



## News Release

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For Immediate Release: April 1, 2014  
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### **The Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma, Delaware County, Muskogee and Tahlequah Recognized by DEQ Clean Community Program**

A special ceremony is scheduled for 12:00 p.m., Friday, April 4, 2014, to recognize The Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma, the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority Program, the City of Muskogee Stormwater Program and the City of Tahlequah Solid Waste Program. The event will be held at the City of Tahlequah Armory Municipal Center at 100 North Water Avenue in Tahlequah.

Efforts by the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority, the City of Muskogee Storm Water Program, and the City of Tahlequah Solid Waste Department, under the leadership of the Solid Waste Institute of Northeast Oklahoma, have helped to make communities in Northeast Oklahoma, Oklahoma Clean Communities. Collectively, in the past two years, they have collected more than 10,700 waste tires through their annual collection events. They have also participated in the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) Great American Cleanup, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation Trash-Off, and various recycling programs. These recipients have provided educational opportunities for their communities and participated in litter and debris removal. As a result of their activities, these communities are cleaner and reducing the risk to human health and the environment.

Since July 1, 2011, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Used Tire Recycling Program has focused primarily on legacy tire dumps and those that pose a threat to the public's health and the environment. DEQ's remediation efforts have reduced the number of tires in all dumps to about half of what was estimated to be in existence prior to 2011.

DEQ encourages entities to coordinate a community-wide cleanup of used tires. DEQ's Tire Indemnity Fund will pay to haul off old, unused, or abandoned tires. Tire piles can be an eyesore and attract unwelcome pests, such as mosquitoes and rodents. After cleanup is complete, DEQ, in partnership with Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, will recognize an entity as an Oklahoma Clean Community.

More information on the Used Tire Recycling Program and other environmental projects is available at <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/lpdnew/TireRecyclingPrg.htm> or by contacting Ferrella March at [ferrella.march@deq.ok.gov](mailto:ferrella.march@deq.ok.gov) or 405-702-5175.

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