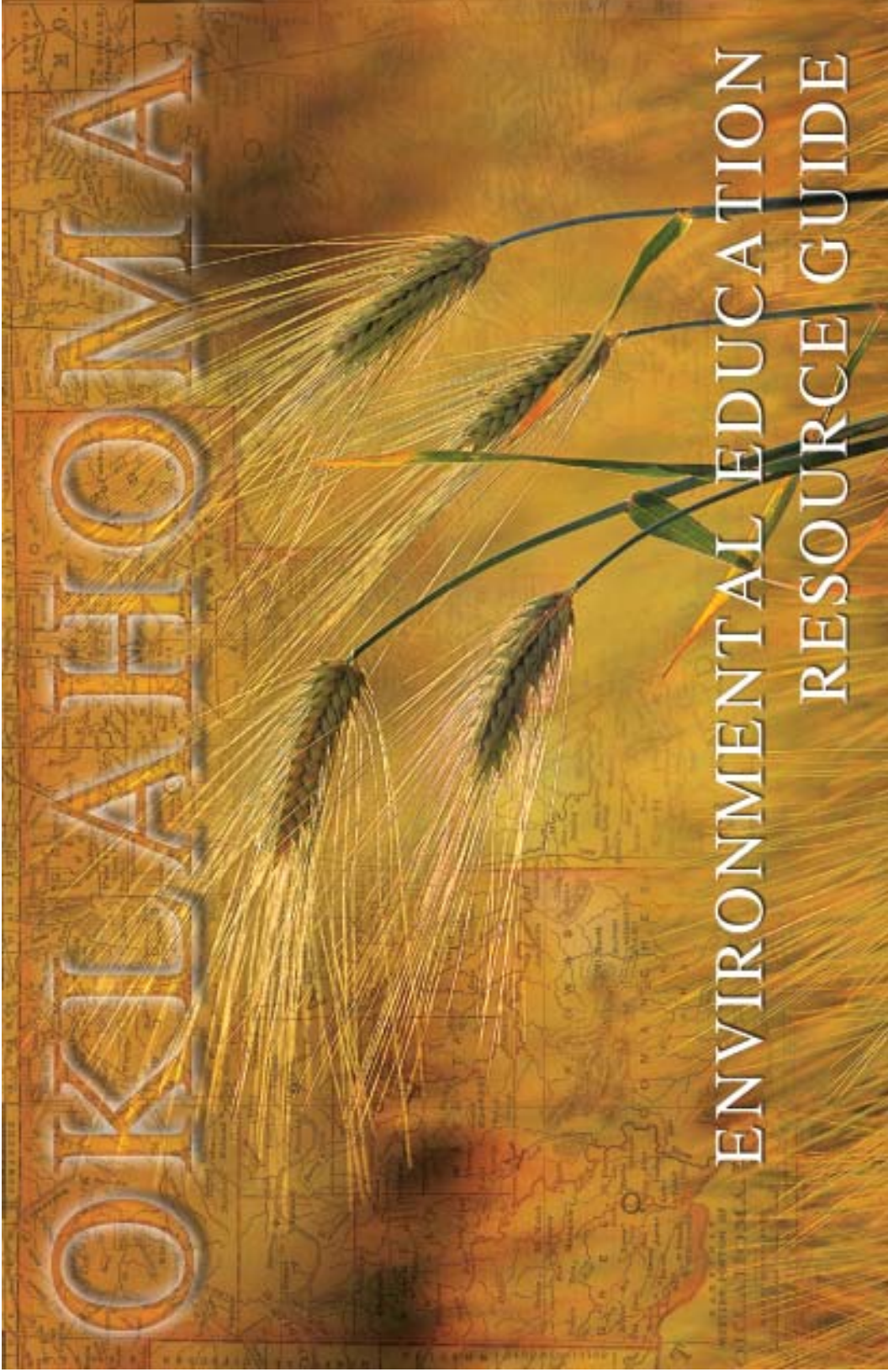


OKLAHOMA

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE



C. MILES TOLBERT
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT



BRAD HENRY
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT

Dear Fellow Oklahoman,

Oklahoma has been blessed with one of the most diverse and unspoiled environments in the United States. From the arid, shortgrass prairies of the panhandle to the swampy lowlands of McCurtain County, Oklahoma's biological and ecological diversity is second to none.

Because of the Dust Bowl experiences of our ancestors, and because of our strong attachment to the land, most Oklahomans are deeply rooted in environmental protection and stewardship principles. In fact, the vast majority of Oklahoma's environmental policy and protection efforts arise from the concerns raised by ordinary citizens. Thus, the State of Oklahoma relies heavily upon its citizenry to identify environmental problems and work toward solutions that ensure long-term restoration and protection of our natural resources.

It is equally true that the biggest impacts on our environment stem from the activities of, and choices made by, each and every Oklahoman. Government agencies alone cannot protect the state's natural resources. Protecting these resources requires instead the cooperation and involvement of every Oklahoman. It is the responsibility of each of us to ensure that our natural resources are protected for generations to come. We are fortunate that there are numerous agencies and organizations that exist to educate the public on ways in which we can all better fulfill our roles as environmental stewards.

Those interested in getting more actively engaged in protecting Oklahoma's environment will find this resource guide invaluable as a starting point for identifying the agencies and organizations across Oklahoma that serve to educate and assist the citizenry. Within these pages, you will find listings of environmental education resources available to you in your pursuit of knowledge about Oklahoma's environment and ways in which you can protect it. It is my sincere hope that you will find everything you need to become a more active and informed citizen steward.

Thank you for your interest in learning more about our natural resources, and thank you for doing your part to make Oklahoma a place that our children and grandchildren will be proud to call home.

Your Fellow Steward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles Tolbert".

Miles Tolbert
Secretary of Environme...



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Blue Thumb

Oklahoma Conservation Commission Water Quality Division

PO Box 53134
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Contact: Kim Shaw
(405)522-4738

www.okcc.state.ok.us/ED/ED_bluethumb.htm

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission has initiated a statewide water pollution education program using tools such as volunteer monitoring, curb marking, watershed education events, and stream clean-ups. Local Blue Thumb chapters are active statewide, in approximately one-third of Conservation Districts.

Blue Thumb information and activities include:

- Volunteer training and monitoring to collect data on local waterbodies and raise community awareness;
- Teacher/student monitoring activities within local schools;
- Brochures covering such topics as proper fertilizer use, flea and tick control, private wellhead protection, and more;
- Blue Thumb Curb-Marking program that enables local volunteers to place the message “Dump No Waste – Drains To River” on storm drain inlets to protect local streams and ponds;
- Watershed educational activities that range from slide presentations to the use of an interactive urban watershed model;
- Stream clean-ups to promote caring for our waterways.

Blue Thumb programs are established through local conservation districts. Contact your conservation district or the Oklahoma Conservation Commission’s Water Quality Division for more information.



Camp Classen YMCA

500 N. Broadway, Suite 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73102-6220

Contact: Albert P. McWhorter
(405) 297-7740
(405) 297-7745 fax

Camp: Rt. 1 Box 47
Davis, OK 73030-9801
(580) 369-2272
(580) 369-2284 fax
www.campclassenymca.org

Offering quality outdoor camping, environmental education, and recreation programs for families, youth campers, schools, and other groups, Camp Classen is located on 2,400 acres of land in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains, with programs operating at Main Camp, 89er Village, and Collings 101 Ranch. The camp has full winterized sleeping, dining and meeting facilities for groups of up to 500 people. The camp features two lakes, over 15 miles of trails through forests and prairies, a large equestrian center, archery, boating, two low challenge courses, zip lines, a nature center, lodge, sports and various science research facilities. The camp trails have full curriculum guides for environmental studies.

A youth camp is offered in the summer. Children age 8-15 may sign up for 1 or 2 week sessions. Summer camp includes fun and traditional camp activities, with quality counseling and program staff.

During the school year, over 10,500 people participate in the outdoor school program. School groups learn through direct experience about nature and group skills,

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through teaching trails, challenge course, and other camp programs.

Weekend family programs serve over 9,500 annually. YMCA Indian Guide and Princess programs, church and youth group retreats, business retreats, and other groups may enjoy the camp.

Groups may book the camp by calling the business office.

Camp Classen YMCA is a branch of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, and is accredited by the American Camping Association.



Central Oklahoma Metropolitan Environmental Association

8730 SE 15th Street
Midwest City, OK 73110

Contact: Eric Long
(405) 739-1371

The Central Oklahoma Metropolitan Environmental Association (COMECA) is an intergovernmental association composed of 27 cities and eight counties working cooperatively to achieve local environmental goals.

Household Hazardous Waste – COMECA, in coordination with The City of Midwest City, operates a permanent drop-off facility for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at the Public Works Transfer Station. The address is 8730 SE 15th Street, Midwest City, Oklahoma. Chemicals from residents of COMECA communities will be accepted at a minimal charge. Non-member cities are also allowed to dispose of HHW at a slight increase in cost. Types of chemicals accepted include: pesticides, herbicides, solvents, paints, and antifreeze. The facility is open by appointment on a daily basis. Call (405)739-1397 for appointments.

COMECA is planning for the addition of a mobile unit that would enhance HHW reduction in the smaller towns.

Composting - COMECA promotes yard waste reduction through a backyard composting program. Because yard waste represents approximately 20% of the residential waste stream, COMECA encourages residents to reduce the amount of waste they generate by reducing the amount of yard waste they set out at the curb. Backyard composting bins are available to area residents at a reduced price. COMECA also sponsors workshops for the beginning composter throughout the metro area.

Phone Book Recycling - COMECA works with Southwestern Bell on Project Re-Directory during July and August.

Community Clean-Ups - COMECA works with member communities to conduct spring clean-up events where residents may dispose of their “hard-to-dispose” of items such as motor oil, batteries, and tires. Many communities lack an on-going program for the disposal of these items and the spring clean-ups are a valued event.

Environmental Education Consultant

Contact: Mary McIntyre Coley
(918)446-6296
mmcint2415@aol.com

Oklahoma “Spirit” Project (also known as Spirit of the Last Great Places) workshops covering Oklahoma’s wide variety of eco-regions are available for staff development, university credit, or as a program for a group. There is a \$10 fee for the accompanying curriculum notebook. Also, a “Sense of Place” power point presentation/program is available, accompanied by a Regaining Sense of Place: Discovery Journal for \$15. The per hour service charge is negotiable. Assistance with writing curriculum grants, etc. is also provided.



Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources

City Of Oklahoma City Storm Water Quality Management

420 W. Main, 7th Floor

Contact: Gary Shockley
(405)297-1774
gary.shockley@ci.okc.ok.us
www.ci.okc.ok.us/pw/storm.html

Oklahoma City, under the direction of the Environmental Protection Agency, began the Storm Water Quality (SWQ) Management program in 1991, guided by the Clean Water Act. The goal is to protect storm water from pollution, which is a particularly complex and difficult environmental problem to manage. Citizens can have either a positive or negative impact on their neighborhood creek, pond or lake. Each is a part of the City's environment and ecology that we are responsible for protecting. The city-wide watershed protection strategy is to promote education, regulation and monitoring programs to improve community waterways.

Erosion and Sediment Control:

Contractors and developers are responsible for permitting and construction auditors inspect all construction sites in an effort to prevent sediment runoff. Workshops are held annually for the development community and an Erosion Control Installers' Certification program is also underway.

Industrial:

The Industrial section permits and audits industrial businesses throughout the city in order to eliminate exposure of industrial materials and products to storm water. An annual workshop is held to inform industrial businesses about the latest regulatory developments and best management practices and to answer questions about the different aspects of the storm water program.

Adults:

Storm Water Quality offers presentations to neighborhood and civic groups to discuss storm water quality, non-point source pollution and opportunities for public involvement. An annual Yard Smart event is held in the spring to teach homeowners about environmental landscaping. This event features a panel of speakers, interactive displays and hands on activities for children.

Youth:

Programs that address urban water quality are available throughout the school year and for summer youth activities. Examples include a hydrologic cycle puzzle, Hoppin' Harry O'KCy mascot, stream hydrology, household hazardous waste identification, portable city display, and an outdoor education event.

Curbs-to-Creeks:

Creeks and storm drains are protected through Oklahoma City's Curbs-to-Creeks program. Volunteers protect their community by placing curb markers on storm drains to reduce improper disposal of household and landscape chemicals.

Adopt-a-City-Street:

Volunteer groups enhance the appearance and environmental quality of their community through scheduled litter pickups throughout the year. For more information contact Becky Durrett at (405) 297-2581.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection:

Oklahoma City citizens may drop off their unwanted home chemicals year-round at the new Citizen's Home Chemical Collection Center. The Center is open Wednesday through Friday each week and every other Saturday morning. A mobile unit is available for individual neighborhood collections.

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Great Plains RC&D

1505 North Glenn English
Cordell, OK 73632

Contact: Larry Wright, Coordinator
Codie Lee, Project Assistant
(580) 832-3661
Larry.Wright@ok.usda.gov
Codieleee@greatplainsrcd.org
www.greatplainsrcd.org

The following programs and resources are available for Oklahoma schools and teachers. These programs are readily available for classroom use in western Oklahoma. The only charge for using these resources may be the return postage on borrowed items. Most of these resources can be requested by contacting the RC&D office, your local conservation district, or USDA Service Center.

Great Plains RC&D newsletter:

The newsletter is four pages of information that concern current project developments, news on RC&D partners and sponsors, council information and developments, and a calendar of events. Newsletter inserts contain more detailed information on specific RC&D projects or developments. Contact the office if you would like to be on the mailing list to receive the Great Plains RC&D News.

Growing Together Trees:

The National Tree Trust sponsors this program nationally. Students are provided a container, seed, soil, and instructions on how to grow a tree from a seed. The RC&D has distributed more than 27,000 tree-growing packages since 1995. This program is available to any Oklahoma schoolteacher.

Conservation Education and Information:

The RC&D Council works mostly with western Oklahoma Conservation Districts

in developing outdoor classrooms and resource days for school age youth. Financial resources have been made available for development of resource sites in five western Oklahoma Conservation Districts.

EnviroScape:

This is a set of five model landscapes that demonstrate the flow of water and show potential nonpoint source pollution hazards and ways to prevent nonpoint source pollution. These models demonstrate the following pollution problems/solutions: Landfills; Hazardous Waste; Groundwater; Riparian and Buffer Strip Areas; Urban/Rural Landscape. These models are made available to western Oklahoma teachers. Others may use them on an "as available" basis.

Solid Waste Information and Education:

Five resource chests and a comprehensive library of solid waste education material are available for checkout by teachers. This library is accumulating an extensive collection of classroom activities and resources teachers can use to supplement existing science and environmental education materials. Any Oklahoma schoolteacher may check out most of these materials. Several interactive computer programs are also available for loan.

The Great Plains RC&D has recently created a Solid Waste Recycling and Education CD-Rom, which is available to all interested at no cost. The CD is broken down by recycling resources, environmental education resources, resources that serve both recycling and environmental education and the Great Plains RC&D library entire inventory. To obtain your free copy of the CD, contact the office at the listed number.

Environmental Science Camp:

The RC&D and North Fork of the Red River Conservation District annually host three one-week science camps for students



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in grades K-9. These camps are held in July of each year at the North Fork Environmental Center located north of Elk City. Certified teachers and staff provide hands-on instruction on the areas of wildlife, forestry, water quality, aquatics, soils, and plants.

Envirothon:

This is a nationally recognized environmental academic competition for students in grades 9-12. Teams of five students work together to compete with other schools in answering critical thinking questions about the environment. Competition consists of hands-on experiences in the field combined with test questions and oral presentations. The RC&D is the statewide coordinator of the Oklahoma State Envirothon Committee. Call the RC&D for information about starting an Envirothon team.

Western Plains Environmental Education Conference:

This conference is held in western Oklahoma annually by several environmentally based organizations and businesses. The conference focuses on providing teachers and locally elected officials with current training and information on important environmental issues. The conference is held each spring, usually late May or early June.

Forestry Education and Training:

The RC&D Council has compiled an Urban Forestry Curriculum Guide for teachers in grades K-12. This guide is available free of charge for teachers participating in Project Learning Tree (PLT) workshops. In addition, the RC&D Council sponsors PLT workshops annually.

Wetlands Education Resources:

The RC&D Council has a wetlands resource trunk available for teachers to use in their classroom or outdoor education area. This trunk contains animal tracks, publications to identify animal and plant life, and general information about wetlands.



INCOG

201 West 5th Street
Tulsa, OK 74103

Contact: (918) 584-7526
www.inco.org

INCOG, a regional council of governments, serves approximately fifty cities and towns and four counties in northeastern Oklahoma. INCOG provides community planning and economic development, comprehensive planning, transportation planning, development coordination, environmental and engineering services, research and data, mapping and graphics, rural fire protection coordination, and legislative program coordination.

INCOG's Environmental and Engineering Services Division helps local governments manage clean water and clean air programs. INCOG works with local and state agencies to develop comprehensive air and water quality education programs, which are designed to maximize the effectiveness of public involvement and support. A variety of environmental education programs are offered in topics ranging from water and air quality issues and concepts to special studies and programs conducted by INCOG staff.

Water Quality

INCOG helps local governments to maximize the use of ground and surface water resources and assists member governments in planning, management and compliance of state and federal water quality standards. Local governments may request technical assistance on topics such as sewage effluent standards for NPDES permits and water treatment analyses.

INCOG's technical assistance to member municipalities includes modeling to determine the most cost efficient effluent

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quality for a sewage treatment plant facility meeting stringent state and federal water regulations. Additionally, INCOG may assist in reviewing discharge allocations for municipalities and performing surface water quality modeling. Project activities may include regional sampling of water bodies for total maximum daily load (TMDL) estimations.

The recent EPA regulation, Phase II Stormwater, requires municipalities to develop and implement stormwater pollution prevention programs focusing on best management practices. Working with local governments, INCOG will soon implement a comprehensive water quality education program targeting construction site operators, commercial industries, schools, city and county staff and the general public. INCOG will produce signs to be posted in public places about watershed and stream protection as well as signs for posting on city property to educate city staff about stormwater and good housekeeping practices. INCOG will develop give-away items with water quality logos such as pens and key chains to be distributed at public events. INCOG will provide annual regional training for city staff and Public Works crews using water quality modules.

INCOG frequently hosts committee meetings for stormwater, public works and environmental policy. INCOG staff makes frequent presentations to city and county staff, city councils and County commissions about key water quality issues. INCOG is developing a regional stormwater website that will benefit all Phase II stormwater cities and the general public in the Tulsa area.

As part of regional Homeland Security, INCOG will begin a grant supported project to study how the different types of wastewater treatment plants used by INCOG members are affected by the clandestine introduction of chemical, biological and radiological toxic agents. This project supports an EPA priority to

determine wastewater system vulnerability regarding terrorism, vandalism and other malicious acts.

Air Quality Educational And Outreach Programs

K-12 Outdoor Air Quality Curriculum—INCOG has compiled a Tulsa specific K-12 Outdoor Air Quality Curriculum that includes lesson plans, activities, overheads and chapter reviews. This curriculum is designed to introduce students to the subjects of atmosphere, weather and air pollution. It is designed to supplement science classes, or can be used in its totality, or teachers may choose only those subjects in which they are most interested. The curriculum is broken down into three sections: Grades K-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12 with coloring books for Grades K-2. Tulsa area air quality programs, as identified below, are detailed in the curriculum which is available on the web at www.e-tulsa.net or hard copies are available free of charge by contacting INCOG.

Contact for K-12 Outdoor Air Quality Curriculum:
Rachel Firmansjah
INCOG
201 W. 5th Street, Suite 600
Tulsa, OK 74103
918/584-7526
rfirmansjah@incog.org

Tulsa Area Ozone Alert! Program—INCOG's award winning Ozone Alert! Program predicts days when atmospheric conditions may cause an exceedance of the EPA's ozone standard. This advance prediction and notification system allows the public and business community to take measures to reduce ozone formation. INCOG coordinates and educates several hundred local business and neighborhood Ozone Alert! Program volunteer coordinators who bring to the community a variety of voluntary Ozone Alert! Day emission reduction programs. WWW.OZONEAlert.Com webpage



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provides real-time ozone data, Alert! Day notification and up-to-date information on the program.

Tulsa Area RideShare Program— INCOG's Tulsa Area RideShare Program is a regional commuter services program. The program was developed to help alleviate air pollution by reducing the number of single occupant vehicles traveling on our roadways. The RideShare Program works with local businesses, organizations and schools to develop Employer Based Commuter Benefits and Services. The RideShare Program maintains a database of local individual commuters interested in carpooling and uses computerized matching software to develop "match-lists." During June, the Tulsa Area RideShare Program hosts the state award-winning event, Commute Another Way Day where more than 150 commuters carpool, bike, walk or take the bus.

Contact for Tulsa Area RideShare:
Rachel Firmansjah
INCOG
201 W. 5th Street, Suite 600
Tulsa, OK 74103
918-584-7526
rfirmansjah@incog.org

Tulsa Area Clean Cities Program— INCOG serves as the coordinator of the Tulsa Area Clean Cities Program, designed to bring together key "stakeholders" to enhance the economy, protect the environment and provide for energy security by the local expansion of alternative fuel vehicle (AFVs) use. Stakeholders include fuel suppliers, vehicle manufacturers, fleet managers, utilities, environmental and health groups, as well as state and local governments. The Tulsa Area Clean Cities Coalition is one of more than 80 such coalitions across the nation. More than 1,800 stakeholders nationwide have joined Clean Cities to help build the local alternative fuels market, improve air

quality, stimulate the local economy and increase public awareness of alternative fuels.

Contact for Tulsa Clean Cities:
Lori Russell
Tulsa Area Clean Cities
201 W. 5th, Suite 600
Tulsa, OK 74103
918-584-7526
lruessel@incog.org

CDBG Environmental Studies

INCOG has an ongoing program of administering Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs for INCOG members. These CDBG programs include infrastructure improvements, housing rehabilitation, and enhancement of local services such as fire protection and senior citizen centers. An essential component of the grant requirement is the development of an environmental review record, which determines the environmental impact of the proposed grant project.

Transportation Planning Division

INCOG's Transportation Planning Division coordinates transportation planning in Tulsa County and parts of Creek, Osage, Rogers and Wagoner Counties. As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Tulsa Transportation Management area, INCOG brings federal, state and local governments and transportation modal agencies together in a cooperative effort to assess and develop comprehensive, multi-modal transportation plans and programs which serve the needs of the local communities. Interwoven in INCOG's comprehensive transportation planning is a broad-based environmental component. INCOG administers a variety of congestion mitigation and air quality management programs including the development of a regional comprehensive master trail plan developed and designed to link Tulsa with its surrounding communities.

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Keep Oklahoma Beautiful



1309 Rockwood Drive
Edmond, OK 73013

Contact: Gail Ederer
(405) 844-6543
info@keepoklahomabeautiful.com
www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) is a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to encourage, promote, and assist individual and/or group efforts in the areas of beautification, enhancement and preservation of Oklahoma's environment. Its work is directed and accomplished by members of a diverse board who serve voluntarily.

KOB maintains a website at www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com which has become the center of its information-sharing network. Litter abatement, beautification, and environmental responsibility are the objectives of each KOB project, presentation and brochure. As a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, KOB promotes participation annually in the Great American Cleanup®.

Additionally, every year, KOB presents a statewide, affordable conference which provides ample opportunities and for information exchange. The KOB environmental excellence awards competition is held each year where the "best of the best" are honored for their accomplishments and contributions to a better Oklahoma. The prestigious awards are announced at the KOB Recognition Banquet, held in conjunction with the annual conference.

Special information, educational materials and referrals for assistance are available through the KOB board of directors and sponsoring members.

Kirkpatrick Science and Air Space Museum at Omniplex



2100 NE 52nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Contact: Education Department
(405) 602-3762
www.omniplex.org

Omniplex offers grade-specific hands-on classes for grades 1-12. These classes may explore the fragile rainforest ecosystem, Oklahoma's energy resources, or recycling, plus many other opportunities to learn more about the environment and human interactions.

Omniplex has a variety of interactive exhibits that explore relationships between humans and the environment. Visit one on recycling that uses an interactive computer with a fun-filled trivia game that helps visitors learn more about the recycling process and landfills. Also visit the Geovator in the Energy Quest exhibit group, the Green Arcade exhibits on horticulture, agriculture, and nutrition, the Greenhouse and Gardens, and many more.

Admission for school groups to the Kirkpatrick Science and Air Space Museum at Omniplex is \$4.00 per student with free admission for one sponsor per five students. Admission to Omniplex includes access to the entire museum as well as a class for your group. If you want your students to attend more than one class, these are available for a small additional fee. Your school group can also attend a movie in the OmniDome Theater for \$4.75 per student and \$6.00 per adult. Call now and reserve your class visit to the Omniplex.

Omniplex also offers hands-on professional development workshops for teachers. A full listing of these workshops is available in the Educational Class Guide. These workshops can be paid for with Title II funds; check with your Title II coordinator. If you and your colleagues want a workshop



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on a topic we have not addressed, please give the Education Director a call at 405-602-3682 to discuss special topics presentations.

If you need a new Omniplex Educational Class Guide listing all of the programs available, please call the Education Department.

Little River Zoo

3405 SE 120th Avenue
Norman, OK 73026

Contact: Angie Savage
(405) 366-7229
littleriverzoo@msn.com
www.littleriverzoo.com

Little River Zoo is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing educational experiences that promote compassion, respect for life, and conservation. It is a zoo about Life — our lives and all of life on the planet. Unlike traditional zoos, Little River Zoo seeks to close the distance between humans and animals, while acknowledging and encouraging the need to emotionally connect to the natural world. Some of these basic premises are very different from a traditional zoo philosophy. While also having the goal of conservation, Little River Zoo's focus on Humane Education elevates that goal to a new level, which is to help people develop empathy and compassion for other people and animals as well as a respect for the environment. Many of the animals at Little River Zoo are displaced pets or rescued animals that have found a permanent home at the zoo, a place where their stories can impact visitors and touch their lives.

By incorporating the principles of Humane Education, Norman's Little River Zoo provides an incredible opportunity for children of all ages to develop an appreciation, sensitivity and respect for fellow beings - animal as well as human. The overall goal of Humane Education is to foster a sense of empathy and

compassion for other people and animals, as well as respect for the environment. Humane Education teaches children responsibility, self control, self esteem, and develops the ability to make decisions based on the welfare of others as well as themselves.

Programs On-Site

Little River Zoo is open every day from 10am-5pm. Every visitor to the zoo receives a guided tour, one that provides species information as well as a personal and up-close look at the animals that live here. Little River Zoo tour guides are specially trained to answer questions and encourage a two-way experience between the animals and visitors, making guests feel part of the experience rather than a mere observer. Groups of 15 or more who schedule at least one week in advance are given a discount admission rate, their own tour guide, and feed for the barnyard area. Picnic facilities are on-site, and for a nominal fee the zoo will provide group lunches. Concessions are available for general zoo guests.

Outreach

Our educational outreach program *You Can Make A Difference* is widely used in area schools as a method of teaching children that no matter how small the contribution made, they can still make a difference. They are taught about recycling, the detriments of littering, and how they, especially as children, play an important role in saving the planet. Fostering this sense of responsibility is one of the main goals of the program. We also offer outreach programs to schools, churches and community groups.

For more information on the programs listed below, please contact the zoo at (405)366-7229, or explore the zoo's web site at www.littleriverzoo.com.

- Animal Tracks
- Sing Along with "CiCi"
- You Can Make a Difference

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- Habitat is Where the Home is
- Predators
- Web of Life
- Rainforest
- Animal Safari

Junior Zookeeper

The Junior Zookeeper program is offered throughout the year. This program is designed to let our youth interact with animals in a natural “hands-on” environment while providing an incredible opportunity for children ages 6 through 14 to develop an appreciation of, and sensitivity to fellow beings and nature itself. Children learn the basics of being a Zookeeper and have opportunities to interact with and care for a variety of animals that reside at the Zoo. Jr. Zookeepers will be able to work with real Zookeepers who have dedicated their lives to protecting the environment and the animals under their care. Some of the activities include hiking along the trails of the Zoo’ future wetlands, making enrichment toys for the animals, learning basic animal care, and developing social skills to carry with them for a lifetime.

Special Events

Kids For Kindness Festival

The Little River Zoo Kids for Kindness Festival is celebrated in conjunction with Earth Day, and is designed to encourage children to actively protect and care for animals and the environment. It is based on Humane Education with a curriculum of activities designed to connect children with the natural world, teach respect for all life, and to promote nonviolence. After they complete a variety of activities at the Festival, the children graduate to become Official Ambassadors for the Planet Earth. The Little River Zoo, free of charge, presents this Festival to all children in the community.

The Metropolitan Environmental Trust



201 West 5th, Suite 600
Tulsa, OK 74103

Contact: Michael Patton
(918) 584-0584
met@MetRecycle.com
www.metrecycle.com

The Metropolitan Environmental Trust (The M.e.t.) is a public trust authority with nine beneficiary governments. The M.e.t. provides solid waste planning for its participating communities which includes:

Education

Mr. Patton is available for speeches on solid waste issues such as reduce, reuse, recycling, packaging, landfills, and similar topics.

CH2M Hill Solid Waste Characterization and Waste Reduction/Recycling Study, (Sept. 1992) can be made available for loan or can be purchased for \$50.

The M.e.t. *Household Consumer's Recycling Directory* is updated yearly and lists the recycling opportunities in the Tulsa area as well as where to purchase recycled products.

The *Office Recycling Guide* was designed for area businesses that want to begin recycling.

Various brochures are available including: *Waste Not—Your Guide to Recycling*, *Recycling Plastic Bottles is Easy*, *Finding Safer Alternatives to Pollutants in the Home*, *Compost: Pile It On*, *Why Waste Your Yard Waste?*

Programs

Recycling Depot Program—The M.e.t. operates twelve recycling drop-off centers open seven days a week and contracts with agencies that hire and train individuals with disabilities to oversee the centers. Items accepted for recycling are; aluminum cans, glass, plastic 1 and 2 bottles, newspaper, office paper, magazines, used motor oil, antifreeze, household and car batteries. The M.e.t. centers now accept eyeglasses, hearing aids and steel cans.



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Household Pollutant Program—The M.e.t. conducts an area-wide household hazardous waste collection program in spring and fall each year.

Friends Program—The M.e.t., being a non-profit agency, designed this program for volunteer and fund raising opportunities. Under the Friend's membership, T-shirts, hats, mugs, and promotional items are available for a nominal fee.

Yard Waste—Compost and mulching seminars and demonstrations are conducted on an event basis.

Special Events

The M.e.t. assists in special events such as the collection of phone books and Christmas trees, and helps in Earth Day activities. Maintains a list of Earth Day events available on their website, MetRecycle.com. The M.e.t. sponsors related environmental activities with organizations like the Tulsa Zoo.

Community Advisement

The M.e.t. staff prepares documentation to TARE, Tulsa Chamber Environmental Task Force. The M.e.t. is a research tool for member communities on solid waste ordinance and landfill gas research projects and issues.



Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education (OKAEE)

www.okaee.org

The mission of OKAEE is to support Oklahoma educators and promote, in formal and non-formal settings, environmental literacy through communication, resource sharing, skill building, and recognition of excellence. OKAEE produces a quarterly newsletter

in partnership with the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee and holds an environmental education awards competition and presentation annually. OKAEE also organizes the EE Expo, a conference primarily for educators.

Oklahoma City Zoo Education Department



2101 NE 50th
Oklahoma City, OK 73111
405/425-0288
www.okczoo.com

You can **go wild** in our classroom! Animal encounters, activities, discovery, inquiry, interdisciplinary crafts, and so much more — we've got an educational adventure for everybody! And what better way to make positive connections with nature than to make tracks to the Oklahoma City Zoo Education Department. We offer programs for:

- schools
- teachers
- after school
- homeschool
- families
- toddlers
- scouts
- summer camps
- outreach
- overnight snoozes
- birthday parties

We also have opportunities for volunteers, resources for teachers, and a great location for your next get-together.

Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources



Oklahoma Conservation Commission



2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 160
Oklahoma City, OK 72105

Contact: Karla Beatty
(405) 521-2384
karlab@okcc.state.ok.us
www.okcc.state.ok.us

The Conservation Commission's Environmental Education Program has been in existence since 1975. The program's main thrust and purpose is to educate Oklahoma's school children (K through 12) about the environment and, in particular, soil and water conservation practices. The program is designed primarily to train teachers rather than instructing students directly; however, some direct training of students is conducted using the network of 88 conservation districts across the state. Conservation Districts are the local contact for educators. Each district can provide technical assistance and some will provide additional educational materials. Districts also have soil survey books and a variety of brochures relating to soil and water conservation. The Commission and district personnel can assist with the development of outdoor classroom sites at individual schools. District personnel can assist with the development of these sites by providing technical assistance, construction of ponds and wetlands, plant identification and by awarding mini-grants. Commission personnel can also assist with the development of site, curriculum development and teacher training.

The Commission is also involved with three international environmental education programs: Project WET (Water Education for Teachers), Project WILD and Project Learning Tree. These programs are supplemental to educators' existing curricula. For more information on these programs see individual listings in this publication.

The Oklahoma Environmental Quality Act of 1992 assigned the Commission with the responsibility to coordinate environmental education throughout the state. Under this mandate, the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee (OKEECC) was formed. The committee has achieved success in environmental education through cooperation, coordination, networking, and the initiation of new programs. The formation of this committee has eliminated duplication of efforts and created a strong model for cooperation among state agencies. For more information on the OKEECC, see the individual listing in this publication.

Resources

Educational resources are available through the local conservation districts or directly from the Commission. These include video and CD-Rom programs focusing on soil and water conservation and other natural resources; resource trunks on wetlands and pond/stream biology; groundwater flow models.

Oklahoma Consortium for Environmental Literacy (OKCEL)

www.okcel.org

The Oklahoma Consortium for Environmental Literacy (OCEL), funded by a national grant, has developed an EE survey for Oklahomans and is trying to get a diverse sample of respondents to find out where people now get their information on the environment and what they feel is needed in that area. This is a grant to promote diversity and inclusion in Oklahoma's EL efforts, and reaches out to previously unserved and underserved segments of the population. Regional leadership training events are held for all persons interested in furthering EL or working on a local environmental project in their region.



Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources



Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

139 Agriculture Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078

Contact: Sam E. Curl
(405) 744-5398

The Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service produces a wide range of educational materials and programs addressing environmental issues. County Extension Centers have access to state-of-the-art teleconferencing equipment and can provide down-link sites for regional and national programs. Educational programs are based in academic departments of Oklahoma State University. The initial point of contact for most Extension programs is the County Extension Center.

Water Quality:

Contact: Michael Smolen
(405) 744-5653.

Fact sheets, handbooks, and brochures, slide and PowerPoint presentations, environmental curricula, educational models, and educators to address technical and general topics are available from County Extension Centers and the campus-based Water Quality Program Coordinator. Educational models available for checkout include four **Stream Trailers**, transparent ground water models, the **Sewer-in-a-Suitcase**, **Carry Creek** for aquatic macroinvertebrates and fish, and a rainfall-erosion model. A broad range of educational programs are available including protection and treatment of drinking water through the **Oklahom*A*Syst** program, storm water management, pollution prevention, nonpoint source pollution control, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), and environmental policy. Contact: Michael Smolen Phone: (405) 744-5653, Email: smolen@okstate.edu, Website: <http://waterquality.okstate.edu>.

Pesticide Application Education:

Contact: Jim Criswell
(405) 744-9418.

Pesticide selection guides, short courses for certification of commercial, non-commercial and private users, fact sheets, and speakers to address technical and specialized audiences are available from County Extension Offices or the Pesticide Coordinator. Pesticide education programs stress safe, environmentally responsible use of pesticide in both rural and urban settings. Contact: Jim T Criswell (405)744-5531; e-mail: jtc@okstate.edu; web page: <http://pested.okstate.edu>

Integrated Pest Management:

Contact: Pat Bolin
(405) 744-9420

Fact sheets, handbooks, workshops and short courses on management alternatives to chemical pesticide use (including biological control), and speakers to address technical and general audiences are available from a team of IPM specialists. Contact: Pat Bolin, 405-744-9420, bolin@okstate.edu

Environmental and Natural Resource Policy:

Contact: Larry Sanders
lsander@okstate.edu
(405) 744-9834

Fact sheets, educational videos, and speakers are available to provide educational programs addressing the policy process, public involvement in policy making, and implications of environmental policy and regulations for natural resource managers. Annual policy conferences held across the state include updates on environmental and natural resource policy issues.

Grazing Lands Ecology and Management:

Contact: Terry Bidwell
TBidwell@okstate.edu
(405) 744-6421.

Educational programs are available on a wide variety of subjects related to the sustainable use of rangeland for livestock production, wildlife production, biological diversity and watersheds. Fact sheets,

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circulars and books are available on native plant identification, managing for wildlife, using prescribed fire, understanding plant and animal ecology, and managing livestock grazing. The National Range Judging Contest activity "Judging Rangeland for Wildlife and Livestock Values" can be used in outdoor classrooms to give students the opportunity to learn about soils, native plants, native animals, and their interaction with grazing by large herbivores such as bison or cattle. A Field Guide to the Range and Forest Understory Plants of Oklahoma: Their Use by Wildlife and Livestock can be used to identify native plants and acquaint students with their ecology and use.

Oklahoma Aqua Times:

Contact: Oklahoma 4-H Office
(405) 744-8887 or 8885

This is a water resources curriculum targeted to grades three through six. The package consists of five units complete with teacher/leader guide, videos, student newspapers, and evaluation tool. Activities relate to math, science, language arts, creative arts, creative thinking, and social studies. These materials are available from County Extension Centers.

Caring for Planet Earth:

Contact: (405) 744-8885.

This school enrichment program is designed for grades three through six and addresses such issues as household and solid wastes, forests, wildlife, and air and water quality. Each of the seven lessons contains background information, vocabulary, and activities that reinforce skills in mathematics, language arts, social studies and science. Materials are available from County Extension Center.

Solid Waste Management:

Contact: Gerald Doekson
(405) 744-6081

Education and technical assistance programs are available for assisting communities and tribes with their waste collection and disposal programs, including landfill issues. Feasibility studies are performed on request to investigate the costs associated with landfills, convenience centers, transfer stations, recycling centers

and collection systems. Fact sheets, videos, and other materials addressing topics such as composting, recycling, waste reduction, etc. are available from county offices and/or the websites:

Fact sheets and materials database
www.osuextra.com

Waste Management - www.rd.okstate.edu/waste

Contacts: Gerald Doeksen - 405-744-6081
or Sarah Kimball - 405-744-9827, email:
kimball@okstate.edu

Forestry, Wildlife, and Aquaculture:

Contact: Bill Ross
rossw@okstate.edu
Kenneth Hitch
hitchk@okstate.edu
Marley Beem
beem@okstate.edu
(405) 744-6432.

Fact sheets and other educational materials, programs, slides, videotapes, and field demonstrations are available on a wide variety of subjects, including forest management, urban forestry, conservation practices, forest stewardship, water quality, wood products, and aquaculture. Included also are materials and programs about wildlife management, fire ecology, and recreational leasing.

Oklahoma Natural Resources Speakers Bureau:

Contact: William Ross
(405) 744-9431

A reference guide is available which lists 72 natural resource professionals in Oklahoma who are qualified and willing to speak on a variety of environmental issues. The 43-page booklet contains a list of audio visual aids available from Extension and the Soil Conservation Service. Speaker lists are provided by county and subject matter.

Risk Communication and Environmental Conflict Management:

Contact: Larry Sanders
(405) 744-9834
Sue Williams



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Sarah Kirby
(405) 744-6825

Specialists trained in risk communication and conflict resolution can provide resource materials and present workshops for individuals or groups facing conflicts arising from environmental issues.

Fact sheets, videos, slides, written materials and speakers are available to provide educational support on these topics.



Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-1000
www.deq.state.ok.us

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was created January 1, 1993, as a result of environmental legislation in 1992. DEQ administers environmental rules concerning air quality, hazardous waste, solid waste, water quality, environmental laboratory services & certification, radiation management and other programs and functions specified in the Oklahoma Environmental Quality Code. As a part of DEQ's mission – for a clean, attractive, prosperous Oklahoma, DEQ places a high priority on providing Oklahoma citizens with rapid responses to environmental issues and quality public information. It also works to build and implement innovative programs to promote and educate pollution prevention, waste reduction and recycling. DEQ also assists teachers, students and the public about environmental education and information areas. The DEQ has many resources available to the public.

Air Quality Division (405) 702-4100

Contacts: Melissa Sims
melissa.sims@deq.state.ok.us
Toni Payne
toni.payne@deq.state.ok.us

DEQ's Air Quality Environmental Education Committee provides useful information about air quality issues in Oklahoma. The Committee educates the public about these issues through presentations and development of new informational materials and activities. Upon request, Air Quality personnel will come to your school or environmental fair to provide presentations on air quality issues. Presentations are tailored to your target audience and use an interactive approach.

Air Quality Publications

- What You Can Do To Reduce Air Pollution – published by EPA, is a citizen's guide to what individuals and communities can do to help meet the goals of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.
- About Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect – a pamphlet which provides an overview on global warming, its relationship to the greenhouse effect, possible results and tips on protecting the environment and conserving energy.
- Needed: Clean Air – discusses the importance of clean air. It includes the major pollutants and their health effects, worldwide effect, sources of pollution, pollution prevention, and the Clean Air Act.
- Understanding Air Pollution in Oklahoma is a comic book developed to provide general information about the criteria pollutants and explains how these pollutants are monitored.
- Let's Get to Know Our Environment! is an educational booklet that provides environmental information, activities, and experiments. It includes sections on air, water, recycling, and natural resources. Easy experiments provide a hands-on approach to learning.
- Look What's Coming Down the Road – a Whole New Generation of Passenger Vehicles, published by the Dept. of Energy, is a brochure which provides information on alternative vehicles and their effect on air quality.

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- **Health Effects of Outdoor Pollution** – published by the American Lung Association, is a booklet that includes information on the health effects of common outdoor pollutants. It also includes a section on the Clean Air Act.
- **Alternative Energy for Oklahoma** – a brochure developed to educate the public about the importance of using alternative energy forms.
- **AQI- What is the Air Quality Index** – a brochure that explains the criteria for reporting the Air Quality Index, the health effects of each level and what you can do to reduce air pollution.
- **10 Simple Steps to Improving Air Quality- Handout** designed to help individuals make the right choices when it comes to protecting air quality.

Lead-Based Paint

The Oklahoma Lead-Based Paint Management Act designates the Department of Environmental Quality as the official agency for implementing the Lead-Based Paint Management Program. The Department operates a certification and accreditation program. Certification is required of all individuals and firms who offer and/or perform lead-based paint services. Accreditation is required of all educational institutions that provide lead-based paint training for certification purposes. The Department charges nonrefundable fees for certification and accreditation services.

Customer Services Division Public Information, Publications, & Graphics Office

Contact: Denise Harkins
(405) 702-1010
denise.harkins@deq.state.ok.us

Customer Services Division supports customers inside and outside DEQ through two major sections, the State Environmental Laboratory and the Customer Assistance Program. The Customer Assistance Program provides

help by answering questions about programs for air, water and solid or hazardous waste. To access those who can promptly address your concerns, use the Customer Services hotline number: 1-800-869-1400.

The State Environmental Laboratory provides analytical support to programs within DEQ, to other state agencies, to public water supply systems and to citizens who request services. The Customer Services Division also houses the agency quality assurance/quality control officer and the laboratory certification program.

The Customer Assistance Program also houses these programs: Pollution Prevention (P2), Small Business Assistance, and Risk Communication. In addition to these specific programs we provide agency-wide information and services to local government, business and citizens.

Also within Customer Services is the Public Information, Publications, & Graphics Office. It supports all agency environmental education programs in addition to various general agency programs. As part of this agency's continuing effort to be proactive and aggressive in solving environmental problems, the office of Publications, Public Information & Graphics was formed and is evolving into a one-stop-shop for public information, publications and web site development. This office is organized as a response to an explosion of informational needs and an overwhelming amount of competitive information in the news and on the Internet for the public's attention about environmental issues.

This group provides

- Public information including all aspects of public relations
- Electronic communications (file sharing and web site development)
- Publications
- Graphics
- And the overall public image of the agency



Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources

All Publications and Fact Sheets listings are available on the DEQ web site. On the DEQ main page in the lower right corner one can see the links to these pages. Hard copies are available upon request, or print them right off of the web page.

Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division

(405) 702-6100
1-800-522-0206

Contact: Karen Hrbacek
(405) 702-6196

This section of the DEQ presents environmental resource education programs, plans and organizes school recycling projects, conducts waste reduction workshops, assists schools with solid waste grant programs, provides information to schools about the annual anti-litter poster contest, and performs classroom seminars and demonstrations with a recycling trunk.

ECLS Publications

- Chapter 641 Individual and Small Public On-Site Sewage Disposal Systems
- Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems
- Evapotranspiration/Absorption Sewage Disposal Systems
- Aerobic Sewage Disposal Systems
- Constructed Wetland Sewage Disposal Systems
- Soil Test Set Up Instructions
- Subsurface and Surface Drains for Protections of Groundwater and Septic Systems
- Caring for Your On-Site Septic System
- Surfacing Sewage and its effects on our environment
- Trouble with Your Lateral Field?
- Water Conservation for the Bathroom

- Water Conservation for the Kitchen
- Water Conservation Outdoors
- Disinfection of individual water wells

Environmental Complaints Program Publications

- Open Dumping
- Illegal Roadside Dumps
- Proper Handling & Disposal of Vehicle Wastes
- Composting
- Guidelines for Brush Disposal
- Reclamation Projects
- Procedures for the Remediation of Diesel and Gasoline Spills
- Open Burning
- Fugitive Dust and its Effects on Our Environment
- Surfacing Sewage

Land Protection Division Environmental Education and Special Projects

(405) 702-5100

Contacts: Susie Shields
(405) 702-5166
susie.shields@deq.state.ok.us
Bryce Hulsey
(405)702-5170
bryce.hulsey@deq.state.ok.us

The Land Protection Division is charged with the regulation of the movement and disposal of solid and hazardous waste within the state to reduce the risk of contamination or pollution. In addition, this division regulates radiation waste management, groundwater protection, and it oversees cleanup of Superfund sites. Land Protection Division also houses the Environmental Education program, which coordinates agency environmental education for K-12, higher education and

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the general public. This group provides education grants, recycling assistance, waste reduction assistance for schools and communities.

Land Protection Publications

- 59 Ways to Help Keep Oklahoma Beautiful – suggestions to reduce, reuse, recycle, respond, & conserve energy and water to help preserve the environment
- Aerosol Cans – How to properly dispose of aerosol cans
- America Recycles Day Information Packets
- Automotive Waste – Recycling used motor oil, draining an oil filter, hard to handle waste and table of waste types with information on each
- Community Gardening Checklist – how to start and maintain a community garden
- ECO Views – Environmental tips about air, water and waste for students (newsletter format)
- EnvironMentor - newsletter for teachers and other educators published 3 times each year; contains environmental resources, grants, events and workshop opportunities
- Fact Sheet: Basics of Backyard Composting
- Household Hazardous Waste – What is it? What does it do? How do you know? Hard to handle waste disposal, and a table with the substance, problem, proper disposal, and alternative to product (see Recipes for Safe Alternatives)
- How to Build a Compost Bin
- How to Compost School Waste
- How to Make a Locker Clean-Out An Environmental Event
- Let Worms Eat Your Garbage – worm composting “how-to” for homes or classrooms
- Litter-Free Events – “how-to” guide for schools and groups
- Make Every Day a Waste-Free Lunch Day – “how-to” guide for schools and groups
- Household Pollutant Inventory Sheet (only available on website)
- Meth Lab Clean-up
- Paper Recycling Fact Sheet: DEQ Challenges You! – facts about paper recycling
- Procedures for the Remediation of Diesel & Gasoline Spills
- Recycling Fact Sheet: Do You Have Two Minutes a Day? – facts about a variety of household recyclables
- Proper Handling and Disposal of Vehicle Wastes
- Recycling Glossary – definitions for recycling terms (only available on website)
- Recycling: Implementation Plan for School Recycling Program
- Recycling: Solid Waste Resources Packet – list of classroom materials, audio-visual aids, school compost resources, periodicals, books, web sites, technical and educational contact names
- Recycling: Directory of Oklahoma Recyclers – statewide index of recycling collectors (only available on website)
- Recycling: Overview of Oklahoma Recycling Industries – list of companies using recycled commodities in manufacturing products (only available on website)
- Safe Alternatives For Common Household Products
- School Guide for Recycling and Litter Prevention – how to organize, promote and maintain a school recycling program and litter prevention activities



Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources

- Slash School Trash/Environmental Report Card for Schools
- Solid Waste Curriculum for grades K-6 – Recycling/waste reduction; composting/ vermin-composting; litter
- Superfund Reports – Annual reports
- Sustainability Curriculum Units for Middle School & High School – Classroom activities to accompany books: *Our Ecological Footprint*, *Reducing Human Impacts on the Earth* by Wackernagel and Rees, *Ishmael* by Daniel Quinn, *Stuff, the Secret Lives of Everyday Things* by Ryan and Durning, *Green Teacher* units and more
- Use Less Stuff Campaign – electronic articles to use as press releases or in newsletters on such topics as: composting, household pollutants, how to have a green Christmas, handling post-holiday clutter, ozone, don't bag it (grass clippings), environmental tips for Earth Day, the secret life of hamburgers, computers, potatoes, coffee and more
- Use Less Stuff/America Recycles Day Project Ideas for Schools
- Use Less Stuff Resources – list of books, periodicals, sustainability education websites, stop junk mail, and more
- Use Less Stuff newsletters & PowerPoint presentation (available on the DEQ web site.)
- Decals: 3"x3" (1) "*Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*" and (2) "*Use Less Stuff*"; 3"x6" "*You Dump It, You Drink It*"
- Posters: 11x17 posters include (1) bright yellow background with blue letters "*Use Less Stuff*" in the center and (2) seasonal panels on blue background with wording "*Make Every Day America Recycles Day.*"
- "Keep Our Land Grand" posters and calendars from the winners of this statewide contest are available annually

Water Quality Division

Contact: Ilda Hershey
ilda.hershey@deq.state.ok.us
Regina Clear
regina.clear@deq.state.ok.us
(405) 702-8100

The primary function of Water Quality Division is to maintain clean water for Oklahoma by regulating facilities that produce and distribute public drinking water and that treat, transport, store, and discharge wastewater. In addition to regulating facilities, this division is also responsible, in cooperation with other state agencies, for maintaining water quality standards in Oklahoma's lakes, rivers, and streams.

Water Quality Publications

- Alternate Water Sources for PWS Emergencies
- Annual Compliance Report (provides information on the quality of water in Oklahoma)
- Arsenic in Drinking Water
- Disaster Preparedness – Storing Water for Emergencies
- Disinfection of Water Wells and Water Service Lines
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
- How to Properly Maintain Your Private Water Well
- Living Lead Free – Your Community Water Passed the Test
- Living Lead Free – Protecting Your Family From the Dangers of Lead
- Methemoglobinemia (Blue Baby Syndrome)
- National Primary Drinking Water Standards
- Polluted Water
- Primary Amoebic Meningoencephalitis (PAM)

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- Sludge Management
- Sludge Management to Conserve Energy
- Surfacing Sewage
- Swimming in Oklahoma's Lakes, Rivers, and Streams
- Water Conservation Tips for the Kitchen
- Water Conservation Tips for the Bathroom
- Water Conservation Tips for Outdoor
- Water Costs Money, Don't Waste it!
- Water Emergency Procedures
- Water Volatile Organic Chemicals
- Who to Call if a Drought Impacts Your Community

For school and community presentations, call Ilda Hershey or Regina Clear at (405) 702-8100

Oklahoma Department of Transportation



200 NE 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Contact: Joanne Orr
(405) 521-4037
www.okladot.state.ok.us

The Transportation Department (ODOT) is responsible for the removal of litter and illegal dumps from the right-of-way along 12,000 miles of state highways. It is also responsible for the landscaping and beautification of that right-of-way. The Adopt-A-Highway programs and Keep Our Land Grand anti-litter campaign are major community programs utilizing promotional items such as bumper stickers, trash barrel

stickers, dashboard litter bags and a toll-free Litter Hotline.

In the Roadside Wildflower Program, ODOT crews have planted more than 1,000 acres of seed that was donated by individuals and organizations. Information about the Wildflower Program includes seed sources, species, planting information and how to participate in the wildflower partnership. A two-day educational workshop is held in May. Displays, speakers and slide presentations are available on litter and beautification topics.

ODOT is using \$1.08 million in federal enhancement funds to encourage communities and organizations to plant trees along highway roadsides. In the last five years, the Highway Tree Grant Program has enabled more than 100 projects to be installed statewide.

The Trash Poster Contest is sponsored by ODOT, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Education and Cherokee Nation. Corporate sponsors donate prize money to the state winners. More than 13,000 students from kindergarten through grade 12 competed for top honors in 2002, the 11th year of the program. An awards program and lunch are held in the ODOT lobby each April. Later that day, winners are recognized on the floor of the House of Representatives. One design is chosen and printed as a four-color poster to be distributed to schools, businesses, Chambers of Commerce, etc. The twelve state winners are also featured in the popular Trash Poster calendar.

The Oklahoma TRASH-OFF began 14 years ago as an opportunity for Oklahoma Adopt-A-Highway groups to pick up on the same day each April in a much publicized spring cleanup, and has expanded dramatically. The 2002 TRASH-OFF included 188 city and community organizations, 19 counties, 30 state parks and Corps of Engineer lakes and thousands of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. The Governor presents "Hubcap Awards" to outstanding TRASH-



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OFF participants at an annual awards picnic in July.

Highway Art is the newest ODOT endeavor, with the installation of a bronze buffalo and calf and landscaping at the 23rd Street exit from I-235 in Oklahoma City. The sculpture was done in cooperation with the Figurative Sculpture Program at the University of Oklahoma. All funds for the sculpture were donated by the public.

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation



1801 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4998

Contact: Lisa Anderson
(405) 990-1292

www.wildlifedepartment.com

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) is responsible for the state's wildlife resources; their management, conservation, enhancement and utilization. It is the advocate for wildlife, their habitat, and the enjoyment of these resources by Oklahoma citizens. The ODWC is involved in education in several areas including:

Hunter Education is an education program designed to fulfill the state law for mandatory hunter training required for the purchase of a hunting license and/or deer/turkey tag. The program curriculum exposes new hunters to the basic fundamentals of firearms safety and handling, hunter responsibility, wildlife management/conservation, survival and wilderness first aid, wildlife identification, loading muzzle, and bow hunting.

The ten-hour course is taught by Game Wardens and certified volunteer instructors in every county. Many of the

courses offer an opportunity to actually fire a firearm such as a B-B, pellet, .22 rifle or 20-gauge shotgun. Most of the classes are conducted on weeknights or weekends. The course is free to everyone and a student is required to pass a written examination to receive certification. Contact: Lance Meel (405) 522-4572 or lmeek@odwc.state.ok.us or call (405) 521-4650 for a pre-recorded list of classes.

Aquatic Resources Education is an environmental education program designed to enhance the awareness, appreciation, and understanding of Oklahoma's aquatic resources. The program also is designed to promote angling skills, outdoor ethics, and sport fishing opportunities in our state. Contact: Damon Springer at (405)521-4603 or dspringer@odwc.state.ok.us

Oklahoma Project WILD is an interdisciplinary wildlife education program for all educators of kindergarten through high school aged young people. Educators attend fun, interactive workshops to receive the curriculum guides which contain over 170 hands-on activities. Oklahoma Project WILD is cosponsored by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

Oklahoma Natural Resource Trunks are available for educators to check out to use in their classrooms or with their youth groups. Four topics are available: Water, Outdoor Classroom, Endangered Species and the Bug Box. Educators can keep the trunks for up to three weeks. A deposit is required and a fee is charged if the trunks are shipped.



Oklahoma Division of State Parks

15 N. Robinson
P.O. Box 52002
Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2002

Contact: 405) 521-3411

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Oklahoma State Parks offers a wide selection of environmental education and outdoor recreation programs through the naturalist staff in several parks across the state. All state parks also welcome the assistance of volunteers in improving wildlife habitats, grooming trails, planting trees and wildflowers, or a variety of other environmental enhancement projects.

With advance notice, naturalists are able to provide off-site education programs for schools and civic clubs. Park Managers also welcome the opportunity to provide tours and share information about their facilities with school groups and community organizations. Ongoing environmental education programs for youth that are available at any Oklahoma State Park include Park Pal, Junior Naturalist and Junior Ranger. Volunteer Naturalist training and service opportunities for adults and youth are available at parks with a staffed nature center.

For more information on Oklahoma State Parks environmental education programs or volunteer opportunities, please use the contact information above. For information on a particular Oklahoma State Park, call: 1-800-522-8040.

Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB)

3555 N.W. 58th St., Suite 430
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Contact: Sarah Weeks
sweeks@oerb.com
Mindy Sitt-Burney
mstitt@oerb.com
(405) 942-5323
www.oerb.com

The Oklahoma Energy Resources Board is an oil and natural gas industry-funded state agency dedicated to energy education and environmentally restoring orphaned or

abandoned oil and natural gas exploration and production sites. The OERB provides teacher's guides and classroom activities for *Fossils to Fuel* and *Petro Active*, two science-based energy curriculum units for elementary and middle level grades. The agency also trains teachers in the use of the curricula and reimburses school districts for substitute pay during workshops. Once a teacher has completed the curriculum, the OERB sponsors free field trips to one of five science museums across the state.

Petroleum Professionals in the Classroom is a statewide, hands-on program that allows professionals from the petroleum industry to give a 45-minute, interactive presentation about the formation, production and consumption of fossil fuels. The presentation includes the "Play It Smart!" oilfield safety video and allows students to see items such as a drill bit and seismic maps. For high school students, OERB sponsors the Oklahoma Petroleum Challenge, an annual essay and Jeopardy-style competition. A curriculum for high school students is currently being created.

Oklahoma Kids in Environmental Education, Inc. (OKIEE)

www.EdisontheBus.org

OKIEE is a non-profit corporation that provides mobile environmental education programs to targeted schools, parks and day care facilities in primarily underserved or unserved Oklahoma communities. Because many school districts in our state have strict limits on field trips and transportation of children, the OKIEE programs bring an environmental "field trip" to the children using a mobile unit



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equipped with tools for teaching about the environment. Activities are conducted during a two day program visit covering materials in the fields of: Wildlife Conservation, Soil and Water Conservation, Solid Waste Management, Forestry, Agriculture and Energy Conservation. Currently, "Eco-Motion" is the only project offered by OKIEE. The program serves students Kindergarten through Grade 5, Service Learners in Grade 10 through 12 plus adult community volunteers. To learn more about Eco-Motion please visit us on the Web.

Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

University of Oklahoma
2401 Chautauqua Ave.
Norman, OK 73072

Contact: Education Department
(405) 325-4712
education@ras.snomnh.ou.edu
www.snomnh.ou.edu/

The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History features interactive exhibits and educational programs that introduce visitors to Oklahoma's rich natural and archeological history. Permanent exhibits galleries include the Hall of Ancient Life, Hall of Natural Wonders, Hall of the People of Oklahoma and the Gallery of World Cultures. The Discovery Room invites visitors to explore artifacts and scientific specimens in a hands-on, interactive environment. Visitors can dig for dinosaur fossils, match animal specimens with their habitat, and observe live aquatic animals. Temporary special exhibitions are featured in several galleries and vary throughout the year.

The following programs and resources are available:

- Classes, laboratories and facilitated Discovery Room sessions for visiting school groups
- Pre- and post-visit resource materials for teachers (available from web site)
- Teacher professional development workshops
- Loan kits and traveling exhibits
- Summer programs for children
- Programs for Scout groups
- Field trips for adults and families
- Lectures, seminars and workshops for adults
- Volunteer opportunities
- Birthday parties for children
- Evening rental for special events

For information about specific programs, upcoming exhibits or available resources, please visit the museum web site or call the museum at (405) 325-4712.

Oklahoma Native Plant Society



2435 South Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74114

Contact: Jim Elder
Pat Folley
jfeok@aol.com

www.usao.edu/~onps/
www.usao.edu/~onps

The Oklahoma Native Plant Society is a non-profit conservation organization whose purpose is to encourage the study,

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protection, propagation, appreciation, and use of Oklahoma's native plants. The state organization currently has three local chapters, the Central Chapter which meets in Oklahoma City, the Northeast Chapter which meets in Tulsa, and the Cross Timbers Chapter which meets in Stillwater. The state chapters conduct field trips to various Oklahoma locations, as well as, a two to three day Annual Meeting each fall, which includes nature walks and programs, an annual Indoor Outing in February with speakers and workshops, and co-sponsors the annual Wildflower Workshop held each May. A quarterly newsletter, "The Gaillardia" is published and a complimentary copy may be obtained from either of the sources above. The group sponsors an annual Photo Contest with cash prizes presented at the annual Wildflower Workshop. Annual membership fees are Student \$5, Individual \$10, Family \$15, Lifetime Individual \$200, and Lifetime Family \$300.

Each year the Harriet Barclay Award, of a plaque and cash, is presented to both the Junior High and High School student presenting the best botany paper in their category at the annual Oklahoma Junior Academy of Science meeting. An award is also made annually at the Annual Meeting to an individual or group in Oklahoma who has contributed significantly to the Society's purpose. The Ann W. Long award is awarded in recognition of individuals or groups who have made outstanding contributions to the stated purpose of ONPS.

There are currently three programs, running about 30 minutes each, available for mail order. These consist of eighty 35mm slides, a taped and timed audio narrative and a printed speaker's guide if desired. All three programs will be mailed to non-profit entities (schools, garden clubs, etc.) at no charge except for the cost of postage. To reserve a program, contact Pat Folley at (405) 872-8361 or by the e-mail address above.



OKRA **(Oklahoma Recycling Association)**

201 West 5th, Suite 600
Tulsa, OK 74103

Contact: Michael Patton
(918) 584-0584
Met@MetRecycle.com

OKRA is a non-profit organization established to improve the recycling business by providing education and referral services about solid waste management. OKRA serves as a central hub for businesses, governments and citizens to exchange waste reduction, reuse and recycling information.

OKRA is the official state sponsor of "America Recycles Day" held on November 15th each year. OKRA also participates in the National Recycling Organization Council of the National Recycling Coalition.

Oklahoma State **Department of** **Agriculture Forestry** **Services**

2800 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Contact: Christina Stallings
(405) 522-6158

www.state.ok.us/~okag/aghomet.html

Oklahoma Forestry Services strive to make everyone aware of the importance of trees and forests. Target audiences include young people, educators, landowners, civic organizations, cities and towns, and anyone who lives, works or plays in or near a forest.

Publications

Free brochures tell how to plant trees and care for them properly. Up-to-date



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information describes the best practices to manage and use trees whether they are in a rural forest or on a city street. Free pamphlets and booklets show the value of trees and forests and how to protect natural resources. Examples include: Arbor Week packets for teachers, Smokey the Bear fire prevention materials, technical brochures for landowners, and *The Oklahoma Leaflet* newsletter.

Videos, slide programs, and educational lending trunks on trees and forestry may be borrowed.

The guidebook, *Forest Trees of Oklahoma*, identifies and illustrates the state's wealth of native trees. It may be purchased for \$3 in person or \$4 if mailed.

Programs

Professional foresters and education personnel are available to present programs for schools, youth groups, civic clubs and others, as their schedules permit. They can also bring educational exhibits to fairs and other special events.

Project Learning Tree is an international award-winning program that brings the forest into the classroom through fun hands-on activities appropriate for every grade level. Educator workshops may be arranged for schools, scouts, and other groups. Professional development credit is available.

The Forest Heritage Center is a forestry museum and educational center located in Beavers Bend State Park. Through self-guided or guided tours, it offers visitors a fascinating view of the South's important forest history. The Center also serves as the focal point of the Owa-Chito Festival of the Forest and the Fall Folk Festival.

An annual Arbor Day poster contest for 5th graders allows teachers to blend art with science. Teachers' packets may be requested in the fall. Prizes offered to the top three students and their teachers include cash awards and redbud trees for the school grounds. Deadline is the Friday before Thanksgiving.

Free Trees for Schools offers 4'-6' potted native trees each spring to schools, civic groups, youth organizations, non profit organizations, etc. The trees help encourage celebration of Oklahoma's Arbor week in March.

Workshops on educational grants and tree planting grants are offered twice a year. Educational sessions on tree selection, planting, and pruning may be arranged at anytime.

Youth Forestry and Wildlife Camp takes place in Beaver's Bend State Park for one week each June. Students 13-16 years old live in cabins while studying forestry and wildlife careers. Highlights include tree climbing with ropes, touring a sawmill, canoeing to study water quality, and live-trapping animals for study.

Tours of the Forest Regeneration Center south of Norman show how tree and shrub seedlings are grown for landowners. These seedlings are used to control erosion, create windbreaks, grow new forests, improve wildlife habitat, and educate Oklahomans.

Oklahoma State University Center for Environmental Education College of Education

402 Willard Hall
Stillwater, OK 74078
(405) 744-7233

Contact: Dr. Richard Bryant
(405) 744-8005
bryantr@okstate.edu,

<http://home.okstate.edu/homepages.nsf/toc/CEE-OSU>

The Center for Environmental Education (CEE) focuses on environmental education research. It is part of the Oklahoma State University Math and Science Technology Education Research Consortium located in

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the College of Education. The Center for Environmental Education provides research opportunities to promote environmental awareness and environmental sustainability. It provides research associated with grant funding and Dissertations/Theses options. The CEE employs graduate and research assistants focusing on the environmental education fields of study.

The Center for Environmental Education strives to promote environmental literacy by using the environment as the integrating context for learning and the development of decision-making skills. The center also works to foster, enhance, and promote an understanding of responsible environmental citizenship by offering workshops such as: Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Project WET, Spirit of the Last Great Places (about the tall grass prairie), and Roots and Shoots (a Jane Goodall program). The workshops serve as professional development opportunities for educators, and are offered for undergraduate and graduate credit.

Oklahoma Sustainability Network

4308 Echohollow Trail
Edmond, OK 73003

Contact: Jay Yowell
(405) 232-9554
ecojoy@yahoo.com
www.oksustainability.org

The Oklahoma Sustainability Network (OSN) serves to connect those working towards sustainability in Oklahoma and to advance the public's awareness of sustainable issues. OSN is a resource for promoting, gathering, distributing, and exchanging environmental information integral to the sustainable future of Oklahoma. OSN views sustainability as encompassing equality, economics and the environment. OSN welcomes all individuals interested in any area of sustainability.

Interest areas range from agriculture to commerce, energy to education, and design to preservation. OSN encourages people to communicate, ask questions, request help or advice, submit event information, and relate stories pertaining to their environmental experiences in Oklahoma.

OSN also serves as a local interest group that works with national sustainable organizations (i.e., the Natural Step, US Green Building Council). OSN meetings are held on a bimonthly basis to network, disseminate new information, and plan upcoming events. Further communications are expressed via the OSN listservs. Visit www.oksustainability.org to sign-up for the free listserv.

OSN is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization

Oklahoma Water Resources Board



3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Contact: Brian Vance
(405) 530-8800

www.owrb.state.ok.us

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board studies the quality and quantity of surface and ground waters and estimates the amount of water for use; issues stream water and ground water permits for beneficial use; updates the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan; conducts a Financial Assistance Program to make loans and emergency grants for water and wastewater improvements; administers the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for financing wastewater facilities; administers the National Flood Insurance Program in Oklahoma; educates the public in sound floodplain management; oversees a statewide program of safety inspections for small dams; and promulgates Oklahoma Water Quality Standards. The Board



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provides technical assistance to the public concerning water quality and quantity issues; participates in four interstate stream compacts; measures and monitors ground water levels throughout the state; conducts a licensure program for water well drillers; directs a program of weather modification (cloud seeding); and cooperates with other state and federal agencies on water related issues. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board sponsors the annual Governor's Water Conference and other educational meetings; participates in Clean Lakes studies and lake restorations; oversees Oklahoma Water Watch citizens volunteer monitoring program; co-sponsors Project WET with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality.



Oklahoma Water Watch

3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Contact: Juli Ridgway
(405) 530-8800

The Oklahoma Water Watch (OWW) is a volunteer monitoring program which provides citizens of all ages and backgrounds an opportunity to become involved in the protection and management of Oklahoma's water resources. Today, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is working in cooperation with citizens in collecting baseline environmental data used to monitor trends in water quality. After completing a three phase training workshop and becoming OWW Certified Water Quality Monitors, citizens sample their local lakes and streams on a monthly basis and report their findings.

The OWW promotes understanding, awareness, protection, and restoration of

Oklahoma lakes and streams through the leadership and initiative of volunteers. Through this program citizens can learn more about lakes and streams while helping to ensure the quality of Oklahoma's valuable resources. Besides providing invaluable data, Citizen Water Quality Monitors take on community lake and watershed improvement projects and local conservation activities, continually proving they can make a difference!



Ouachita National Forest Supervisor's Office

100 Reserve Street
P.O. Box 1270
Hot Springs, AR 71902

Contact: Kelly Russell, District Ranger or
C.J. Norvell, Public Affairs
(501) 321-5202

www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ouachita.htm

The Ouachita National Forest, which comprises 1.8 million acres, is the South's oldest forest. Stretching from near the center of Arkansas to southeast Oklahoma, the forest is an important provider of timber and other forest products, while providing wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities to the public. The forest is a land of many uses, including timber, grazing, mining, recreation and providing habitat for wildlife. A progressive ecosystem management policy promotes wise use of the land and provides a healthy forest for tomorrow.

The forest includes twelve ranger districts, three of which are located in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma districts are:

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Kiamichi Ranger District
P.O. Box 577
Talihina, Ok 74571
(918) 567-2326

Choctaw Ranger District
HC 63, Box 5184
Hodgen, OK 74939
(918) 653-2991

Tiak Ranger District
210 North Central, Room 116
Idabel, OK 74745
(580) 286-6564

Programs Offered:

The Forest Service has provided Conservation Education programs since the early 1900's. These programs help people of all ages understand and appreciate our country's natural resources and how to conserve those resources. Through Conservation Education, people develop the critical thinking skills and knowledge they need to understand complex ecological issues. In addition to encouraging people to take personal responsibility for their relationship with the environment, conservation education also encourages people to participate with the Forest Service and other natural resource managers to sustain our nation's natural and cultural resources.

The Ouachita National Forest offers a variety of programs and resources to raise public awareness and concern for the environment including:

The Robert S. Kerr Memorial Arboretum, Nature Center and Botanical Area consists of 8,026 acres which contain special plant communities that are significant in their occurrence, variety, and location such as the windswept dwarf white oaks, yellow buckeye, Ouachita indigo, and grass seeps.

The Winding Stair Mountain National Recreation Area (NRA) offers the public a full range of recreational, educational, and scenic opportunities in eastern Oklahoma.

Visitors have the opportunity to see majestic views of forested mountains, interesting geologic formations, and a great variety of flora and fauna. Rich in lore of historical events, the NRA holds some interesting interpretative stories that enrich the visitor's experience. Management of this area is to ensure its natural, scenic, historical, pastoral, fish and wildlife values for future generations and to enhance the recreational experiences associated with these values for the visitor.

The Red Slough Wildlife Management Area is a 5,330 acre wetland project designed to restore hydrology and re-establish bottomland hardwoods. The USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation cooperatively manage this area.

The Glover River is the last free-flowing river in Oklahoma. This single fact, in addition to the remote location, rugged terrain, and diverse aquatic species qualify it for designation as a National Wild and Scenic River and as an extraordinary opportunity to showcase a myriad of outdoor educational aspects.

- Smokey Bear Fire Prevention Programs
- Smokey Bear videos, posters, and other supplies
- Speakers on a variety of forestry related topics
- Fishing Derbies
- Participation in school career days
- Leave No Trace Ethics
- Tread Lightly
- Participation in County Fairs
- Exhibits at conferences, visitor's centers, forest service offices
- Interpretive trails and campground programs



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Project Learning Tree



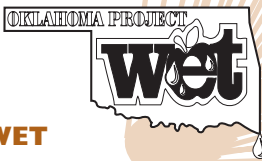
2800 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Sponsors: Oklahoma Department of
Agriculture/Food and
Forestry Services
Oklahoma Conservation
Commission

Contact: Christina Stallings
(405) 522-6158

Project Learning Tree (PLT) is an interdisciplinary environmental education program designed for educators working with students pre-K through grade 12. PLT uses the forest as a “window” to teach about natural resources while helping young people gain an awareness and knowledge of the world around them.

Each activity guide contains hands-on, supplemental activities, which involves students in the learning process. A six-hour training workshop is required in order to receive the activity guide. Workshops can be scheduled for staff development. The cost is \$10 per participant.



Project WET

2800 North
Lincoln Boulevard, Suite 160
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Sponsors: Oklahoma Conservation Commission
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Department of Environmental Quality

Contact: Karla Beatty
(405) 521-2384

E-mail: karlab@okcc.state.ok.us

Project WET is a conservation education program addressing all aspects of water. The goal of Project WET is to facilitate and promote the awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water

resources. The curriculum is designed for use with all grade levels and all subject areas. Project WET materials can give educators another tool to help them reach students when traditional methods don't seem to work. By using WET materials, educators can help students gain an awareness and appreciation for the natural world around them. Students also gain the knowledge, skill and commitment needed to make informed decisions about water resources and conservation.

A 6-hour training workshop is required in order to receive the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guide as well as other resource materials. The curriculum guide includes more than 90 cross-referenced activities. Workshops can be scheduled for staff development. Cost for the workshop is \$10 per person.

Oklahoma Project WET also offers training workshop using WOW! the Wonders of Wetlands curriculum. The WOW! curriculum guide is a comprehensive guide for educators, natural resource professionals or anyone teaching about wetlands. This 330-page publication features 70 pages of background material followed by more than 40 activities. Workshops can be scheduled for staff development. Cost for the workshop is \$10 per person.

Check out trunks, groundwater flow models and other resources dealing with the waters of Oklahoma are also available through the Project WET program.



Project WILD

1801 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Sponsors: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife
Conservation
Oklahoma Conservation
Commission

Contacts: Lisa Anderson
(405) 990-1292
okprojectwild@fullnet.net

Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources



Karla Beatty
(405) 521-6788
karlab@okcc.state.ok.us

Website: www.wildlifedepartment.com

Project WILD is an interdisciplinary wildlife education program designed for educators of kindergarten through high school aged young people. Project WILD teaches about wildlife and habitat while developing awareness, knowledge, skills and responsible actions concerning wildlife and the environment.

Two activity guides are available, an aquatic guide and a terrestrial guide. Each activity guide contains a variety of hands-on activities that are supplemental to the educator's curricula. A six-hour workshop is required to receive the activity guides. Workshops are recognized for professional development credit. The cost is \$10 per participant. A current schedule of workshops can be found on the website.

Rogers University Conservation Education Reserve



Rogers County Conservation District
120 South Missouri, Room 103
Claremore, OK 74017

Contact: Reserve Coordinator
(918) 341-4147

The Reserve, a joint project of Rogers University (formerly Rogers State College) and the Rogers County Conservation District, is 120 acres of "undeveloped wilderness" adjoining the Rogers University campus. It is a "living textbook" of the environment for school groups, college students, educators, and civic groups.

Classroom training and studies in conservation education, environmental education, and outdoor education are provided through hands-on learning, teaching exercises and practices at the various Reserve sites. These areas include:

- Over 3 Miles of Asphalt Trails
- Terra Laboratory

- Wetlands with Accessible Wetlands Walkway
- Aquatics Laboratory
- Outdoor Education Amphitheater
- Education Trail
- Butterfly Garden and Backyard Habitat
- Tall Grass Prairie
- Hardwood Trail
- Pond with Accessible Fishing Dock
- Prairie Reclamation Demonstration Site
- Farm Conservation Demonstration Site

The Reserve was founded on the concept that to effectively understand and apply conservation measures, students, teachers, and citizens must have a first-hand opportunity to observe, classify, measure, analyze, and interpret natural resources and natural resources management practices.

The Reserve offers environmental/conservation education and training for all ages, tailored for group and individual needs. Workshops, seminars, staff development programs, and many other environmental education opportunities are also available. For more information, contact the Reserve Coordinator at the Rogers County Conservation District office.

Rose State College



6420 SE 15th Street
Midwest City, OK 73110

Contact: Laird Hughes
(405) 733-7364
lhughes@rose.edu

The Oklahoma Environmental Training Center's role in environmental training includes a wide array of educational activities and opportunities. In addition to



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the regular semester classes for students working toward a degree, the program also offers a series of workshops year round for individuals wanting to become more proficient with their technical skills in the environmental field.

Environmental regulations are constantly changing or being revised. This means the program must be coordinated with State and Federal regulatory agencies in order to remain current with the latest rules and standards. A close working relationship has developed between Rose State College, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Protection Agency. At the same time, the program has provided a bridge between these regulatory agencies, the municipalities, industries being regulated, and other state colleges and universities offering environmental training.

Laboratory technicians are trained on state-of-the-art laboratory equipment. Training packages for self-study classes are being developed. In order to help the greatest number of communities, many innovative teaching methods have been developed. To further facilitate programs in rural areas of the state, by electronic communication services are provided directly to facilities, which could not otherwise receive training information through such technology as InterActive Television, and Teleconferences.

It is estimated that the environmental science programs have saved millions of dollars for the industries, institutions, and municipalities served through worker training, resulting in improved operation, maintenance, and performance of their facilities.

The success of this program can also be measured in terms of improved environmental quality. Of the more than 150 municipalities which have participated in the "Operation Outreach" program from across the state, more than 90 percent have either been brought into compliance with the state's water quality standards or have experienced significant improvement in

their operations. In our most recent EPA grant acquisitions, the Training Center has expanded the program to include assistance to several Oklahoma Indian Tribes.

Workshops and seminars in water quality rules and regulations, potable water treatment, wastewater treatment, solid waste handling and disposal are currently being offered.

Recent trends in environmental awareness have heightened the Training Center's importance both to the community and to the state. As an example, Rose State has been selected by both the State Regents for Higher Education and the Environmental Protection Agency to receive a grant for conducting a "Summer Academy for Youth and The Environment" for the last ten years.

Federal agencies and industry (including the Air Force, the Federal Aviation Administration, General Motors and several large engineering firms) have also contracted with Rose State College for the service of this program.



Sierra Club

PO Box 180
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0180

Contact: Susie Shields
(405) 297-0179
Sshields@cox.net
www.oklahoma.sierraclub.org

Founded in 1892, the Sierra Club's purposes are "to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives."

The Sierra Club's philosophy is that our Earth's resources must be planned to offer

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the greatest likelihood of sustainability over long periods of time, minimizing damage to ecosystems, individual living things, and other resources. Protecting the environment is a responsibility we must all share. We must each assume responsibility for our role in reducing environmental problems, starting with our own lives and “leaving lighter footprints on the planet” for the benefit of future generations.

The Sierra Club is well known for its extensive outings program including not only hiking and backpacking, but also such activities as skiing, canoeing, and caving. The Inner City Outings (ICO) program is maintained to give disadvantaged children a chance to experience the outdoors.

Provision of educational programs, workshops and materials are a big part of the Sierra Club agenda. Included are the following efforts:

- The Capitol Action Update is published regularly during legislative session to keep members informed on pending legislation affecting the environment either positively or negatively. Legislative training sessions for political enthusiasts are generally held annually.
- Regular publications include the bi-monthly Sierra magazine, local group newsletters, and a statewide chapter quarterly newsletter designed to increase public awareness of the environmental issues that face us all.
- Backpacking workshops and map/compass training seminars are open to the public.
- Fact sheets, special reports and position papers on such subjects as commercial logging on public lands, water quality, wetlands, population, global warming, confined animal feeding operations, urban sprawl, etc. are available. Position papers and policy statements can be found on the national web site: www.sierraclub.org.

- Teacher materials include: Books and a variety of decks of teaching cards, John Muir Study Guide and Green Teacher Curriculum guides are available to members.
- An Environmental Education Award is presented annually each fall. Financial assistance is provided for statewide environmental education activities such as EnvironMentor newsletter, OKAEE EE Expo, Envirothon, Oklahoma Sustainability Network conference, etc.
- There are three local groups: Green Country (Tulsa and northeastern Oklahoma), Cimarron (OKC & western Oklahoma) and Norman (Red Earth) and southeastern Oklahoma. Local members are available to talk to groups and classes about the Sierra Club. Local groups are generally involved with Earth Day celebrations and/or other environmental events in their area.



Solid Waste Research Institute of Northeast Oklahoma

111 West Shawnee
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Contact: Ken Purdy
(918) 456-0116
www.swino.org

The Solid Waste Research Institute of Northeast Oklahoma is a nonprofit, regional public-interest organization dedicated to the development of progressive solid waste management programs and practices. The Institute serves the 14 counties of northeastern Oklahoma.



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Principal program services of the Institute include solid waste related research, planning, public education, and provision of advisory and technical assistance. Primary beneficiaries of Institute services are county, city, and tribal governments, citizens' groups, school and other youth groups, business and industry officials, and professional staff involved with solid waste management issues.

Education and information programs of the Institute include:

- A Solid Waste Management newsletter.
- A procedure guide for developing community waste collection and recycling events.
- An 18-minute VHS video program, "No Time to Waste Oklahoma," which presents a comprehensive overview of solid waste management in Oklahoma, highlighting problems and potential solutions.
- A 20-minute color slide presentation, "Community Solutions to Oklahoma's Illegal Roadside Dumps," for adult audiences.
- A 45-minute hands-on activity for elementary students, "What Do We Do with Our Trash?" involving an illegal dump and a groundwater model illustrating potential pollution.
- A 15-minute hands-on activity on recycling, "Talking Trash," useful at Earth Fairs for large groups of students.
- A self-explanatory table display on "Open Roadside Dumping" available to be set up at fairs or in other public places.
- Other customized programs on request.

A complete listing of services and other program offerings is available by contacting the Institute or accessing the website.



The Tree Bank Foundation of Oklahoma

The Tree Bank Foundation of Oklahoma

16301 N. Rockwell, Bldg. A
Edmond, OK 73013
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Contact: Mary Gilmore Caffrey
(405) 842-3320
treebankok@msn.com
www.treebank.oktree.org

The Tree Bank Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Oklahoma through tree planting and proper maintenance. By promoting conservation partnerships between non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the private sector, The Tree Bank believes Oklahoma will be a greener, cleaner, more beautiful place to live. The organization's yearly operating budget is generated solely through charitable donations and grants.

Because of the support of its partners, in nine planting seasons the Tree Bank has distributed more than 51,000 trees valued at more than \$24.8 million to cities and towns across Oklahoma.

In cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture - Forestry Services Division, the Tree Bank produced three new videos on tree maintenance: **How to Plant a Tree**, **Proper Pruning Techniques**, and **How to Transplant a Tree**. The public is invited to borrow or buy these, as needed. We have a wide variety of educational material available for distribution.

Since 1993, a total of 60 Leaf It To Me arboretums have been planted at participating schools. Arboretums provide numerous outdoor classroom activities as students of all ages learn more about trees. Each school is given a manual and on-site training to develop individual arboretums.

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As Oklahoma approaches its centennial celebration of statehood, the Tree Bank is managing and promoting the development of a statewide volunteer effort to commemorate the occasion with centennial tree planting projects such as a centennial grove.



Tucker Tower Nature Center

Lake Murray State Park
3310 South Lake Murray Drive
Ardmore, OK 73401

Contact: Mark Teders
(580) 223-2109

The interpretive program at Tucker Tower Nature Center deals with the cultural and natural history of south central Oklahoma, along with the conservation of our natural resources.

Programs and/or field trips for any organized group are available. Programs consist of lectures, audio/visual programs, crafts, games, puppet shows and discovery walks. The program may be of a general interest or geared toward a specific topic, i.e. mammals, birds of prey, astronomy, etc.

The Nature Center has a small reference library. Books and periodicals may not be checked out, however they can be used during normal hours of operation. Audio/visual programs, dealing primarily with natural history and conservation, may be checked out to teachers for one week.

Additionally, the Nature Center conducts workshops for scouts trying to earn merit badges in wildlife, ecology, and conservation. We also provide special projects for those looking for their Eagle Scout badge or public service.

Other Nature Centers around the State also sponsor environmental programs. For additional information about other State Park programs, please contact the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation at (405) 521-3411.

Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

RR#1, Box 448
Indiahoma, OK 73552

Contact: Claudine Daniel
(580) 429-3222

The Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Education (EE) Program annually provides over 79,000 activity hours of structured, formalized environmental educational programming to school and university groups, youth organizations, Native American Tribes, science academies, natural heritage associations, and a myriad of professional educator associations.

The Refuge Environmental Education Program offers university-accredited courses in specialized topics such as Ecosystem Management, Global Change, Environmental Ethics and Media Literacy, Biodiversity, Aquatic Systems, Elk Ecology, Eagles, Birds of the Wichita Mountains Biome, and the four-day Wichita Naturalists Seminar, which is also available for graduate credit with additional research work. Using the Refuge as a showcase and center of biodiversity protection, EE staffers involve participants in action curriculum designed to help them assess the health of their ecosystem. The courses, which provide a strong base in biological sciences interspersed with social and political science, help to create an educated constituency supporting refuge, wildlife, natural habitats, and biodiversity preservation.

The Environmental Education Program also serves as a resource for historical



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researchers, authors, curriculum designers, as well as public television and film industry representatives.

Most Environmental Education Programs are based out of the Environmental Education Center at the Refuge, and must be scheduled with the EE staff. Due to the high demand for the Refuge EE Programs, it is recommended that programs be scheduled at least one month in advance.



U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

100 USDA, Suite 203
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655

Contact: (918) 343-7612

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) has field offices in every county in the state staffed with professional conservationists. The primary function of these offices is to provide technical assistance to landowners and decision makers on natural resource issues such as soil erosion and flood control. These conservationists also work with local schools, colleges, universities, and other groups and organizations to provide resource conservation information and environmental education.

NRCS offices have a variety of educational materials on conservation of natural resources, which are available to schools and the public. Conservationists are available to present programs and to assist with outdoor classroom development. For assistance call the local county NRCS office or (405) 742-1243.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

222 South Houston Street
Tulsa, OK 74127

Contact: Erich Langer
(918) 581-7458

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principle agency through which the U.S. government carries out its responsibilities to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of people. Specifically, the Service manages migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals and freshwater and anadromous fish. The Service consists of a headquarters office in Washington, D.C., eight regional offices (Albuquerque, N.M. is the regional office for Oklahoma), and a variety of field units and other installations. In Oklahoma, these include one ecological services state office, seven national wildlife refuges, one national fish hatchery, one fisheries research office, and two law enforcement personnel offices.

Partners For Wildlife Program...Private Lands Habitat Improvement—assists private and other non-federal landowners and managers in restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. In 1994, the Partners Program initiated “Wetland Learning Laboratory” program. The initiative helps provide funding and technical assistance to schools developing wetland outdoor classrooms. To date eleven projects have been or are being developed. To find out more about the criteria, contact Jontie Aldrich, Private Lands Coordinator.

Oklahoma Endangered Species Poster—Fifteen of Oklahoma's federally listed endangered and threatened species are highlighted on a full-color poster available free of charge from the Service. Species

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information, threats and other interesting information about the pictured species is on the back of the poster.

Tulsa Area Elementary School Wildlife Outreach Program—is an easy-to-use environmental education program geared toward young children to help them gain a basic understanding of various wildlife related subjects. Twelve programs are now available. Each presentation is about 45 minutes long and all needed materials are included in a convenient plastic tub. All programs come complete with a video or slide show, an activity, a presentation folder, and printed instructions. The presentations may be checked out and picked up from the Tulsa office, but supplies are limited. We suggest reserving presentations 30 days in advance and that you consider using it several times while it is on loan.

For additional program information on fish and wildlife, contact one of the Oklahoma National Wildlife Refuges at:

Deep Fork

P.O. Box 816
Okmulgee, OK 74447
(918) 756-0815

Sequoyah Oklahoma Bat Caves
Route 1, Box 18A
Vian, OK 74962
(918) 773-5251/5252

Washita Optima

Route 1, Box 68
Butler, OK 73625
(580) 664-2205

Little River Little Sandy

P.O. Box 340
Broken Arrow, OK 74728
(405) 584-6211

Tishomingo

Route 1, Box 151
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 371-2402/9312

Wichita Mountains

Route 1, Box 448
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(580) 429-3221/3222

Salt Plains

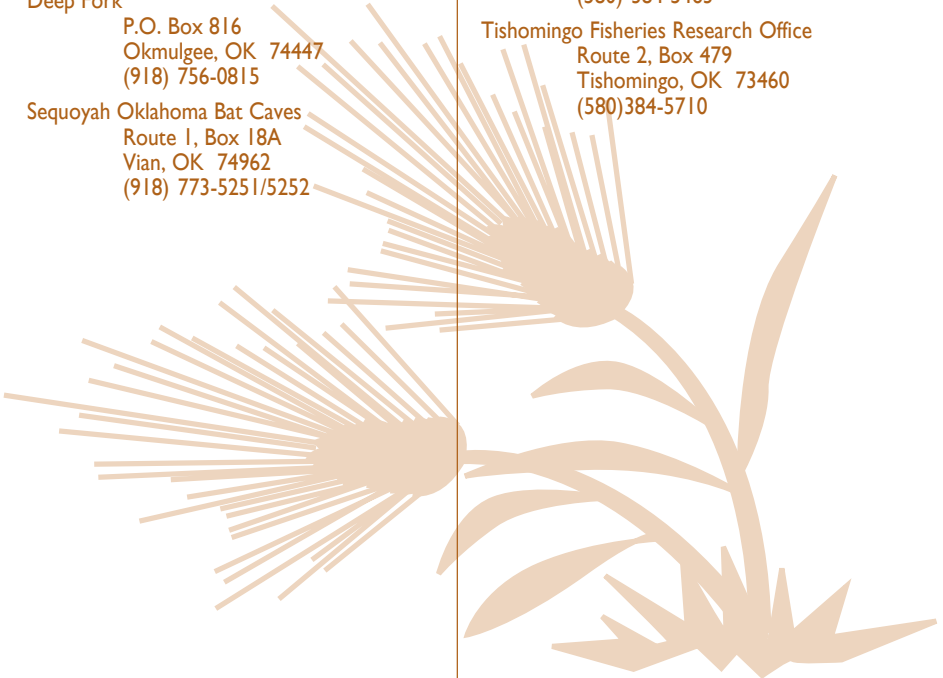
Route 1, Box 76
Jet, OK 73749
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Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Route 2, Box 480
Tishomingo, OK 73460
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Tishomingo Fisheries Research Office

Route 2, Box 479
Tishomingo, OK 73460
(580) 384-5710





Oklahoma Environmental Education Resources

The Oklahoma Environmental Education Resource Guide

This guide was first published in 1993. Since that time, organizations have been added as we learned about them. We realize that we may have missed some environmental education providers and hope that they will contact us so that we may add them to the guide.

If you have any suggestions for improvements or new contact names, please contact us at the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

Department of Environmental Quality

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The Environmental Quality Education Committee membership includes representatives from:

Department of Environmental Quality

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful

Office of the Secretary of Environment

OGE Energy Corp.

Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Members of the teaching profession

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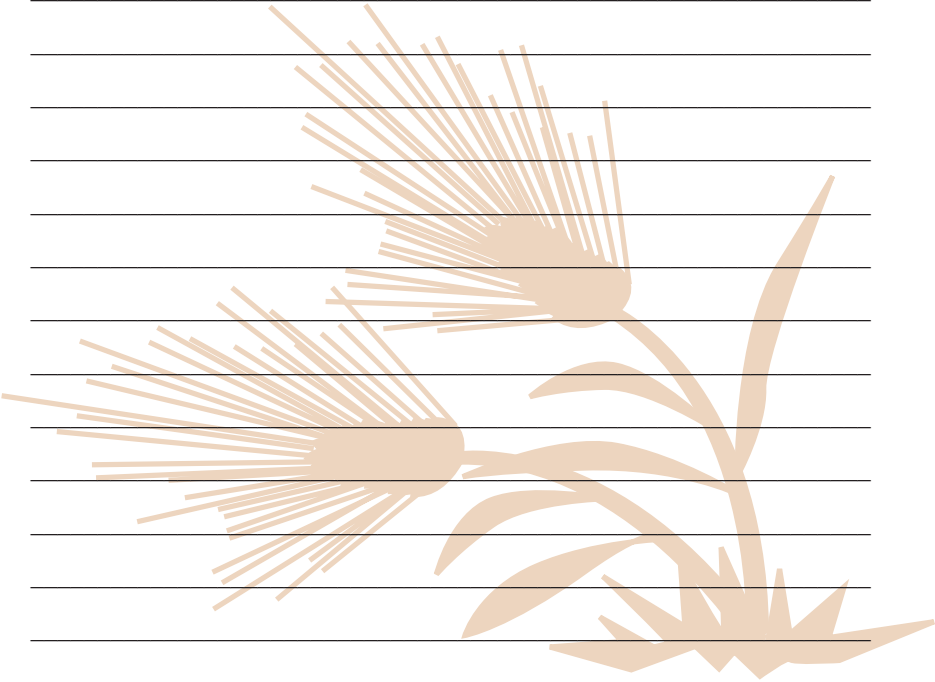
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