



News Release

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Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma Recognized as an Oklahoma Clean Community

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in partnership with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) will recognize the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma as an Oklahoma Clean Community during a special ceremony scheduled for July 11, 2014 at 10:00 am. The ceremony will be held at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe Annex Building at 70500 E. 128 Road in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

The Eastern Shawnee Tribe holds a tire collection event annually during which an average of 417 tires are collected for recycling. They engage in several environmental service projects including participation in the Great American Cleanup and promotion of rainwater collection. The Eastern Shawnee Tribe provides community outreach to raise awareness of environmental stewardship by monitoring and protecting surrounding waterways and including energy efficient methods when constructing new buildings.

In 2001, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe implemented a recycling program within all tribal facilities and locally owned businesses, which is responsible for eliminating 570 tons of material from the waste stream. A recycling center was built in 2008 that is open to the public and services local businesses and individuals. The Eastern Shawnee Tribe holds public events to raise awareness of the benefits of recycling. They also work to reduce the amount of recyclable materials by adopting a paperless policy whenever possible.

DEQ and KOB recognize entities that participate in at least one tire collection event annually and other environmental service projects. DEQ encourages entities to coordinate a community-wide cleanup of used tires. DEQ's Tire Indemnity Fund will pay to haul off old, unused, or abandoned tires. Tire piles can be an eyesore and attract unwelcome pests, such as mosquitoes and rodents. After cleanup is complete and all criteria for other service projects are met, a community can be recognized as an Oklahoma Clean Community.

More information on the Used Tire Recycling Program is available at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/TireRecyclingPrg.htm> or by contacting Ferrella March at ferrella.march@deq.ok.gov or 405-702-5175.

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