CHOCTAW NATION:
Meeting the Needs of the Community

Tribal Lands Forum
Coos Bay, Oregon

August 21, 2012
Going Green Background

- Began 3 years ago with initiation of a Going Green Team
- Motto contest: “Sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth”
- Purchased reusable mugs for employees
- Began recycling aluminum cans (Durant) / printer cartridges (10.5 counties)
- Community projects
- Partnered with the City of Ada
- Purchased large recycling bins
- Alcoa bin donations
- Received EECBG (grant)
Employee Involvement for Recycling

4th of July Decorating Contest
- All materials were to be able to be recycled and requested that materials not be purchased
- 15 departments participated

Department Collection Contest
- Each department was challenged to bring in materials from home and collect material while at work
- Winners determined by average per person to allow departments of all size equal opportunity
- Diverted 15 tons of materials in 2.5 weeks
The Choctaw Nation is committed to being a responsible steward of the environment in order to minimize our impact on the environment for future generations.
2011 Going Green Goals

1. Raise awareness regarding Going Green to the Community
2. Raise awareness regarding Going Green to Tribal facilities
3. Partner with community groups with compatible goals
4. Educate others with all that has been accomplished to date
5. Recruit additional team members
First Steps...
Our Recycling Facility

Durant, Oklahoma
Recycling Center

Our Hub in **Durant:**
- Warehouse: 30,350 square feet
- Close to a main thoroughfare (Hwy 69/75)
- Easy drive up access for cars, bikes, trucks, etc.
- Loading doors for tractor trailers (5 docks)
- Outside area for drop-off after hours
- Plenty of 3 phase electrical connections
- Large area to sort and store loose material
- Large area to store baled material
- Baler: Horizontal is best option
- Forklift with scoop and fork ability
- 1 - 24 ft box truck, 2 pick up trucks and various trailers
- Over 30 11-cubic yard recycling containers
Recycling Center!!

Forklift / Vertical Baler

Material Sorting and Storage Areas

Conveyor / Horizontal Baler
Recycling Locations

- **Tribal Facilities**
  - Inside buildings: bins in offices, hall ways, break areas
    - 98 locations
  - Outside buildings: trailers, roll offs and designated areas
    - 54 locations

- **External Locations**
  - Businesses – banks, florists, real estate, fast food, retail stores (major retailers), furniture stores etc.
  - Municipalities
  - Counties
  - Universities, High Schools
Materials Being Recycled

- Paper
  - Office Paper
  - Shredded Paper
  - Newspaper
  - Magazines / Catalogs / Phone Books
- Cardboard
- Printer and Toner Cartridges
- Plastics 1, 2 and 5
- Aluminum Cans
- Steel/Tin Cans
- Christmas Cards
- Cell Phones
- Electronics / Batteries
- Styrofoam
- Crayons
- Greeting Cards
Recycling Type and Quantities

- Mixed Paper / Newspaper: 328 Tons
- Cardboard: 286 Tons
- Shredded Paper: 240 Tons
- Electronic Waste: 91 Tons
- Plastics: 38 Tons
- Aluminum Cans: 3 Tons
- Steel Cans: 4 Tons
- Printer Cartridges: 2,276 Ea
Difficulties

- Limited quantities across large area
  - Rural areas
  - Mind set: used to trash disposal or burning
- Amount of trash placed in recycle containers
- Distance from hub to other locations
- Fuel prices
- Sorting of materials received
Benefits

- Landfill Diversion (Tons): 990
- Green Jobs Created: 7
- Able to Partner with Shelter workshop
- Reduction in waste tipping fees
Event Recycling and Education

- Senior Citizens at Community Centers
- Employee e-mails and area newspaper articles
- Choctaw Nation Sponsored Events
- Employee Cookout Events
- Recycling Events (e-waste and other)
- Labor Day Swap
  - 4th year - 2012
  - Approximately 2,500 lbs/yr.
- Safety Camp
- Career Expo
- Environmental Fairs
- Earth Day Events
Additional Activities

- Energy Conservation
- Community Center Gardens
- Highways
  - 12 miles of Oklahoma Highways
  - Wild flower planting
  - Trash
- Parks
- Lake Clean Ups
- Rain Barrel Workshop
- Crayon Recycling
  - www.crazycrayons.com
Community Center Gardens

Parks: Tree planting, paint scraping and replacement

Community Center Gardens
Coca-Cola Rain Barrel Workshop: pre-coated barrels, youth painting, informational class and then hands on class
More Activities...

- Labor Day Festival
- Spring and Earth Day Events
- E-Waste Events
- Medication Bottle Grinding
- America Recycles Day
- Toy and Coat Drive
- Styrofoam Recycling
AT&T and Kingston Elementary Phone Book Recycling!!
Diverted over 500 phone books and 2,000 pounds from the landfill!!

Choctaw Nation Safety Camp Recycling Relay!!

Southeastern Oklahoma State University Recycling in a BIG Way EVERY Day!!
Future Plans...

- Marketing / Growth
- Recycling Partners
- Spring / Earth Day Events
- E-Waste Events
- Rain Barrels Distribution
- On-Going Education
  - Day Cares / Head Starts
  - School Programs
  - Senior Citizens
  - Facebook
  - Communities

Rain Barrel Distribution
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