OK

By Ofelia Ochoa

Moore, OK – Fertile Ground Cooperative is announcing an opt-in residential mixed recycling program for Moore, OK. It is clear from the repeated close votes that demand for recycling service exists.

Home recycling service has been common in cities throughout the country for decades. Diverting waste from landfills is not only ecologically beneficial but also economically advantageous for both citizens and our environment. Recycling allows materials to be reused to the benefit of everyone.

Fertile Ground has provided residential and commercial recycling in the OKC metro area for more than a decade. Offices, restaurants, retail, and apartments can all benefit from being able to recycle. Fertile Ground believes it is time to offer an opt-in service for those who are unable to participate in the city's recycling drop off program!

The program will start when 100 households sign up for service. We can begin service when 100 households in Moore sign up for service. The cost starts at \$17.99 per month. If we reach 1,000 households the price goes down to \$15.99 per month and if we get 3,000 households the price will be just \$13.99 per month. The benefit of going citywide is that it shares the costs. So as the opt-in service grows, we plan to pass those savings along. We encourage anyone who is interested to sign up.

Residents of Moore, Oklahoma are invited to a Q&A event with Fertile Ground Cooperative on July 3rd from 5:30 - 6:30 pm at the Moore Public Library, 225 South Howard Avenue Moore, OK, 73160.

Fertile Ground is a worker-owned cooperative that specializes in composting, recycling, and trash services. They service residential, multifamily and commercial properties across the metro.

More details can be found at:
www.fertilegroundok.coop/recyclemoore



Embracing Sustainable Practices: Recycling Your Technology and Equipment

By Ollie Plumlee

As advancements in technology continue to grow exponentially, many people find themselves frequently replacing and upgrading their devices. However, it's essential to consider the environmental impact of our tech consumption and make efforts to recycle and repurpose old equipment. This article will discuss best practices for technology and equipment recycling, ensuring that we embrace sustainable habits and reduce our ecological footprint.

1. Making Use of Trade-In Programs

When it's time to upgrade to a new device, consider trading in your old equipment. Many tech companies and retailers offer trade-in programs that allow customers to exchange their used devices for credit or discounts on new purchases. This practice not only saves money but also reduces electronic waste, as these companies often refurbish and resell traded-in items. Before purchasing new technology, research available trade-in programs and choose one that offers the best value and sustainability practices.

2. Working with a Certified Refurbisher and IT Asset Destruction Company

If you have old technology that you're ready to part with, it's essential to dispose of it responsibly. One way to do this is by working with a certified refurbisher. These professionals are trained to repair, recycle, and dispose of electronic waste safely and in compliance with environmental regulations. They can ensure that your old devices are either refurbished for reuse or dismantled for recycling, keeping harmful components out of landfills. Search for local certified refurbisher's and IT asset destruction companies, to find a reliable option near you.

3. Opting for Refurbished Tech Over New Devices

When you're in the market for a new device, consider purchasing refurbished technology instead of brand new equipment. Refurbished devices, like those offered by CDR Global, have been professionally inspected, repaired, and restored to like-new condition, making them a more sustainable and cost-effective option. Not only do you save money, but you also help reduce the demand for new devices, which ultimately reduces the consumption of raw materials and energy required for manufacturing. Many reputable retailers and tech companies sell certified refurbished products, providing you with peace of mind regarding quality and performance.

By following these best practices for technology and equipment recycling, we can all play a part in reducing electronic waste and promoting a more sustainable future. Make use of trade-in programs when upgrading devices, work with certified refurbishers and IT asset destruction companies to dispose of old tech responsibly, and choose refurbished products over new ones whenever possible. These actions not only benefit the environment but also contribute to a more sustainable and responsible tech industry.



92.4 M

POUNDS OF EQUIPMENT
REFURBISHED OR RECYCLED



RECYCLE | REDUCE | REUSE



BATLINER RECYCLING
A Pioneer Industries International Co.



Sustainability in Action



POWERSCREEN TEXAS

Natural Evolution, Inc.



An Electronics Recycling Company



Smurfit Kappa

