



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

News Release

For Immediate Release: June 15, 2015
Contact: Skylar McElhaney, (405) 702-7167

DEQ Offers Funding Opportunities in Solid Waste Management

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) expects to be able to help local governments make solid waste management improvements in the new state fiscal year that begins July 1. The Oklahoma Solid Waste Management Act (Act) affords DEQ resources that can help local governments with things such as increasing recycling, cleaning up illegal dumps, hiring trash cops, and developing centers to manage bulky waste. The Act created a system of state solid waste fees that help fund DEQ's environmental protection programs. The funds can also help local governments develop better methods of handling solid waste.

The Act directs DEQ to invest in projects to help implement county solid waste management plans. Counties across the state have taken advantage of these resources to buy recycling equipment, catch and fine illegal dumpers, and clean up roadside dumps.

Oklahoma is a national leader in a unique aspect of recycling.

"The law directs DEQ to use materials recovered from solid waste to restore lands damaged by oil and gas production and mining. In partnership with local conservation districts and sub-state planning agencies, we have enjoyed encouraging successes. Through the application of organic materials we have been able to restore barren waste lands into productive pastures," said DEQ's Patrick Riley.

Communities who are interested in these opportunities can contact Patrick Riley at P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677, 405-702-5100 or via e-mail at patrick.riley@deq.ok.gov.

###