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## News Release

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### **National Group to Hold Meeting in Oklahoma during Clean Water Appreciation Week**

For the first time in its 53 year history, the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) will hold its annual meeting in Oklahoma City, during Clean Water Appreciation Week. The meeting, held August 3 - August 6, will take place at the Sheraton Hotel, located at 1 North Broadway, Oklahoma City, Okla. Water directors from across the country will come together to discuss issues that impact Oklahoma and other states.

As part of Clean Water Appreciation Week, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) encourages all Oklahomans to appreciate and help protect this precious resource. Clean water and wastewater services are critical to maintain healthy communities and a vibrant economy.

According to the Water Environment Federation, clean water and wastewater services support a \$50 billion per year recreation industry, and hundreds of billions of dollars a year in basic manufacturing. In Oklahoma, clean water plays a vital role in economic prosperity by providing a robust tourism industry and by supporting ranching and agricultural sectors.

“While DEQ works to protect health through a regulatory framework, it is important that we, as citizens of Oklahoma, work to be smarter about our water,” said DEQ Water Quality Division Director and ACWA President Shellie Chard-McClary. “We need to use water wisely and keep contaminants out of our lakes, rivers, and ground water,” she added.

The Environmental Protection Agency says that American residents use 100 gallons of water per day. In most communities, there is a limited supply. As such, DEQ encourages all Oklahomans to make wise use of water. There are simple things that citizens can do to conserve water and help keep watersheds clean. Tips include:

- Turn off the faucet while cleaning vegetables and/or brushing teeth
- Fill the sink or a pan with clean water to rinse dishes
- Water the lawn properly. The most common mistake is to water too often. It is best to water once every five to seven days, wetting the soil to a depth of six to ten inches.
- Position sprinklers so water lands on the lawn or garden instead of paved areas

- Wash the car from a bucket of soapy water, using the hose only to rinse
- Avoid applying fertilizer on the lawn in areas where runoff could enter into storm drains
- Minimize activities that result in soil erosion
- Dispose of motor oil, paints, solvents, and other household items properly. Keep these items out of storm sewers.
- Use rain barrels to catch rain water to use for outdoor plants
- Check the kitchen and bathroom for any leaks and make repairs

More information on water conservation is available by visiting <http://www.deq.state.ok.us/conservation/index.html>.

The agenda for ACWA's meeting is located at [http://media.wix.com/ugd/bd3580\\_a0d54d51ffc84f73b36402766ae5562f.pdf?dn=53rd%20Annual%20Meeting%20Agenda\\_draft07232014.pdf](http://media.wix.com/ugd/bd3580_a0d54d51ffc84f73b36402766ae5562f.pdf?dn=53rd%20Annual%20Meeting%20Agenda_draft07232014.pdf).

ACWA is a national organization of state and interstate water program directors that implement the water quality programs of the Clean Water Act and ensure clean and safe water.

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