



707 North Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

## News Release

---

For Immediate Release: June 12, 2013  
Contact: Erin Hatfield, (405) 702-7119

### **OKLAHOMA WINS BIG AT NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS CONFERENCE**

Devon Energy and Oklahoma County were recently honored for excellence in brownfield redevelopment by the Phoenix Awards™. Created in 1997, the Phoenix Awards™ are widely recognized, prestigious awards that honor excellence in brownfield redevelopment. Winners are selected in each of the ten Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regions, and a national winner is announced at EPA's Brownfields Conference.

The Devon Energy Center received the 2012 Region 6 Phoenix Award™ and won the 2012 National Award. Devon's new headquarters was built on an old brownfield site in downtown Oklahoma City. The site was previously a trolley hub, automobile hotel, and parking garage. After contamination was removed, Devon Energy constructed a 50-story Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) skyscraper on the site. Devon partnered with the city to create a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district to fund Project 180, the revitalization of 180 acres in downtown. Typically, developers use TIFs to provide revenues for their construction costs; however, Devon insisted that the money be used towards revitalizing downtown streets.

"The Devon Energy Center development is a stellar example of converting a brownfield site into a sustainable project. The Devon Energy Center is a great office space and it also serves to revitalize the downtown Oklahoma City community," said Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

Oklahoma County received the 2011 Region 6 Phoenix Award™ for the Tinker Aerospace Complex (TAC), a former General Motors (GM) plant. After GM closed the \$500 million Oklahoma City plant, Oklahoma County citizens voted to approve a \$55 million bond to allow the County to purchase the plant and lease it to the U.S. Air Force. This allowed the plant to be re-purposed as a state-of-the-art engine repair and maintenance facility for Tinker Air Force Base. The county, state, and the U.S. Air Force invested almost \$200 million to redevelop the former GM facility into the Tinker Aerospace Complex, which now employs more than 1,600 employees. Oklahoma County received a Brownfield Certificate from DEQ's Brownfields Program showing the site is safe for reuse and releasing the county and its tenants from historical environmental liability.

The Phoenix Awards™ are presented to brownfield projects that have transformed blighted contaminated land into productive new uses and significantly improved the environmental, economic, and social conditions in the local community. The winning projects were selected by a panel of environmental professionals and business and government leaders.