

October 2008



# Newsletter

Welcome to the OKRA online newsletter. Please share the newsletter with anyone who might enjoy reading it. To receive electronic notification of newsletter availability and general recycling announcements, sign up for the OKRA list server on our website: [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org)

## AERT Commences Construction on New Watts, Oklahoma Plastic Recycling Facility

Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc. ("AERT"), a leading plastics recycler and manufacturer of Green composite building products, announced recently that construction has commenced on its 70,000 square foot plastic recycling facility on a 60 acre site near Watts, Oklahoma. Crossland Construction has started the initial dirt and runoff retention work on the site, which will be followed by construction of new buildings and infrastructure. The new state of the art polyethylene film and packaging waste recycling facility is being built next to an existing hog feed facility that is being converted for use in the project.

A 70,000 sq. foot building had been

ordered previously and is scheduled to be delivered by the manufacturer, Metco Supply, on October 15, 2008.

"The plant will wash, clean, and separate polyethylene materials such as polyethylene food packaging and wrapping films and will utilize AERT recycling technology to provide us with consistently lower cost raw material. As this plant helps us to contain our costs by sourcing our own raw material, the pricing power we gain will benefit con-



Groundbreaking at Watts' Facility

sumers and the expense reduction will benefit our stockholders," stated AERT President, Tim Morrison. "Upon successful completion of the Watts construction project, AERT will further demonstrate that sustainability and affordability are the hallmark of the AERT difference."

The company will be working with the Birkhill Group and the AGORACOM on-line community to keep investors updated on the progress of construction. Currently, AERT expects that this facility will be in initial operation by the end of Q1 2009.

SOURCE: *Advanced Environmental Recycling Technologies, Inc.*

## City of Edmond and Edmond Soccer Club Encourage Recycling

The City of Edmond and the Edmond Soccer Club are making recycling plastic drink bottles more convenient than ever. Starting the second weekend in August with the Beat the Heat tournament, Service Blake Park began providing 25, 50-gallon blue recycling carts for players and fans to dispose of their recyclable products.

"We would like to see more players and spectators use reusable drink bottles such as thermoses and water jugs. However, if plastic bottles are used, our hopes are that the bins will be an easy and convenient way to recycle." said Lance Stewart Complex Coordi-



nator, Edmond Soccer Club. Stewart estimates 50% of the items discarded are recyclable water and sports drink bottles.

The City of Edmond began to consider a recycling program at the parks after the soccer club asked about joining forces. Service Blake Park is home to this pilot project and with success the city hopes to expand the recycling capabilities to all of the Edmond parks in the future.

KickingBird Tennis Center and KickingBird Golf Club are two Edmond city facilities that currently provide recycling bins on site for their patrons.

City of Edmond Press Release, August 7, 2008

# Rogers Recycling Center Generating Excitement

ROGERS, AR - "People in other cities are saving their polystyrene cups and waiting for Rogers to open their proposed recycling facility," said David Hook, a senior designer for Resource Designs, the firm contracted by the city to design the proposed Rogers Recycling Center.

The Rogers City Council on Tuesday approved a contract with Marck Industries for the purchase of \$456,132 for equipment for the proposed recycling center.

Included in that cost is a densifier, which will make it possible for the center - once it is operational - to take and recycle polystyrene cups.

Hook said it is his understanding Rogers will be the only city with that capability at the recycling center.

The city will also buy a bailer and conveyor belt, a glass crusher, a forklift and a tractor. The current recycling center has a bailer and other equipment, but it is either inoperable or in need of repair.

Marck will buy the city's old equipment and subtract that from the purchase price of the new equipment, which is reflected in the \$456,132 contract price.

"The new center will be planned in such a way it will meet the city's needs for several years and will be easily expandable when it reaches capacity,"

Hook said while responding to a question from Alderman Buddy Wright.

The city also approved a contract with Sand Creek Engineering and Landscape Architecture for large scale development plans for the center.

Mayor Steve Womack said he expects the center to be open between late spring to mid-summer in 2009.

The council recently approved purchasing a Bandit Industries Beast 4680 horizontal grinder for the new center for \$483,645.

The current recycling center is housed at the Rogers Activity Center. The center can only take plastics types I and II, but Hook said the proposed center will be able to take all types of plastics, as well as glass, cardboard and just about anything else.

The proposed center will be on Stavemill Road on a 22-acre parcel of property the city purchased in November for \$516,000.

Money generated by the recycling center currently goes into the city general fund. However, beginning in the 2009 budget, that revenue will be separated out in the budget from the Rogers Parks and Recreation Department's budget, Womack said.

*By John Henley Jr.—The Morning News*

## Styrofoam—Thing of the Past at Mercy Hospital

### Part of "going green" at the hospital

They might look and feel like styrofoam, but the disposable cups and plates at Oklahoma City's Mercy hospital are not styrofoam. They're 100% biodegradable--the new movement of 'going green' at the hospital.

As of Monday, September 22, styrofoam was history at the hospital. Pam Spanbauer, Nursing Director at the hospital explained that a panel studied ways to be more environmentally friendly and the elimination of styrofoam was among the suggestions. The hospital has also initiated a massive paper recycling effort and placed 350 blue bins throughout the main hospital.



**By Jerry Bohnen**, Monday, September 22, 2008  
Reprinted courtesy of Clear Channel Radio -KTOK

# The Milk Jug Gets a Makeover

Wal-Mart (Bentonville, Arkansas) subsidiary Sam's Club has unveiled a new type of milk bottle for use in select retail locations. The companies cite the container's unique rectangular shape as making stacking easier and transportation cheaper — not to mention more environmentally friendly.



More environmentally friendly, but some moms who tested them say the milk bottles are too difficult to use and tend to spill while pouring

Currently found in 189 Sam's Club outlets, the space-saving design allows for the storage of 224 jugs in coolers previously capable of holding only 80. Although both types of containers hold one gallon of milk, the new design can hold 4.49 gallons per cubic foot as shipped, as opposed to 2.98 gallons for traditional containers. Reductions in fuel use are anticipated, with some estimates placing the savings as the equivalent of taking 11,000 trucks off the road.

Despite using more plastic per container than standard bottles, improved packaging efficiency produces a net reduction in plastic used, according to company sources. Sam's Club estimates the packaging saves approximately 20 cents per container versus conventional milk bottles.

Sam's Club officials would not speculate on when the fully recyclable bottles would begin appearing on Wal-Mart shelves, but did say in an interview with *Plastics Recycling Update* that they are in talks with the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville) to do a more thorough evaluation of the container's environmental impact for future rating on the company's packaging scorecard.

*From Resource Recycling Newsletter, July 3, 2008*

## Edmond Company Offers Recycled Dumpster Bottom

R Products Unlimited, LLC out of Edmond, OK offers a 100% recycled plastic replacement bottom for steel commercial containers. This product has been introduced slowly into the Solid Waste industry and has received much positive feedback.

Solid waste dumpsters are used by sanitation companies worldwide. However, every dumpster faces the same problem: replacing the bottom every time it rusts or eventually disposing of the dumpster to buy a new one.

The R Replacement Dumpster Bottom is a customer-derived product that was created to address this particular problem facing sanitation companies today in an economic **AND** ecologically-sound manner.

Benefits of the Recycled Replacement Bottom:

- Produced from recycled high-density, polyethylene
- Cuts installation time and cost down - no need for long hours of welding and is cheaper than the

steel alternative

- Adds life to the container (leachate resistant)
- Provides opportunity to get involved with recycling in your community!
- Guaranteed satisfaction with regular use



2-Yd Replacement Bottom

The R Replacement Dumpster Bottom combines plastic recycling technology with a problem facing the solid waste industry to create a customer-derived product. This product allows sanitation companies to save time and money while buying a green product.

For information on this and a full line of products to fit, replace, or refurbish your trash container, see the R Products Unlimited website at [www.rpunlimitedok.com](http://www.rpunlimitedok.com).

# "Oklahoma Celebrates America Recycles Day" Officially Kicks Off 2008 Pledge Drive



Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oklahoma Recycling Association (OKRA), Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) and The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (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 clean air and water, a reliable supply of energy, and a healthy future for our children. However, a lot of valuable materials are still being wasted. So America Recycles Day also means rededicating ourselves to recycling. The annual ARD date is November 15<sup>th</sup>, but a lot of events are starting much earlier!

DEQ, OKRA, KOB and the M.e.t. are encouraging citizens to make a pledge to do their part in keeping recycling working. By filling out a pledge card and returning it to the DEQ by November 25, participants are automatically entered into drawings for three state prizes. Be sure to check which drawing you would like to enter on

the pledge form. Only one entry per person is allowed and only Oklahoma residents may win. If a prize winner's name is found more than once, he/she will be disqualified.

For those planning an event or celebration, an event planning guide is available on the OKRA website. You may make your own copies of the pledge cards (4 to a sheet) by downloading the PDF form from the OKRA website at: [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org). Educational materials, posters, sample proclamations, sample press releases and other materials are also downloadable from the website. You may also sign-up online for OKRA's distribution list for Oklahoma recycling information, including ARD updates.

State prizes donated for last year's celebration may be seen on the OKRA website now, with 2008 prizes uploaded by mid-to-late October. So far, sponsorship donations for the 2008 celebration have been made by OG+E Energy Services, Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA), Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)—Oklahoma Chapter, Xerox, Sierra Club-Oklahoma Chapter, Recycle America and DEQ Pollution Prevention Program.

A recycling seminar for city officials and citizens is also offered for 2008 Oklahoma Celebrates America Recycles Day. The seminar will be held Thursday, Oct. 30 in Oklahoma City. See details below and online: [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org).



## Community Recycling Seminar how to make it happen in Oklahoma

**Why?** To help cities and towns celebrate America Recycles Day on November 15th, the ODEQ and OKRA will host a recycling seminar for municipal officials interested in starting up or expanding their local recycling programs. Interested citizens are also welcome to attend.

**When?** Thursday, October 30, 2008— 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Where?** St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral—127 NW 7th St.—OKC

**What?** Informative sessions will be presented regarding costs and benefits of recycling programs for municipalities, and available markets for recycling materials.

*The \$20 registration fee includes a new publication entitled: "Recycling Toolkit for Oklahoma Communities" and a box lunch. Half-day registration is available for \$10, but it will not include lunch.*

Register online at [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org) by PayPal or print registration form and mail with check or P.O. (Make check or P.O. payable to OKRA, but mail to: ODEQ Land Protection, Attn: Recycling Seminar, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677)

## City of Ada Collects E-waste, Hazardous Waste

For the fourth straight year, the City of Ada collected "e-waste" in conjunction with its ninth annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

E-waste is a term used to describe discarded computer and electronic devices such as monitors, copiers, fax machines, printers, and cell phones. These are items the city would like to keep out of the landfill.

Businesses, industries, schools, organizations and individuals were able to drop off e-waste from Sept. 29 through Oct. 3 at the I.C.O.N. Center, 300 E. Arlington, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The city once again contracted with Natural Evolution - an electronics

recycling company from Tulsa - to haul off the e-waste. The company endeavors to recycle as much of the e-waste as possible. (Find our more information online at: [www.naturalevolution.com](http://www.naturalevolution.com).)

The e-waste items that were collected included computers, monitors, printers, fax machines, copiers, scanners, plotters, peripherals, telecommunications equipment, phone systems, security equipment, medical equipment, cell phones, VCRs, toner and inkjet cartridges. Televisions were not accepted.

For more information about recycling e-waste or the Household Haz-



Jeremy Youngblood sorts e-waste

ardous Waste Collection Event, phone Trudy Nevland at 580-436-8100.

For more information about the City of Ada, visit the Web site at [www.adaok.com](http://www.adaok.com).

From: *Ada Evening News*, Oct 2, 2008



## Edmond Hosts Getting Green Festival

On September 5th-7th Edmond hosted the Getting Green Festival, a first of its kind festival in the Oklahoma City metro area.

The event was held at Stephenson Park in Edmond. The goal of the Getting Green festival was to educate and encourage the public to adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Getting Green Event organizers believe that everyone can live 10 to 20% more environmentally responsible with little or no lifestyle change and they were eager to show the public how to make environmentally smart choices.

The festival showcased businesses that promote and integrate earth friendly "green lifestyles" into their

companies. Every hour a speaker educated the crowd on topics dealing with how to become more "green". The Getting Green festival utilized alternative energy sources to power itself. Edmond Electric provided electricity using wind energy during the day and Sunrise Alternative Energy provided solar energy to power exhibitor booths at night. To encourage eco-friendly recycling, reusable shopping bags were given to festival attendees.

An estimated 5000 people attended the festival over the three day period. Event Planners are starting to plan a Getting Green Festival for 2009. For more information, see the Getting Green website at [www.gettinggreenlifestyle.com](http://www.gettinggreenlifestyle.com).

## Invitation to Join New EPA List Server

Professional recyclers are encouraged to join the new JTR Professional Recyclers Network.

JTR is a professional recycler's list server with 130 members from across the country and files containing recycling information on how to recycle things like books, tennis balls, diapers, mattresses, etc. which all members can access and also have links to websites you can use in your job.

This new list server is replacing the existing EPA JTRNet, Jobs through Recycling list server.

The new forum is limited to discussions regarding all aspects of recycling from collection to processing and manufacturing and purchasing products with recycled material content.

Membership to this group must be approved and is open to professional recyclers only. Professional

recyclers include officials in State, local government, recycling businesses and consultants in the recycling industry. This is your forum to share information with and get advice from your colleagues.

To join the new JTR Professional Recyclers Network list server, e-mail [Giuranna.Mike@EPA.gov](mailto:Giuranna.Mike@EPA.gov).



## Environmental Education Grants Now Available



The Oklahoma Environmental Education Committee invites qualified individuals to apply for a grant to promote enthusiasm in young people for learning about the environment and natural resources. You must be an Oklahoma teacher, public or private (Pre K – 12), school environmental club, youth group leader, and/or organization with a youth component to apply for the grant.



Applicants may apply for amounts from (should be from) \$300 up to \$1,000 per grant. A total of \$20,000 will be awarded in early 2009 to winning applicants. Eligible categories include: environ-

mental club projects, edible school gardens, environmental education projects, outdoor classroom revitalization, recycling and composting programs. Deadline for submission of grant applications is Monday, December 1, 2008. Recipients will be selected by December 31, 2008

The application instructions and six great samples selected from last year's grant recipients may be found online here:

<http://www.deq.state.ok.us/mainlinks/eepage.htm>

For more information, contact:  
Ellen.Bussert@deq.ok.gov / 405.702.7138 or  
Susie.Shields@deq.ok.gov / 405.702.5166

## EPA Hosts Webinars on Solid Waste and Recycling

You are invited to join EPA in 2008-2009 for a year long series of webinars related to EPA's Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC). Learn about key issues, successful projects and best management practices to create stellar waste management programs. These webinars will allow you to hear from experts around the country on what works, what doesn't and how to make your program more successful. The format for the calls will be a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session and discussion time. The RCC Web Academy's goal is to provide information concerning:

- Decreasing waste
- Increasing reuse, recycling and pollution prevention, and
- Conserving energy and materials

WHEN: 3rd Thursday of the month, September 2008 through September 2009  
1:00 pm Eastern Standard Time

WHO: Federal, State, Local and Tribal Government waste management professionals

REGISTER: on-line at [www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu](http://www.epa.gov/region1/RCCedu)

### Next Webinar: October 16, 2008 Improving and Measuring Curbside Recycling Programs

What's the RCC?

The Resource Conservation Challenge (RCC) is a national effort to conserve natural resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently. We conserve energy and preserve natural resources by committing ourselves to:

- Reduce more waste

- Reuse and recycle more products;
- Buy more recycled and recyclable products; and
- Reduce toxic chemicals

#### RCC Goals

- Prevent waste in the first place
- Reduce risk from and minimize the use of toxic chemicals
- Use environmentally efficient manufacturing processes that include reuse and recycling
  - Design and use durable, reusable, and recyclable products
  - Find safe, widespread uses for industrial materials
  - Manage materials, not waste
  - Minimize our individual and collective impacts on our environment



#### Making Change Happen

We are working with states, industry, businesses, and others to find smarter, faster ways to accomplish RCC goals. Whether we partner within the federal government, with major businesses, or with a town and its residents, we use approaches or principles that yield environmental results. The RCC is working hard to reduce waste and increase the reuse and recycling of materials. We've targeted the nation's largest waste streams, and set priorities for:

- Recycling municipal solid
- Reusing and recycling industrial materials;
- Reducing priority and toxic chemicals in products and waste; and
- Promoting green initiatives, especially the safe design and recycling of electronics.



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[www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org)

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

We need your help to grow OKRA . . . Join us online!

## OKRA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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## Oct–Dec 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct. 30** Community Recycling Seminar  
(OKC -Location TBD: [www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org))
- Nov. 3-15** RECYCLE Exhibit at Midwest City Library
- Nov. 15** America Recycles Day 2008 ([www.recycleok.org](http://www.recycleok.org))
- Nov. 24** KOB Banquet (Tulsa)  
([www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com](http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com))
- Dec. 2-3** Oklahoma Brownfields Conference  
(Contact: [lloyd.kirk@deq.ok.gov](mailto:lloyd.kirk@deq.ok.gov))
- Dec. 5** State ARD Prize Drawing



# Recycle!

**November 3 –15, 2008**

**Midwest City Library**

*In celebration of America Recycles Day on November 15, the MWC Library and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality are working together to present a display with recycling tips, recycled products, and information about how to maximize your recycling efforts. The exhibit is free and open to the public during all library hours.*



KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OKLAHOMA RECYCLING NEWS and EVENTS for the OKRA website and newsletter. Email them

