



OKRA 2026

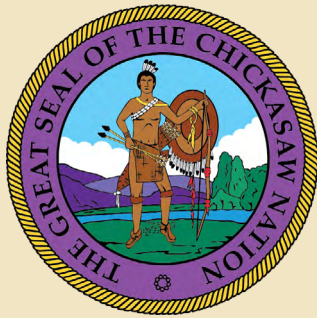
OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE



Time	Wednesday, Sept. 2	Presenters
7:30 a.m.	Conference Registration Breakfast	Exhibit Hall Open
8:30 a.m.	Welcome Opening Comments	Brian Danker, Choctaw Nation Paul Streets, Emcee and OKRA President
9:00 a.m.	Keynote address Zero Waste - A Great Destination	Amanda Waddle, Zero Waste USA
9:30 a.m.	Up, Down and Sideways: Recycling Markets in a K Shape Economy	Chaz Miller, CEO Miller Recycling Associates
10:00 a.m.	Break	Exhibit Hall
10:30 a.m.	Fiber Recycling	David Pelz, Pioneer Intl
11:00 a.m.	Textile Recycling - Just Porch It	Jene' D'Ambrosio, Eco World Trading
11:45 a.m.	Lunch	
1:15 p.m.	OK Battery Stewardship Act -Why EPR	Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval
1:45 p.m.	What Happens to our Plastic	Ray Hite, Hite Plastics
2:15 p.m.	Break	Exhibit Hall
2:45 p.m.	Roundtable Discussion Instructions	Paul Streets, OKRA President
	Round 1: Roundtable Discussions	
	Route 1: Reduce	Amanda Waddle, Zero Waste Opportunities
	Route 2: Reuse	Kelsey Norton, Chickasaw Reuse Center
	Route 3: Recycle	Chaz Miller, Miller Recycling Associates
	Route 4: Rethink	Jene' D'Ambrosio, Eco World Trading
	Route 5: Refuse	Michael Patton, Environmental Shopping
	Route 6: Rot	Carrie Evenson, OCASA
	Route 7: Repair	BadTayst - Mending demonstrations
	Route 8: Reuse	Andrea Johnson, C&D Waste
	Route 9: Regulate	Rep. Arturo Alonso-Sandoval
3:15 p.m.	Round 2: Roundtable Discussions	Same topics and hosts as Round 1
3:45 p.m.	Grants and Funding Opportunities	Angela Hughes, DEQ
4:00 p.m.	C&D Waste	Andrea Johnson, C&D Association
4:30 p.m.	Conference Wrap Up & Adjournment	Paul Streets - OKRA President

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OKRA 2026 CONFERENCE

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION



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President: Paul Streets,
City of Midwest City

Vice President: Tracy Horst*,
Choctaw Nation

Secretary: Jerry Schuber,
City of Broken Arrow

Treasurer: Sara Ivey*, ODEQ

Past President: Keima Borsuah,
OK Cooperative Extension Service

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Kara Berst*, Chickasaw Nation
Lisa Brewer, Fertile Ground Cooperative
Philip Eakes, City of Tulsa
Cat Ecker, OKRA
Chris Knight, River City Hydraulics
Bob Masterson, City of Edmond
Michelle Miller*, Batliner
Eric Pollard,
Assoc. of Central OK Governments
Amanda Scofield*, ODEQ

2026 OKRA Conference Committee:

Kara Berst, Ellen Bussert,
Kellie Cooper-Turner, Tracy Horst,
Sara Ivey, Trudi Logan, Michelle Miller,
Jeanette Nance, Jarrod Presley,
Amanda Scofield

OKRA Technical Council

(Area of recycling interest or expertise)

Matt Faulkner, City of Stillwater
(Convenience collection centers,
curbside recycling, glass recycling)
Chris Feeney, Keepin' Enid Green
(Rural Recycling)

Michele Loudonback, City of Norman
(HHW, Municipal Sustainability Programs)
Julie Maher,
Ardmore Beautification Council
Jeanette Nance (Special events,
community beautification and litter,
volunteers)

Traci Phillips, Natural Evolution
(Electronics recycling)
Robert Pickens,
Retired Solid Waste Industry
(Operations, acquisitions, marketing,
sales, education, transportation, website
design)

Fenton Rood, Retired ODEA
(Solid waste, Product Stewardship,
Recycling, Green Team)

Bobby Schultz, The MET
(Recycling depots, special collection
events, public education)

Garmon Smith, Ada Recycling Coalition
(Special waste collection events,
product stewardship, Community
involvement)

Dakota Turpin, OK Compost and
Sustainability Association (composting)



Standing Committees

Communications

Chair: Lisa Brewer

This committee comes up with creative messages through social media to help encourage and educate the public on the 7 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Refuse, Repair and Rot.) They sponsor OKRA's Annual Photo contest and throughout the year highlight initiatives to promote recycling and waste reduction.

Conference Planning Committee

Chair: Ellen Bussert

This committee is responsible for planning and implementing OKRA's Annual Conference. This includes developing the theme and program, identifying speakers, logistics, and fundraising. They also plan the annual cookout and cornhole tournament held the night before the conference.

Executive Committee

Chair: Paul Streets

This committee is responsible for identifying policy and proposing change to the board of directors. The Bylaws Task Force falls under this committee.

Membership Committee

Chair: Ellen Bussert

This committee facilitates membership renewals, solicits new members, updates the membership structure, and recognizes OKRA members.

Nominations/Recruitment Committee

Chair: Sara Ivey

This committee solicits leadership position nominations and prepares slates for board votes. They work to recruit new board members.

Work Groups

Advocacy Work Group

Chair: Eric Pollard

The Advocacy Work Group fosters relationships between elected officials and OKRA Board Members, Members, and Stakeholders on the local, state, federal, and tribal nation levels for policies and funding opportunities that advance the OKRA mission.

Composting Chair: Amanda Scofield

OKRA promotes composting as a resource recovery strategy and relays updates from the Oklahoma Compost and Sustainability Association, and other composting organizations.

Education Work Group

Chair: Keima Borsuah

The Education Workgroup strives to increase recycling knowledge, best practices, and the economic benefits of recycling in our state, while working to reduce recycling contamination through a variety of education and communication strategies. This work group organizes Lunch and Learns, Okie Recycling Tour, Global Recycling Day Coloring Contest, OK Recycling Festival and is open to new ideas.

Glass Work Group

Chair: Fenton Rood

The Glass Work Group is working to develop initiatives to develop programs for the communities in Oklahoma to reduce the amount of glass entering the landfills in Oklahoma.

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.



Conference Presenters

Amanda Waddle,
Zero Waste USA

Keynote address
Zero Waste - A Great Destination

Amanda is the Education and Affiliation Program Manager and Instructor for Zero Waste USA. She is also a Zero Waste consultant working with communities to build their Zero Waste Master Plans.

Amanda lives in Gainesville, FL and has been instrumental in getting Gainesville and Alachua County on the path to Zero Waste through her work as Director of Zero Waste at The Repurpose Project and Zero Waste Gainesville.

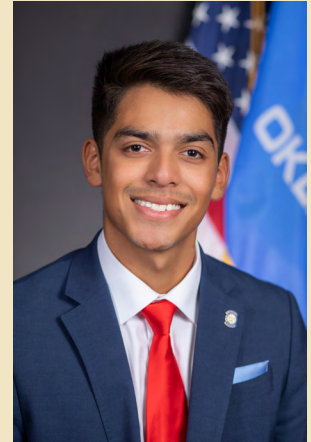


Arturo Alonso – Sandoval

arturo.alonso-sandoval@okhouse.gov

Growing up in South Oklahoma City, Arturo witnessed firsthand the structural injustices faced by many communities. These experiences instilled in him values such as learning, resilience, and service. Always committed to creating positive change, Arturo became actively involved in academic and extracurricular activities, with the goal of leaving a lasting impact on his community. As a first-generation American, bilingual, and the son of immigrant parents from Mexico, Arturo has a strong commitment to working hard and fighting for the progress of the community.

Arturo earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Oklahoma. With the support and trust of his community, he was elected to the State House of Representatives, representing District 89 in South Oklahoma City, becoming one of the youngest legislators in the state legislature.



BadTayst

badtayst@gmail.com



BadTayst is facilitating Roundtable Discussion on Route 7: Repair. BadTayst is an Artist Collective made up of two Queer Neurodivergent Oklahoma born and based Artists. They cover a variety of mediums in our work from paintings, Jewelry, mending, Sashiko, darning, and Embroidery, to Sun catchers, pattern drafting, textile dyeing, and start to finish linocut prints. In their craft, they focus on establishing an ecological balance by making efforts to create a minimal waste craft. Most of their materials come from reuse stores, donations, and free art libraries. This is an effort to save supplies from being wasted and sent to landfills. As they have learned, textile waste worldwide surpasses 90 million tons every year, and accounts for 35% of marine microplastics. Mending has become one of their most common ventures.

BadTayst is offering free mending services at our conference. This is the second year they are exhibiting with us, and we are so thankful to have them!

Jene' D'Ambrosio

Jene@ecoworldtrading.com

Jené D'Ambrosio is first a wife, mother, and grandmother while holding the role as President of D'Ambrosio Trading Inc. She is based in Fresno California and operates in multiple states as a textile recycling company that diverts 27,000,000 lbs. from landfills annually and generates unrestricted revenue for over 350 organizations. She is an active member in the community serving on multiple local and international boards and has been honored with many awards, most recently, California Woman of the Year. She is an advisor for first of its kind textile legislation and gained a voting seat at the table for Landbell's PRO governing board, SB 707, selected by CalRecycle. Her role is to educate, advocate, and offer transparency to communities driven by her passion for sustainability and philanthropy.



Carrie Evenson**CEvenson@midwestcityok.org**

Dr. Carrie Evenson is facilitating RoundTable discussion on Route 6: Rot.

Dr. Evenson is Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer for Midwest City and Board Member for OCASA.

OCASA's mission is to promote the production and use of compost to support healthy environments. OCASA is committed to civic engagement, advocacy, and education to encourage communitywide efforts towards sustainable solutions.

**Ray Hite****Ray@HitePlastics.com**

Ray Hite has nearly 40 years of experience in plastics recycling, reclamation, and processing. He entered the industry while working his way through college, gaining hands-on experience at a PVC reclamation operation as he pursued a degree in business marketing. In 1991, he founded Hite Plastics and applied that operational and business experience to build a processing plant that converts plastic scrap into usable raw material for manufacturing. Today, Hite Plastics primarily processes polyethylene scrap from products including pipe, buckets, barrels, and trash carts, among others.

His practical experience spans the full recycling process, from sourcing and evaluating scrap materials to producing consistent recycled feedstock for manufacturers. Ray will share insights, experiences, and lessons learned from operating a plastic recycling and processing plant.

Tracy Horst**THorst@ChoctawNation.com**

Tracy Horst is the Environmental Compliance and Recycling Director for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and has been with the tribe since 2007. In her current position, she has assisted with creating and maintaining a compliance program to ensure the tribe is following environmental regulations. Tracy has helped to establish the recycling program and set up and helps manage two recycling centers for the tribe. Tracy works to assist rural communities in southeastern Oklahoma to learn and understand more about what recycling is, how to start recycling, and options for recycling. Tracy currently serves as Vice Chair on the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee for Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and is active with the Oklahoma Recycling Association including serving on the Board of Directors. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Durant Sustainability Coalition, and has served on a Recycling Committee for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Tracy has bachelor's degrees in biology and chemistry from Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.





Angela Hughes

Angela.Hughes@deq.ok.gov

Angela Hughes is the director of Office of Grants and Funding Resources. Angela has over 30 years of state and federal experience in the environmental field. She is tasked with assisting entities throughout the State in taking advantage of funding opportunities available that may help protect or improve human health and the environment across all environmental media (air, land, and water). This office will help entities navigate funding opportunities regardless of whether the funding program at issue is administered by DEQ or other State or Federal agency.

Andrea Johnson

ajohnson@cdrecycling.org

Andi Johnson is Executive Director of the Construction & Demolition Recycling Association (CDRA), the only national trade association dedicated to C&D recycling in the U.S. and Canada. Before joining CDRA, Andi spent 13 years with van der Linde Recycling & Container Rentals in Virginia, the last seven as CEO, where she led a \$12 million recycling and roll-off operation, maximized recovery and recycling efforts and achieved an RCI certification. Her path to the industry followed 23 years of public service as a military spouse, for which she earned two U.S. Department of the Army Commendations. Today she leads CDRA's growth, member facility visits across North America, and the association's advocacy on shingle recycling, battery fire safety, and extended producer responsibility policy.



Chaz Miller

chazmiller9@gmail.com



Chaz Miller worked in recycling and waste at the US EPA, the Glass Packaging Institute, and the National Waste and Recycling Association. He is an ex-officio member of the Board of the Northeast Recycling Council and a member of the Maryland Recycling Coalition Board. Chaz chaired the Montgomery County, MD, Aiming for Zero Waste Task Force. He is a recipient of the National Recycling Coalition's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Happily, "semi-retired", he writes a blog for Waste360, prepares a monthly analysis of curbside recycling markets as chair of the NERC Recycling Markets Committee, and speaks at conferences about markets and recycling. He chairs the Maryland Recycling Network Legislative Committee, testifying quite frequently in Annapolis during the legislative session.

Chaz is a native Oklahoman from Bartlesville, OK and a proud Sooner.

Michael Patton**recyclemichael@yahoo.com**

Michael is a lifelong tree hugger that got involved in litter cleanups at age 11 on the first Earth Day. That led to being the first publicly funded position of recycling coordinator in Oklahoma. That led to being Executive Director of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust for 23 years and terms on the National Recycling Coalition board of directors. Now Michael works in a deeper shade of green in protecting lands and waters through conservation easements. Michael was one of the founding members of OKRA and served on the Board for many years.

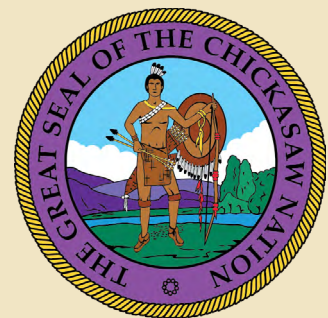
**David Pelz****Dpelz@pioneerintl.com**

David Pelz is the Executive Vice President for Pioneer Industries International and is responsible for the company's growth initiative. In this role, David oversees Pioneer's participation and response to RFP's, acquisition opportunities, bids and other vehicles when securing new business. Furthermore, Mr. Pelz spearheaded the company's initiative to secure ISO certification and continues to manage that process. David has worked in both the private and public sectors of recycling, which has allowed him to understand and witness the many different processes involved in the recycling arena.

Mr. Pelz received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business, graduating with distinction. Mr. Pelz earned his CPA license after spending time in the public accounting field.

Kelsey Norton**Kelsey.Norton@Chickasaw.net**

Kelsey Norton has been employed by the Chickasaw Nation since 2022 and currently serves as the Environmental Protection Manager for Environmental Services. In this role, she oversees water and air quality monitoring, environmental community outreach programs, operations of the Chickasaw Nation ReUse Center, coordination of recycling efforts for Chickasaw Nation events and planning of annual community recycling events. Kelsey is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Sustainability.



Paul Streets

PStreets@midwestcityok.org

Robert "Paul" Streets is the Public Works Director for the City of Midwest City where he has worked for 32 years. He manages over 60 million dollars of budget annually and more than 150 employees. Paul is the President of the Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA), President of the Oklahoma Municipal Utility Providers Steering Committee (OMUP) and is the President of the Central Branch of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). He holds both "A" Water and Wastewater-works Operator Certifications, has an Associate of Environmental Technology, Associate of Arts, a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership, and a Master of Public Administration. Paul believes that out of all the important "quality of life" assets that he manages, the most valuable are the employees he is privileged to work with. He is married to a wonderfully patient woman, and they have three children, 15-year-old twins as well as an 18 year-old. Lastly, Paul is a cancer survivor who believes that you must live life without regrets, that relationships are more important than job titles, and everyone has a "super power".



Special thanks to Crafting Wood for a Better World for the speaker gifts.

Paul Stevenson – Crafting Wood for a Better World

Paul Stevenson began wood turning after a nearly fatal head-on collision with a drunk driver left him totally paralyzed. After multiple surgeries and months of physical therapy, he walked his daughter down the aisle at her wedding. Paul turned to woodturning first as physical therapy, finding the way he turned bowls on the lathe actually strengthened his damaged back.

He does not sell his work; he gives to others and donates his work to worthy causes. He makes his bowls from logs reclaimed from local trees destined for a landfill. His aesthetic highlights the unique wood grain in each piece. Cracks or "defects" are inlaid with semi-precious stone. "Giving discarded wood a new life has become a metaphor for my own recovery."



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www.okcomposts.org
- Oklahoma Recycling Association, www.recycleok.org
- OSU Cooperative Extension Services,
extension.okstate.edu/programs/solid-waste-management/index.html
- United Electronics Recycling, www.unitedelectronicrecycling.com



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