

Oklahoma
Recycler



Recycler

DEQ RECYCLING AWARENESS NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 / November 2006

The Art of Recycling by Jennifer Alig

DEQ recycling volunteers help out at the Paseo Arts Festival

Oklahoma City's annual Paseo Arts Festival has been held every year during Memorial Day weekend since 1976. The outdoor Festival is located along the 2-block-long Paseo Arts District, which is a small arts community of Spanish-style buildings north of Oklahoma City's downtown area. The 2006 Festival hosted 75 artists and brought approximately 30,000 visitors to the Paseo from May 27th to May 29th. As you can imagine, so many people in such a small area can generate a lot of waste!

The Paseo Arts Festival instituted a recycling program for the first time with the 2006 Festival. The recycling program was jointly sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the City of Oklahoma City, and Midland Recycling. Recycling containers were provided by the DEQ and recycling supplies were stored at Tom Lee's Old Trinity Gallery, a photography studio located in the Paseo. Susie Shields, Mark Derichsweiler, Karen Hrbacek, and Jennifer Alig, all with the DEQ, and Ben Davis, with the City of Oklahoma City, acted as

[Art of Recycling continued page 2]



L to R: DEQ volunteers Mark Derichsweiler, Susie Shields, Karen Hrbacek, and Jennifer Alig assemble DEQ recycling bins for the Paseo Arts Festival.



Paseo arts district sign points the way to the activities.

DEQ recycling bins pictured in the top photo are available for use by groups planning a recycling event. Contact Fenton Rood at Fenton.Rood@deq.state.ok.us for more information.

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A triannual publication of the
Oklahoma Department of
Environmental Quality



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Oklahoma City, OK
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Art of Recycling (continued)

recycling volunteers at the 2006 Festival. Volunteers checked the recycling containers three times each day during the Festival. They removed contamination (non-recyclable trash) from the recycling containers and emptied the containers that were full. The recy-

clables were stored on-site in a truck provided by Brian Reid of Midland Recycling.

Over 13 pounds of aluminum and 120 pounds of PETE #1 plastic were collected at the Festival. These recyclables were diverted from the waste stream into the recycling loop, conserving landfill space, money,

and other resources. The Paseo Arts Festival plans to continue its recycling program in the future with the help of the DEQ, the City of Oklahoma City, and Midland Recycling. Thank you to the Paseo Arts Festival for taking the important step of establishing a recycling program during the annual Festival! ●

Woody Fest '06' by Tyler Haas

DEQ recycling volunteers give Okemah a helping hand at the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival



DEQ recycling sign at the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in Okemah July 12-16, 2006.



Recycling volunteers collected 6,900 lbs. of glass during the five-day music festival.

July 12-16, 2006: The intense sun beat down on us as we tirelessly shuffled from trash can to trash can. Our mission was clear: retrieve every recyclable we could get our hands on. What did that signify for our little group of dedicated recycling volunteers? Primarily it meant emptying the designated recycling bins, but it also meant digging through trash cans and dumpsters for those few pieces that were accidentally tossed into the trash instead of a recycling bin. It was surprising the types of items that would turn up in there with the recyclables, but the real surprise was that we were all excited to do it again next year. It was a total blast and this, after all, is what Woody Fest is all about.

Good music and good people provided the backdrop for a truly memorable musical experience. From the Red Dirt Rangers to Jimmy LaFave, Okemah (the small town with a big heart) was full of talented musicians to enjoy as we collected recyclables. So far there have been 9 annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festivals in Okemah, with the recycling program being added in 2004 due to the requests of patrons. Each year the amount of recyclables has increased with an amazing 291 lbs. of aluminum cans,

[Woody Fest '06' continued p.3]

Woody Fest '06' (continued)

6,900 lbs. of glass, 380 lbs. of plastic, and 680 lbs. of cardboard having been recovered this year. That's 8,251 lbs. of diverted waste or approximately half the total waste produced at the event!

Come out next year and enjoy camping, listening to great music, and giving Oklahoma a helping hand! For more information on the festival go to the festival's website at <http://www.woodyguthrie.com/>. For information on how you can set up recycling at your event or for information on the recycling program at Woody Fest, please contact Fenton Rood or Melissa Adler at Fenton.Rood@deq.state.ok.us or Melissa.Adler@deq.state.ok.us respectively. ●



DEQ recycling volunteers from left to right: Melissa Adler, Adam Bell, Eric Pollard, Linda Fine (in truck), Tyler Haas, and Fenton Rood give Okemah a helping hand.

Recycle your old computer free on November 18th!

Dell is offering consumers in Oklahoma City (OKC) and the surrounding counties a one-day, free computer recycling event on Saturday, November 18, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dell OKC facility, located at 3501 SW 15th Street.

Any brand of computer (CPU), monitor, printer, or other peripherals (mouse, keyboard, scanner, etc.) will be accepted. No other electronic equipment, such as telephones, televisions, stereos and appliances, will be accepted. Please remove all data from your computer's hard drive.

Local partners for the community event include the DEQ, KJ103, and Oklahoma Goodwill Industries, Inc. If you cannot attend the event on November 18th, Dell will pick up your old computer at home and recycle it. Find out how at www.del.com/recycling.

EPA promotes a national campaign to "Recycle on the Go"

EPA statistics indicate we are not recycling when we go out in public to entertain ourselves. Sporting events, arts festivals, theater events, music festivals, and neighborhood picnics, all make for excellent opportunities to recycle. However, we are not recycling at these public events because we don't have any place to put our bottles, cans, and other recyclable material, other than the trash bins. The EPA wants us to adopt a "recycle-on-the-go" ethic so that we practice recycling where ever we are. However, this ethic can only be achieved if recycling in public spaces is made convenient and easy. Thus the EPA is conducting a national campaign to institutionalize recycling in public spaces.

The EPA acknowledges that it will take hard work and resources to realize the goal of making recycling in public spaces easy and convenient. At the national level, educational campaigns will be conducted and incentives will be offered to achieve the goal of institutionalizing recycling in public spaces. At the State and local level, the same resources that communities devote to residential recycling will also need to be devoted to public-space recycling.

The EPA is working toward achieving a 35 percent national recycling rate and recycling in public spaces is another way to achieve this goal. The EPA is looking for people and organizations to work with them toward achieving the national goal. Visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserv/onthe-go/check.htm> for more information on how to plan a "recycle-on-the-go" event in your community.

Oklahoma celebrates America Recycles Day

By Susie Shields

Communities, organizations, schools and businesses hold America Recycles Day events to celebrate recycling and to keep it in the public eye

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA), Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) and The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.), request your help in promoting increased recycling in Oklahoma. If protecting the environment and conserving natural resources are important to you, you'll be glad to hear that recycling is making great progress. With more than 20-thousand programs available throughout the country, over 90% of Americans have access to recycling. In Oklahoma, over 50% of our citizens have recycling programs available.

Every year, communities, organizations, schools and businesses hold

America Recycles Day (ARD) events to celebrate recycling and to keep it in the public eye. ARD celebrates through a national awareness event to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of buying recycled and recycling. However, a lot of valuable materials are being wasted. So America Recycles Day also means rededicating ourselves to recycling. This year, our theme is "Oklahoma Celebrates America Recycles Day – It All comes Back to You."

The annual ARD date, November 15th, began in 1997, but a lot of events are starting much earlier this year!

DEQ, OKRA, KOB and The M.e.t. are encouraging citizens to

make a pledge to buy recycled content products, recycle more at home, work or school and/or participate in a recycling event. By filling out a pledge card and returning it to The M.e.t. or DEQ postmarked by November 20th, participants are automatically entered into drawings for state and national prizes. Following the state contest drawing on November 30th, pledges will be sent to the national contest for their drawing to be held in December.

For all of the details about how you can participate in America Recycles Day through the pledge activities, visit the OKRA website at <http://www.recycleok.org/america-recycles-day.php>. See Table 1 below for state prizes pledged so far. ●

Table 1: America Recycles Day prizes and sponsors of pledge drive.

State Prizes and Prize Sponsors	
Prize	Sponsor
eGo cycle electric moped	Shields Pipe Corp. and Solid Waste Assoc. of N. America (SWANA)
(2) electric Black & Decker lawnmowers	OGE Energy Corp, Oklahoma City
(5) \$100 saving bonds for youth	Devon Energy, Oklahoma City
(5) \$100 gift certificates	Dell, Oklahoma City
(16) cartons of 100% recycled paper	Staples (1 carton per prize winner from each local store)
Eco-basket (water & energy conservation products) for the home	Sustainable Tulsa
Thatched bowls made of recycled metal twigs	Okla. Environmental Management Authority (OEMA), El Reno
Recycled circuit board products	Natural Evolution, Tulsa
Recycled glass dinnerware	Midland Recycling, Oklahoma City
(2) Garden Gourmet composting bins	The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.), Tulsa
Recycled polyester Patagonia jacket and capilene baselayer (long underwear)	Backwoods
Specialized Hard Rock (custom fit) mountain bike	Wheeler Dealer/ David Miller/ Mack & Sandra Rose, Norman
Prizes (to be announced)	Weyerhaeuser

Sponsor Logos can be found on the OKRA website at <http://www.recycleok.org/america-recycles-day.php>

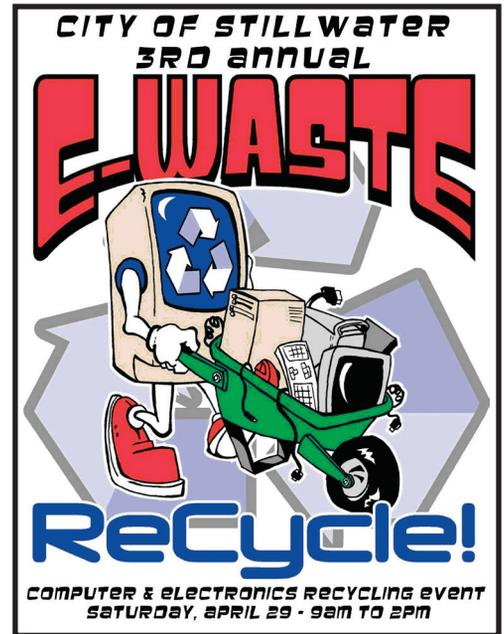
PROFILES: Community Recycling Programs

City of Stillwater E-Waste collection activities

The City of Stillwater is doing its part to address the E-Waste disposal problem. On April 24, 2004, the city sponsored a Computer and Electronics (E-Waste) Collection Event for its residents. 302 vehicles were surveyed by 20 volunteers as they took part in this five hour event. The exceptional participation at the event emphasized the importance and need for continued

recycling opportunities. 193 complete computer systems and 137 televisions were among the large quantities of electronic items brought to the event. This annual event has continued to grow as the City of Stillwater recently concluded its 3rd Annual Computer and Electronics (E-Waste) Collection Event in April 2006.

In 2005 the success of the city's E-Waste collection events was recognized by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. The City of Stillwater received the Government Program Award for Environmental Improvement. Additionally, the City of Stillwater E-Waste program was selected as the 2005 Outstanding Achievement Winner from among the award winning programs. ●



*Article and graphics submitted by
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The City of Ada recycling center receives strong support from its local government

The City of Ada has adopted an independent approach to recycling. By maintaining its own recycling center, the city is able to process and market, all recyclable materials collected through its commercial/resi-

dential recycling program. Mr. Stan Fullingham is the facility's current recycling coordinator.

Several years ago Ada took over operation of a local hand-run cardboard recycling program managed by a non-profit organization known as New Horizons. Within 30 days, the city managed to convert the cardboard recycling program into an automated operation designed to handle large volumes of cardboard. Automation of the cardboard recycling activities was achieved through modification and installation of a vertical baler. The city began its new automated recycling era under the supervision

of Mr. Raymond Wright, the center's previous recycling coordinator. There were some initial startup obstacles to overcome, which led to some "pretty crazy moments", but under the direction of Wright, things began to run smoothly until the tornado struck.

In May of 2003 a tornado destroyed the recycling facility, but the destruction did not deter the City of Ada's efforts to recycle. A City Council decision resulted in the construction of a new and better recycling center. In December 2005 the city's new 6500 square foot recycling center opened for business. The new facility was designed exclusively for the purpose of recycling, and is much larger and nicer than the old facility. Fullingham says that "it is remarkable for a town the size of Ada to go the extra mile" to devote such resources to the recycling effort.



Inside the Ada recycling center with Stan Fullingham, (L), Raymond Wright (R), and the modified baler.

[City of Ada continued p. 6]

PROFILES (continued)

City of Ada (continued)

Each year the city of Ada replaces one of its old residential garbage trucks with a new one, and the old truck is used at the center for the recycling routes. Fullingham estimates the commercial (business) recycling route is made up of over 240 dumpster recycling stops. Cardboard is collected at these commercial stops. The city also maintains 5 drop-off recycling stations where residents can drop off plastics, metals, paper and cardboard.

Fullingham estimates the recycling center processes 40 to 50 bales of recyclables per week. Each bale measures 3x4x5 feet and weighs around 1500 pounds. Plastics and metals make up about 2% of the total weight of the recyclable materials by volume and the other 98% is cardboard followed by paper

Fullingham said the center's current baler is being stressed beyond its capacity. The primary limitation is the speed of the baler to the excess volume of cardboard that needs to be baled. Fullingham said they have learned through trial and error "more error than trial actually" how to get the most efficiency out of the baler. The baler has had to be modified several times to keep up with increasing volumes of cardboard. But nothing, not even a tornado or baler problem prevents the City of Ada from continuing with its recycling efforts.

The City of Ada recycling program receives strong support from its local government as can be seen in the article to the right. Strong support and encouragement from city government is essential for communities trying to establish a quality recycling program for its residents. ●

This article was submitted by Ms. Trudy Nevland, City of Ada. It originally ran in the February 12, 2006, edition of the Ada Evening News.

A Message from the Mayor

By Donna York

Recycling makes sense and cents

Hello and welcome to my column. I want to take this opportunity to remind readers to recycle. The City of Ada maintains an excellent recycling program and we should all take advantage of it. It makes "sense" and "cents" - both spellings apply!

I am also pleased to announce the "re-opening" of the City of Ada recycling building at 326 East 12th Street. If you recall, the original building was damaged by a tornado in May 2003. The new facility was built on the exact same spot and it's better than ever!

During the near three-year displacement, the recycling program never missed a beat. Operations were temporarily moved to the I.C.O.N. Center but collection, baling, and transport never stopped. That's a wonderful testament to the program.

Over the years, the recycling program has proven to be very successful. To me, that's indicative of two positive factors - it's well managed by city employees and the people of this community are very conscientious about the environment.

The city offers recycling as a means to better the environment, but there is another important reason: recycling prolongs the life of the landfill. That, in turn, saves the City money over the long haul. Also, the program is largely driven by money made by selling the recycled materials. So you can see how it makes "cents" to recycle.

It makes "sense" because we all have to do our share to improve the environment for our children, grandchildren, and so on. Recycling is simply the right thing to do. Try it at home - you'll be surprised how easy it is to sort recyclables from non-recyclables.

The City accepts all kinds of paper, plastic bottles and jugs (No. 1 and No. 2 rated only - no toys or butter tubs), cardboard, aluminum, motor oil, and even rechargeable batteries. Please leave lids off bottles and jugs, flatten cans, and wash out containers of all kinds.

The City of Ada makes it convenient to recycle by maintaining five drop-off sites, each with 24-hour access. You can take your recyclables to the main building on 12th Street (bins are on the east side), the Wal-Mart SuperCenter parking lot, the Broadway Plaza parking lot, the Cougar Plaza parking lot, or the North Hills Center parking lot.

Chances are you shop in an area with a drop-off site. Make it part of your routine to drop off your recyclables on your way to the store. Once you've done it a few times, it will become habit - and what a great habit to have!

I hope you enjoyed this column and be sure to check back every other week for more. Drop me a line at mayor@adaok.com and share your thoughts with me. I'll keep you informed!



*Honorable Mayor
Donna York, Ada*

Trattoria Il Centro seeks “Green Restaurant” certification

Recycling is one of eleven steps in the certification process

Trattoria Il Centro, an Italian urban eatery located in the downtown arts district of Oklahoma City is completing the Green Restaurant Association’s “Green Restaurant” certification program. Environmental sustainability is the goal of a certified green restaurant. The Green Restaurant Association works with individual restaurants to provide the necessary guidance to eating establishments seeking the “Green” certification status.

Restaurant manager Chris Mullings said that Trattoria Il Centro “wants to separate itself from other restaurants” in the arts district by highlighting its commitment to environmental sustainability in Oklahoma. Mullings explained that the Green Restaurant Association’s certification program requires restaurants to complete an eleven step process

in order to be officially recognized as a green restaurant. Trattoria Il Centro has completed most of the eleven steps thus far.

Recycling is one of the eleven steps in the certification program. Mullings said that Trattoria Il Centro recycles its glass, cardboard, and fryer oil. Restaurant staff take the cardboard and glass to Midland Recycling located at 525 S. Main in OKC for proper recycling, and American Waste in Oklahoma City receives the fryer oil. The fryer oil is sold to Griffin Industries in Oklahoma City.

Mullings credits Trattoria Il Centro’s Executive Chef, Christine Dowd, for her inspiration to distinguish the restaurant as a green establishment. Dowd’s green restaurant inspiration for Trattoria Il Centro comes from having worked in restaurants in larger cities where environmental sustainability is emphasized in the daily restaurant routine. Dowd joined the Green Restaurant Association and set Trattoria Il Centro on the path to completing the steps necessary to become a certified “Green Restaurant”. For more information on the other steps involved in the certification program visit the Green Restaurant Association’s web site at <http://www.dine-green.com/>. ●



L to R: Chef Christine Dowd, Susie Shields, sous chef Niki Brisco, and Miguel Medrano at the reception.

Trattoria Il Centro hosts sustainability receptions

Trattoria Il Centro has begun hosting Sustainable Oklahoma City’s monthly Green Drinks reception. Sustainable Oklahoma City sponsors these receptions as a means to encourage interested citizens to get together and network about environmental sustainability for Oklahoma City. Trattoria Il Centro generously donates the delicious appetizers for the receptions. By hosting the receptions, the restaurant is able to highlight its “Green Restaurant” status. For more information about Sustainable Oklahoma City and its monthly receptions, visit their website at <http://www.sustainableokc.org/>.



The downtown OKC restaurant is located at 500 W. Main, Suite 100.



A colorful setting awaits patrons at the downtown Italian urban eatery.

Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2006

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the City of Oklahoma City will present the Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2006 from November 30th – December 1st. The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Oklahoma City.

Brownfield sites are abandoned or underutilized properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by environmental contamination. Examples of brownfields include industrial properties, old gas stations, vacant warehouses, former dry cleaning establishments, or abandoned residential buildings possibly containing lead paint or asbestos.¹ Brownfields are located in almost every community in the U.S.¹

Redevelopment and/or recycling of these idle and abandoned properties create positive benefits for communities when the land is returned to productive use.² The Oklahoma City Urban Renewal Authority's

Phase I Bricktown Redevelopment Project is an excellent example of a 21-acre brownfield site being restored to productive use. The downtown site, once the old Oklahoma City oil and gas field, is now a thriving commercial district that includes the Sonic Corporation Headquarters, several new restaurants, a multi-screen theatre, and a canal, park and recreation area.

Visit DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/LPDnew/Brownfields/Conference.htm> for details about the Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2006, and to learn how you can be a part of the growing Brownfields redevelopment initiative in Oklahoma. It's all about "Recycling America's Land"³ and creating positive benefits for communities!

¹<http://www.usmayors.org/USCM/brownfields/>

²http://usmayors.org/74thAnnualMeeting/brownfields_060506.pdf

³http://www.usmayors.org/74thAnnualMeeting/brownfieldsreport_060506.pdf

E-Waste company receives OKStar recognition

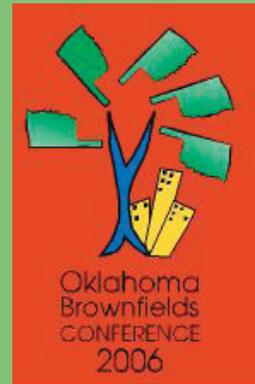
On June 22, 2005, Natural Evolution (NE), an electronics recycling business based in Tulsa, received *Gold OKStar recognition from the DEQ*. The DEQ's OKStar incentive program was developed to recognize facilities



L to R: Chris Phillips, DEQ Executive Director Steve Thompson, and Traci Phillips at the OKStar reception.

that achieve and maintain compliance and go beyond the regulations to protect the environment and promote employee safety. NE President Traci Phillips, and Operations' Manager, Chris Phillips, were officially recognized at an OKStar reception held at the DEQ in September 2006. (*Read more about this E-Waste business in the next issue of the OK Recycler*).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Oklahoma Brownfields Conference 2006

Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2006

(see article at left for details)

Dell Computer Recycling Event

November 18, 2006

(see article p.3 for details)

Oklahoma Celebrates America Recycles Day

November 15, 2006

(see article p.4 for details)

Let us know about your community recycling programs and events.

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is interested in promoting increased recycling awareness across the state. The ODEQ recycles its paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass, plastics and phone books. ODEQ's Green Team volunteers recycle spent agency coffee grounds and newspapers, and collect agency copy paper wrappers for reuse by outside arts/crafts organizations.

This publication is issued by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality as authorized by Steven A. Thompson, Executive Director. Copies have been prepared at a cost of \$0.84 each. Copies have been deposited with the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.