

## **Oklahoma Recycling Seminar Set for December 8**

Recycling through a recession will be the focus of this year's Oklahoma Recycling Seminar, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 8 in Stillwater. The full day seminar will take place at Oklahoma State University's ConocoPhillips Alumni Center.

"Participants will be getting the latest updates on everything from recycling markets and operations to organics diversion and container deposit bills," said Ilda Hershey, OSU Cooperative Extension assistant state specialist for solid waste management programs.

The seminar is designed for city and county government officials, recycling professionals, community leaders, educators, students and Oklahoma residents interested in the business of recycling or expanding local programs.

"December's seminar will provide plenty of opportunities for learning, sharing and networking," Hershey said. Seminar registration includes all sessions, a buffet lunch and breaks. Cost is \$25 if registering by November 23 and \$35 thereafter. Students can attend for \$20. Exhibitor rates are \$100 for business or government and \$50 for non-profit organizations.

Participants can download registration forms or register online at <http://recycleok.org/recycling-seminar.php> or by contacting OSU Ag Conference Services at 405-744-6489.

Michael Patton of the Metropolitan Environmental Trust will begin the program with an update on current recycling markets and the economic outlook for recycling. Patton will also discuss how to set up a recycling center during a Recycling Operations Panel moderated by Fenton Rood of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Other panel topics include Measuring Recycling Efforts and Successful Partnerships.

Al Drinkwater of Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc. will present information about the organization's new plastics processing facility in northeastern Oklahoma and several members of the Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA) will present new initiatives such as the online Materials Exchange Program for business and industry.

"We also felt it important to feature an Organics Diversion Panel, given that so much of municipal waste is biodegradable," said Hershey, who is also OKRA's membership chair. "Representatives from the cities of Edmond, Miami and Norman involved in yard waste collection will present case studies and answer questions about their composting or mulch operations."

The seminar will conclude with a session on container and bottle bill deposit programs, including a discussion about the current bottle bill being considered by the Oklahoma Legislature. "Jim Bologna, site-energy manager for Saint-Gobain Containers Inc., will be among the experts on hand to present the benefits of a bottle deposit program and its implications for increasing recycling, reducing waste, saving energy and generating revenue," Hershey said.

After the seminar, there will be an optional site visit of the Stillwater Convenience Collection Center. This tour is included as part of the basic registration fee.

“Recycling through a Recession” is hosted by the Oklahoma Recycling Association and the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, and is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, OGE Energy Corp. and Busch Container Systems.

Up to five hours of continuing education credits will be available to members of the Solid Waste Association of North America who attend the seminar.

Anyone seeking additional information about the Dec. 8 seminar should visit OKRA’s Web site at <http://recycleok.org> or contact Hershey at 405-744-9806

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**Media Contact:**

Ilda T. Hershey  
Assistant State Specialist  
Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service  
Solid Waste Management Programs  
Oklahoma State University  
536 Ag Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078  
Phone: 405-744-9806  
Fax: 405-744-9835  
[ilda.hershey@okstate.edu](mailto:ilda.hershey@okstate.edu)