

Winners of the 2005 Weyerhaeuser *"Excellence in Recycling"* Award Program

Ada High School, Ada is starting a paper and plastic recycling program and integrating it into their Leadership curriculum. As a learn and serve activity, the students will be researching the benefits of recycling and developing ways to use this information to teach others. The students will provide every classroom, workroom and office at Ada High School with a recycling tub. They will also come up with a collection plan and be responsible for getting the paper to the recycling bins. Records will be kept of how much is collected and posted at the school. Money will also be used to purchase two trees to be planted by the students as a part of their education campaign.

Overholser Elementary School, Bethany is receiving a reward for excellence in recycling for developing and maintaining a successful recycling program over the past four years. They are also to be commended for their recycling educational initiatives for students and the surrounding community. They recycle paper, aluminum cans, cell phones, ink jet cartridges, and pagers. New faculty members receive an orientation on the school's recycling program in addition to information that is disseminated frequently to the entire faculty about recycling at the school. Parents are informed about the school recycling programs through articles in the monthly PTA newsletter. Facts about recycling are made during morning announcement time to keep students informed and enthused about recycling. Money from the award will be used to purchase new collection bins and to improve their temporary storage facility.

Wallace Byrd Middle School, Coalgate is receiving the "Excellence in Recycling" Award for the second year in a row. Last year, Wallace Byrd Middle School class officers researched recycling and conducted a school-wide information assembly to start their program. In one semester, they collected 85 pound of aluminum, 60 pounds of plastic and 320 pounds of paper. This year, they plan to use award money to go towards the purchase of trees, reusable beverage containers for new faculty, paper recycling containers, transportation to market and for student rewards. Four trees will be planted in front of the school to serve as a constant reminder that the school recycling program enables students to give back to the environment by recycling.

Coyle Public Schools, Coyle is starting a recycling program that involves an awareness and educational program on recycling and environmental stewardship. The Coyle Public School District is comprised of the communities of Coyle, Langston and Meridian. The Environmental Resources Center at Langston University will work with the school to provide technical recycling assistance and environmental stewardship training. The initial program will collect aluminum cans and paper. Money will be used to purchase collection containers, educational materials and supplies to promote the program.

Central Elementary School, Idabel is starting up an aluminum can recycling program in partnership with the Central Elementary Parent Organization (CPO). The CPO will be working with Central Elementary staff in training students on proper procedures for can recycling. Recycling bins will be set up in the cafeteria and the teacher's lounge. The CPO will be responsible for selling the cans, depositing the funds and tracking success. Money from the award will be used for collection containers and program incentives. A small portion of the funds will be used to help purchase a school marquee. The marquee will be one of the ways the school sends messages to the community about recycling. They will also send home informational flyers and submit stories to the local newspaper and radio station about their program.

Douglass High School, Oklahoma City is starting a recycling program with an emphasis on educational outreach to the community about natural resources and the benefits of recycling for today and tomorrow. This project is threefold including educational outreach with Edwards and Dunbar Elementary Schools (Oklahoma City), a public relations campaign within the community to encourage recycling, and a community beautification component to increase awareness of many uses of natural resources. The students will institute a collection program for paper and plastic. Money from the award will be used to purchase classroom bins and poster board for the students to use for their educational campaign around the school.

U.S. Grant High School, Oklahoma City is starting a recycling program. They have the distinction of being the largest school in the Oklahoma City Public School District with approximately 1400 students and 100 teachers and staff. The program is being organized and implemented by two biology teachers at the school. During the school year, approximately 300 biology students will run the program by participating in classroom activities, distributing information to the school and neighborhood and collecting materials. The award funds will purchase collection bins for the classroom and office area, wheeled carts to transport bins and supplies for flyers, posters and name tags for the students.

Westminster School, Oklahoma City is receiving an award of excellence today for their existing recycling and waste reduction programs. Westminster is an independent school with approximately 535 students in grades pre-K through 8th grade. The school curriculum already engages its students in numerous environmental education activities. Students, faculty, staff and parents recycle aluminum cans, plastics, paper and pizza boxes. Money from the award will be used to purchase new containers for collecting items and uniform bins for all of the classrooms. The majority of the funds will be used to purchase new educational materials to promote recycling and waste reduction.

Tonkawa Elementary School, Tonkawa is starting a vermicomposting program to enhance learning opportunities in their outdoor classroom. The students in the S.T.Y.L.E. (Super Talented Young Learners' Education) program came up with the idea of doing this project while they were studying a unit on the benefits of recycling. Money from the award will be used to purchase a worm composter, supplies to operate it, worms and educational materials for the students to use to learn more about vermicomposting. This will be a very "hands on" project. Students will be responsible for collecting food and other waste materials for the worms. The "all natural" fertilizer produced by the worms will be used in their outdoor classroom. Any extra fertilizer will be packaged and sold to the community. All proceeds from the product sales will be invested in the care, maintenance and expansion of the outdoor classroom and worm composting program.

Bishop Kelley High School, Tulsa is working to develop a better paper recycling program. Although the school has been collecting paper for the past few years, the program was underutilized until the fall of 2004 when the Ecology Class took ownership of running it. They collected old cardboard boxes and made attractive recycling bins, raising the awareness and participation from the students and faculty. The next important responsibility they took was to empty the recycling bins around the school on a regular basis. The program has been revived, with the students now collecting almost a ton of paper per month. However, their original collection receptacles are falling apart due to wear and tear from daily use. Sturdier collection receptacles and equipment to help them move paper to the outdoor bin are needed. Money from the award will be used to purchase new paper receptacles in the classrooms and offices and large wheeled containers to transport paper from around the campus to the outdoor collection bin.