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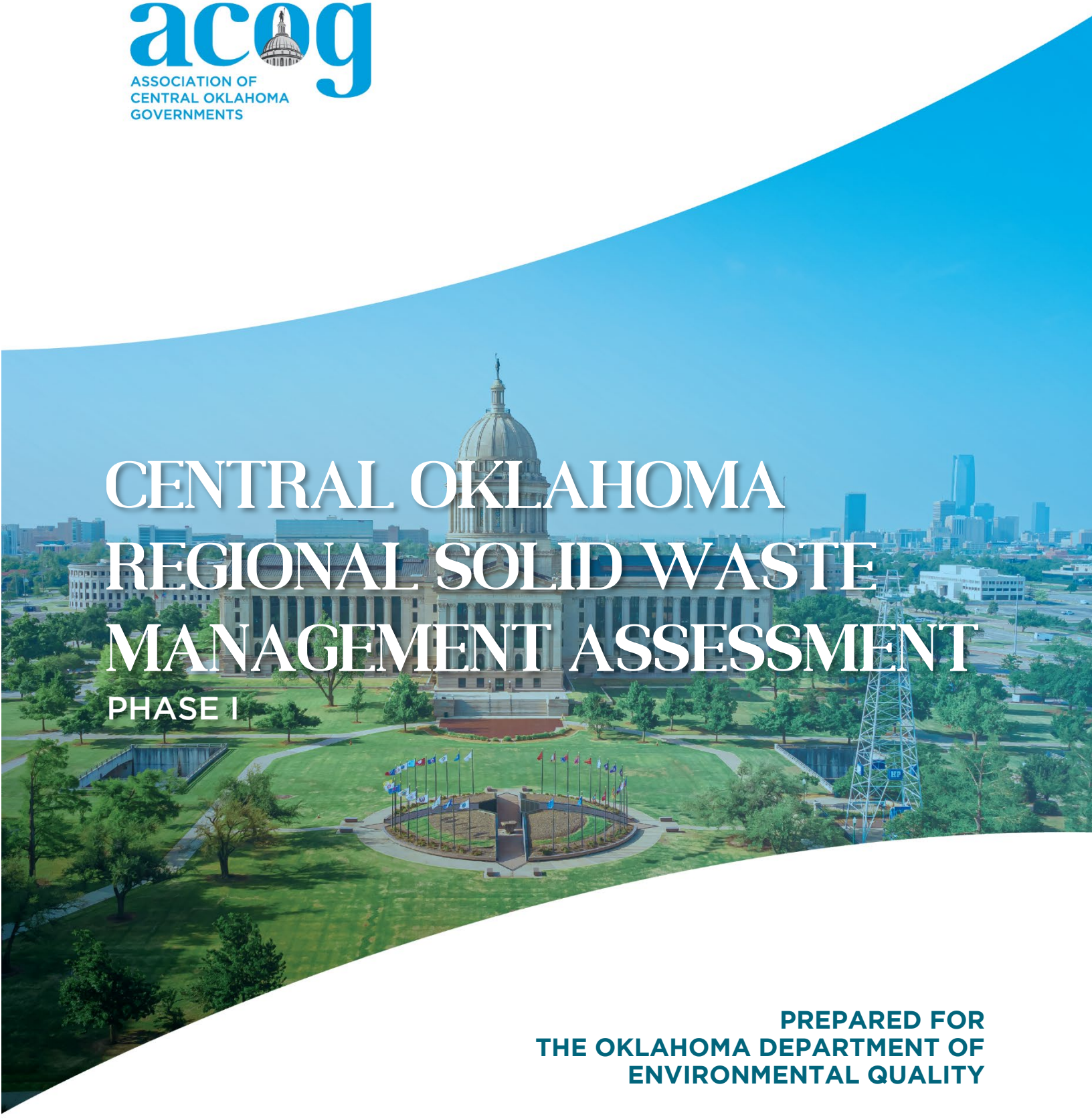

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

PHASE I

PREPARED FOR THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

2026

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
4205 N. Lincoln Blvd. | Oklahoma City, OK 73105 | 405.234.2264 | acogok.org

ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GOVERNMENTS

Mark W. Sweeney, AICP ..... Executive Director
John M. Sharp ..... Deputy Director

PROJECT TEAM

Sharon Astrin ..... Community & Economic Development Director
Eric Pollard ..... Air Quality & Clean Cities Manager
Madison Martin ..... Community & Economic Development Intern
Rachel Meinke ..... Public Information Director
Chantal Swing ..... Digital Media Specialist

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
4205 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Telephone: (405) 234- 2264
www.acogok.org

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CENTRAL OKLAHOMA REGIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT PHASE I: EXISTING CONDITIONS, GAPS, & OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

The **Central Oklahoma Regional Solid Waste Management Assessment** is the first phase of a proposed three-part initiative developed by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

ACOG is a regional Council of Governments (COG) established under Oklahoma law to carry out planning, coordination, and implementation functions with its member governments. Its work focuses on issues with impacts that extend across city and county lines, including transportation, public safety, economic development, environmental planning, and other shared priorities. **Solid waste[1] management also has the same regional impact yet there is no coordinated strategy or plan for addressing it.** Local governments manage services within their own jurisdictions, but waste moves across boundaries, facilities serve multiple communities, severe weather affects entire areas, and markets for recycling, composting, and reuse extend beyond city limits.

The idea of addressing solid waste management on a regional basis began with ACOG's member communities. During the 2022 Regional Visioning process, local government leaders identified solid waste management as a shared concern and described uneven access to collection, recycling, diversion, and special waste options across Central Oklahoma. Members also noted that severe weather events, including Winter Storm Uri in 2021, expose gaps that extend beyond any one jurisdiction. Storm debris, bulky waste, damaged building materials, and service disruptions can exceed the capacity of individual communities.

This assessment is the logical first step in responding to the need for a regional approach. It documents current solid waste practices across Central Oklahoma, identifies gaps in services and coordination, and establishes the factual and analytical basis for long-term regional planning.

[1] Solid Waste for the purposes of this assessment includes the following categories:

- Construction And Demolition Debris (including yard waste and tree debris)
- Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)
- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
- Industrial/Commercial Waste
- Regulated Medical Waste
- Electronic Waste (E-waste)
- Used Oil
- Waste Tires

This initiative is the first of three planned phases:

PHASE I — ASSESSMENT
Document existing conditions, identify gaps, and establish the regional planning foundation.

PHASE II — PLAN DEVELOPMENT
Use the assessment findings to develop a regional solid waste management plan.

PHASE III — IMPLEMENTATION
Advance selected strategies, partnerships, pilot projects, or shared tools identified through the planning process.

For purposes of this assessment, the regional planning area includes eight counties in the Oklahoma City-Shawnee Combined Statistical Area (CSA): Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie Counties. Together, these counties include approximately 99 municipalities and a population of about 1.6 million people.

While ACOG directly serves Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, and Oklahoma Counties, this assessment was scoped to the full CSA to reflect the regional scale at which solid waste challenges, such as landfill capacity, disaster debris, household hazardous waste, and illegal dumping, functionally operate.

The region includes Oklahoma City and surrounding urban, suburban, small-town, and rural communities. These communities differ significantly in population, land use, development patterns, service capacity, staffing, infrastructure, and access to solid waste and recycling options. Those differences matter — a strategy that works for a large urban municipality may not be realistic for a small town or rural county.

At the same time, many of the region's challenges — landfill capacity, disaster debris, illegal dumping, household hazardous waste, public education, recycling markets, and data collection — are not confined to one jurisdiction.

Regional growth adds urgency to this work. The Central Oklahoma region has experienced a 11% growth over the last 10 years, a net gain of 157,500 people (see figure below). As population and development continue to expand across Central Oklahoma, the volume and complexity of the waste stream will also grow. **Without a shared understanding of existing conditions, it will be difficult for the region to plan for future disposal needs, expand diversion opportunities, improve service access, or coordinate investments effectively.**

Table 1: 10-Year Growth by County

COUNTY	2015 EST.	2025 EST.	CHANGE	%GROWTH
Oklahoma	774,000	822,100	+48,100	6.2%
Cleveland	278,700	304,000	+25,300	9.1%
Canadian	134,400	187,200	+52,800	39.3%
Logan	45,800	55,500	+9,700	21.2%
McClain	38,200	49,600	+11,400	29.8%
Grady	54,000	59,100	+5,100	9.4%
Lincoln	34,100	35,300	+1,200	3.5%
Pottawatomie	71,200	75,100	+3,900	5.5%
8 County Total	1,430,400	1,587,900	+157,500	11.0%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program (V2025); 2025 ACS 5-year estimates. 2015 figures from Census intercensal estimates. Regional totals rounded.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Central Oklahoma Regional Solid Waste Management Assessment is the first comprehensive existing conditions analysis of solid waste and materials management across the eight-county Oklahoma City-Shawnee Combined Statistical Area (CSA): Canadian, Cleveland, Grady, Lincoln, Logan, McClain, Oklahoma, and Pottawatomie Counties. Developed by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in collaboration with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), this Phase I assessment documents existing infrastructure and services, identifies gaps in service delivery and coordination, and establishes the data-informed analytical basis for a Phase II regional materials management planning effort. While ACOG directly serves Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, and Oklahoma Counties, this assessment was scoped to the full CSA to reflect the regional scale at which solid waste challenges, such as landfill capacity, disaster debris, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), and illegal dumping, functionally operate.

The CSA encompasses approximately 99 municipalities and 1.6 million residents across a wide range of community types — from Oklahoma City and its suburbs to small rural towns and unincorporated areas. Regional population has grown 11% over the last decade, a net gain of more than 157,000 residents.

METHODOLOGY

The assessment integrates multiple complementary data sources, including:

- DEQ regulatory data and landfill receipt records
- A regional facility inventory developed through local government reporting, DEQ permit records, and GIS analysis
- A systematic review of municipal solid waste plans, ordinances, and intergovernmental agreements
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) landfill gas and greenhouse gas reporting data
- Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) pharmaceutical drop-off location records
- Peer region and case study research

The community engagement process, branded *Trash Talks*, generated 6,350 survey views, 366 participants, 4,172 responses, and 282 open-text comments. Additional surveys gathered input from 43 municipal public works staff and 29 ACOG Board members. All public-facing materials were provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese.

In addition, qualitative interviews were conducted with subject matter experts representing municipal government, compost and recycling businesses, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, higher education institutions, a cooperative extension, and a federal installation.

REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The region's solid waste infrastructure includes the following:

- 10 permitted landfills
- 5 transfer stations
- 17 municipal recycling centers
- 3 household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities
- 405 private businesses accepting materials for recycling, recovery, or reuse

Three Oklahoma County landfills operate active landfill gas capture systems converting methane to renewable natural gas; five additional sites across four counties demonstrate potential for gas capture development. Lincoln County hosts specialized liquid waste and regulated medical waste processing infrastructure serving a regional function beyond its own jurisdictional boundaries.

Infrastructure availability is not uniformly distributed; waste management facilities of every type are more limited in communities farther from the urban core. Three counties — Cleveland, McClain, and Logan — have no active landfills. Logan and Lincoln Counties have the fewest recycling, composting, and diversion facilities relative to their land area and population. And Canadian County, the fastest-growing county in Oklahoma, has a smaller solid waste infrastructure footprint than counties with comparable populations.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Finding One — Fragmentation and Isolation.** The region's municipalities manage solid waste independently, without a shared regional framework for coordination. Municipalities negotiate separate contracts, develop individual programs, and make infrastructure investments with limited formal coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. Only 24 of the region's 99 municipalities have any kind of collaborative agreement in place, a condition that limits economies of scale, constrains service options, and leaves the region without a common basis for planning, data collection, or shared investment. Oklahoma's Metropolitan Environmental Trust (MET), which serves the Tulsa metropolitan area, demonstrates that formal regional solid waste collaboration is legally and operationally achievable within the state's institutional framework, as does the Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA) in Canadian County.
- **Finding Two — Limited Visibility.** Solid waste financial, operational, and service-level data across the region are incomplete, inconsistent, and largely unavailable in forms that support regional analysis. Most municipalities consolidate solid waste expenditures into combined utility budgets alongside water and wastewater, making it impossible to benchmark service delivery costs, assess whether fee structures recover program costs, or evaluate the return on diversion investment. Private operator data is frequently proprietary or reported only in aggregate. Inconsistent reporting units across programs and jurisdictions prevent the construction of consistent regional performance metrics. The City of Norman, which operates sanitation through a separate enterprise fund under the Norman

Municipal Authority, is the only jurisdiction in the study area where solid waste finances are reported with sufficient granularity to support cost-basis analysis and capital planning.

- **Finding Three — Inconsistency and Disparity.** Solid waste management outcomes vary significantly across the region, with access to services, programs, and infrastructure determined largely by geography and local fiscal capacity. Fifty-nine percent of responding municipalities reported not providing recycling service. Residents in rural areas, outer-ring municipalities, and multifamily housing consistently described service conditions that diverge from those available to single-family households in larger cities — narrower material acceptance, limited bulk waste service, drop-off distances of 10 to 20 miles, and no practical recycling access. These disparities reflect service delivery gaps that regional planning is positioned to address.
- **Finding Four — Increased Population, Increased Demand.** Population growth is increasing disposal demand at a rate that diversion capacity has not matched. Resident and Board survey data confirm consistent, geographically distributed demand for expanded services including composting, battery and e-waste recycling, household hazardous waste access, and broader material acceptance. Forty-eight percent of survey respondents indicated willingness to participate in composting if available. Eighty-two percent of Board respondents supported advocacy for updates to state solid waste law or funding mechanisms. Diversion capacity across the region has not kept pace with either population growth or documented public demand.

ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The region has meaningful materials management capacity that Phase II planning can build upon. Bergen Enterprises and Prairie Dirt Solutions divert 170,000 cubic yards of organic material annually through two DEQ-permitted composting sites. ACOG's USDA-funded community composting pilot, implemented with Fertile Ground Cooperative, diverted 34 tons of food waste through a network of 20 drop-off sites across Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties, demonstrating that residents will participate when collection is convenient and operationally supported. The City of Norman — with an 88% recycling participation rate[2], year-round HHW and e-waste drop-off, a swap shop, and compost at no additional charge — demonstrates what sustained municipal investment in integrated materials management can produce.

Electronic waste carries additional significance. Oklahoma has an emerging role in the domestic rare earth supply chain, anchored by a DOE-funded Phoenix Tailings demonstration facility in Ardmore and the USA Rare Earth magnet manufacturing facility in Stillwater. Regional e-waste collection infrastructure is an economic development asset, not only an environmental management priority.

Only 9% of survey respondents reported regularly recycling electronics; only 12% reported regularly recycling batteries.

[2] Norman 2023 Mayor's Climate Agreement Report

The gap between those participation rates and the 52% of Board respondents who selected a regional e-waste pilot as a priority reflects the absence of accessible infrastructure, not the absence of interest.

Several low- or no-cost program models applicable to the region's structure — including regional HHW collection events, textile recovery bin programs, paint stewardship partnerships, and shared illegal dumping reporting networks — have demonstrated effectiveness at comparable regional scales and do not require regulatory authority or significant capital investment to initiate.

CONCLUSION

The conditions this assessment documents are the product of decades of local, independent decision-making without a shared regional framework. Phase II — a Central Oklahoma Materials Management Plan — presents the opportunity to establish common data standards, cross-jurisdictional service coordination, and a policy environment that allows the region's existing assets to function as an integrated, collaborative network. DEQ's role as funder, regulatory authority, and technical partner will be essential to what a regional planning process can realistically accomplish.

ASSESSMENT DATA, METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

The assessment draws on multiple, complementary data sources using qualitative and quantitative research methods, described below. Taken together, these methodologies were designed to produce a regionally integrated baseline understanding of materials management conditions across the eight-county region.

DEQ DATA AND LANDFILL RECEIPT RECORDS

Primary quantitative data on solid waste generation and disposal were drawn from DEQ's regulatory data holdings, including annual landfill receipt records submitted by permitted solid waste disposal facilities operating within and serving the study area. These records provided the foundational basis for estimating regional waste generation volumes, characterizing disposal patterns, and identifying the permitted facilities receiving materials generated within the eight-county region. Landfill receipt data were supplemented with facility permit information and inspection records maintained by DEQ's Land Protection Division. Landfill emissions and gas capture systems were acquired from EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program database.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, PLANS, AND POLICIES

ACOG conducted a systematic review of existing solid waste management plans, municipal code provisions, intergovernmental agreements, and related policy documents across the eight counties and their municipalities. Where local plans existed, they were reviewed for currency, geographic scope, and alignment with state and regional planning objectives. This review informed both the facility inventory and the assessment of planning capacity across the region's tiered county structure.

FACILITY INVENTORY

A regional inventory of solid waste management facilities was developed through a combination of local government reporting, DEQ active facility permit records, and DEQ Geographic Information System (GIS) maps. The inventory includes permitted landfills, transfer stations, recycling facilities, composting and yard waste facilities, household hazardous waste collection sites, pharmaceutical waste drop-off locations, and specialized waste processing facilities operating within the study area. Data was drawn from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which provides a robust inventory of year-round pharmaceutical waste drop-off locations nationally and internationally. The facility inventory serves as the baseline infrastructure record against which regional capacity gaps and service area coverage are assessed throughout this report.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) AND MAPPING

Spatial analysis and mapping were conducted using GIS to determine the geographic distribution of facilities, service coverage, and jurisdictional boundaries across the eight-county region. GIS layers were developed to support both internal analysis and the visual representation of regional infrastructure findings. Mapping products embedded throughout this report are derived from this spatial analysis work.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A structured, multi-track stakeholder engagement process branded as *Trash Talks* gathered perspectives from citizens, local government staff, elected and appointed officials, and expert practitioners across the region between November 2025 and May 2026. Detailed findings from each track are presented in the *Subject Matter Experts* section of this report.

PEER REGION AND CASE STUDY RESEARCH

A review of regional materials management programs, planning frameworks, and promising practices was conducted to situate the Central Oklahoma region within a national context. This research informed the *Innovative Approaches* section of this report and a set of regional case studies illustrating how peer regions have approached comparable materials management challenges. Sources consulted included published regional solid waste management plans, EPA program documentation, academic and practitioner literature, and outreach to peer regional planning organizations.

DATA LIMITATIONS

The findings presented in this assessment reflect the best available information at the time of analysis. Several data constraints — some technical and operational, some structural — affect the completeness and comparability of regional data.

INCONSISTENT REPORTING ACROSS JURISDICTIONS

Solid waste reporting practices vary substantially across the eight-county study area. Jurisdictions differ in the frequency, format, and level of detail with which they track and report waste generation, collection, and disposal data. Some municipalities maintain detailed internal records that are published in the annual municipality budget; others rely entirely on contractor-provided summaries or do not systematically collect program-level data at all. This variation limits the degree to which direct cross-jurisdictional comparisons can be made with confidence and introduces uncertainty into region-wide aggregate estimates.

For a subset of jurisdictions — particularly smaller municipalities and rural areas in the outer-tier counties — relevant data were either unavailable or sufficiently incomplete to preclude reliable analysis. This gap has a specific and underappreciated dimension: a significant number of small municipalities in the region maintain no public-facing website, and many that do maintain websites provide no solid waste or recycling information. Basic operational details — who provides collection service, what materials are accepted, where residents can dispose of problem items — were absent from local government online presence across a meaningful portion of the study area. As a result, satellite imaging was utilized to observe primary service providers in rural areas where data was unavailable. One limitation of satellite imaging in this assessment is the date of image capture; the oldest image used was from 2023. Since then, it is possible that municipalities may have changed service providers, which could impact the accuracy and relevance of the data for current solid waste management analysis.

This is not merely a research inconvenience; it reflects and reinforces the service access disparities documented throughout this report. Residents in communities without accessible public information about solid waste services are less able to make use of whatever services do exist. Gaps in local digital presence do not necessarily reflect the absence of materials management activity, but they do reflect the absence of any systematic mechanism for communicating and educating the public about it. Where data gaps of any kind were identified, they are noted in the relevant sections of this report.

PRIVATE SECTOR LIMITATIONS

A significant portion of solid waste collection, hauling, and processing activity in the region is performed by private operators under franchise agreements or open-market arrangements. Private operators are not uniformly subject to public reporting requirements, and data on privately managed waste streams are often unavailable, proprietary, or reported only in aggregate form. This constraint is particularly pronounced for commercial and industrial waste streams, where available data substantially underrepresent actual generation volumes. Despite ACOGS' efforts to engage private sector waste companies, the input received was limited, presumably due to concerns regarding the protection of proprietary business information.

DIFFERING LOCAL DEFINITIONS AND REPORTING PERIODS

Across the region, jurisdictions and facilities employ varying definitions of key terms — including what constitutes a ton of recyclable material versus residual waste, how diversion is calculated, and what materials are included in or excluded from reported totals. Reporting units compound this problem: federal programs require materials reported in tons, while many local operators work in cubic yards, and some recycling equipment tracks usage in gallons. The variance in waste volume measurements hinders accurate waste comparisons across sectors, limiting the comprehensive view of waste generated, recycled, or diverted. Fiscal and calendar year reporting periods differ across sources, complicating direct temporal comparisons. Where definitional or temporal differences are known to affect comparability, they are identified in the relevant sections.

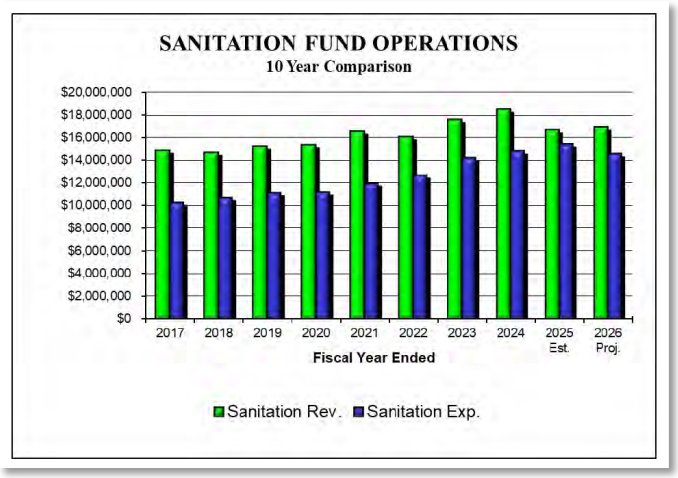
LIMITED VISIBILITY INTO FINANCIAL DATA

The limitations above affect data quality and completeness. The limitation described here affects whether the financial dimensions of solid waste management are knowable at all — and it is the most consequential data gap encountered in this assessment.

Across the eight-county region, the majority of municipalities that provide solid waste services do not budget or report those services as a discrete financial function. Solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling expenditures are typically consolidated with water, wastewater, and other utility functions into combined utility budgets. The result is that neither the public, regional planning agencies, nor DEQ can readily determine what any given municipality spends to manage its waste stream, what it recovers in fees or diversion revenues, or how those figures have

changed over time. For most of the region's municipalities, solid waste is financially invisible in public accounts.

This invisibility has real consequences for planning. Without disaggregated solid waste expenditure data, it is not possible to benchmark service delivery costs across jurisdictions, assess whether fee structures are recovering program costs, identify operational efficiencies achievable through shared services, or evaluate the return on diversion investment. Grant applications for infrastructure improvements require cost-basis documentation that consolidated utility budgets cannot provide. A municipality that cannot isolate what it spends on solid waste cannot meaningfully evaluate whether joining a regional cooperative procurement arrangement would save money — or demonstrate to DEQ that it needs help.



Source: City of Norman FY 2026 Annual Budget, Sanitation Fund Operations.

NORMAN CASE STUDY

NORMAN'S SANITATION FUND: WHAT FISCAL TRANSPARENCY LOOKS LIKE

The City of Norman is the clearest exception in the eight-county region — and the most instructive model for what disaggregated solid waste accounting produces.

Norman operates its sanitation services through the Norman Municipal Authority (NMA), a separate legal entity that functions as a business-type activity of the City. Its finances are reported independently of both the general fund and water/wastewater utilities, providing a level of financial transparency and detail that was not consistently available through publicly accessible financial reports across the study area.

From Norman's FY2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report:

- Total sanitation expenses: ~$17.3 million
- Reported as: a distinct enterprise fund line item, alongside water and wastewater, each with separate revenue, expense, and net position accounting
- Residential rate structure: explicitly disaggregated — $3/month curbside recycling charge and $0.20 Oklahoma Solid Waste Management charge identified within the total monthly rate

By tracking reserve accumulation within the Sanitation Enterprise Fund over multiple years, Norman has been able to fund the rebuild of aging solid waste infrastructure — using accumulated reserves to pay for capital renewal with the explicit goal of ensuring long-range service continuity. That kind of planning is only possible when solid waste finances are tracked with enough granularity to identify reserves and project future needs.

The gap between Norman's financial structure and prevailing practice across the rest of the region is not primarily a technical problem — most municipal finance systems are capable of tracking solid waste expenditures separately if directed to do so. It is a policy and practice problem.

Regional planning efforts that depend on understanding the fiscal dimensions of solid waste management — shared services, cooperative procurement, coordinated infrastructure investment — require a common financial foundation. Establishing disaggregated solid waste budget reporting as a baseline expectation for participating jurisdictions is among the most important enabling conditions for effective regional coordination, and one that a Phase II planning process is positioned to directly address.

ITEMS FOR VALIDATION IN PHASE II

Several data elements identified during this assessment could not be fully verified within the scope of Phase I work and are flagged throughout this report for targeted follow-up. A Phase II effort would provide the opportunity to conduct direct facility verification, resolve inconsistencies in self-reported local data, and develop more granular waste characterization information at the sub-county level.

THE SOLID WASTE ECONOMY

Understanding the financial and structural dimensions of solid waste management at the national level provides the context for interpreting regional conditions in Central Oklahoma. The following section establishes that foundation before turning to the region's specific infrastructure, services, and performance.

The solid waste economy encompasses the interconnected financial, infrastructural, and industrial systems responsible for the collection, transportation, processing, recovery, recycling, treatment, and disposal of discarded materials (see Figure 1).

The U.S. produced approximately 292 million tons of municipal solid waste in 2018, or 4.9 pounds per person per day.[1] Rising waste volumes create both a greater urgency to manage solid waste effectively and a greater opportunity to capture its economic value.

While traditionally viewed as a public service, solid waste management functions as a significant economic sector that supports employment, infrastructure investment, and the recovery of valuable resources. Economic value is generated through the materials collection, the recovery and sale of recyclable commodities, the extraction of raw materials such as metals and the conversion of waste into usable products or energy.

The solid waste economy is supported by a diverse network of infrastructure, including collection systems, transfer stations, materials recovery facilities (MRFs), composting operations, waste-to-energy systems, recycling processors, and municipal solid waste landfills. These facilities enable the flow of materials through the waste stream and help transform discarded materials into marketable commodities, energy resources, or supply chains for new products. MRFs play a critical role in sorting and preparing recyclable materials for manufacturing end

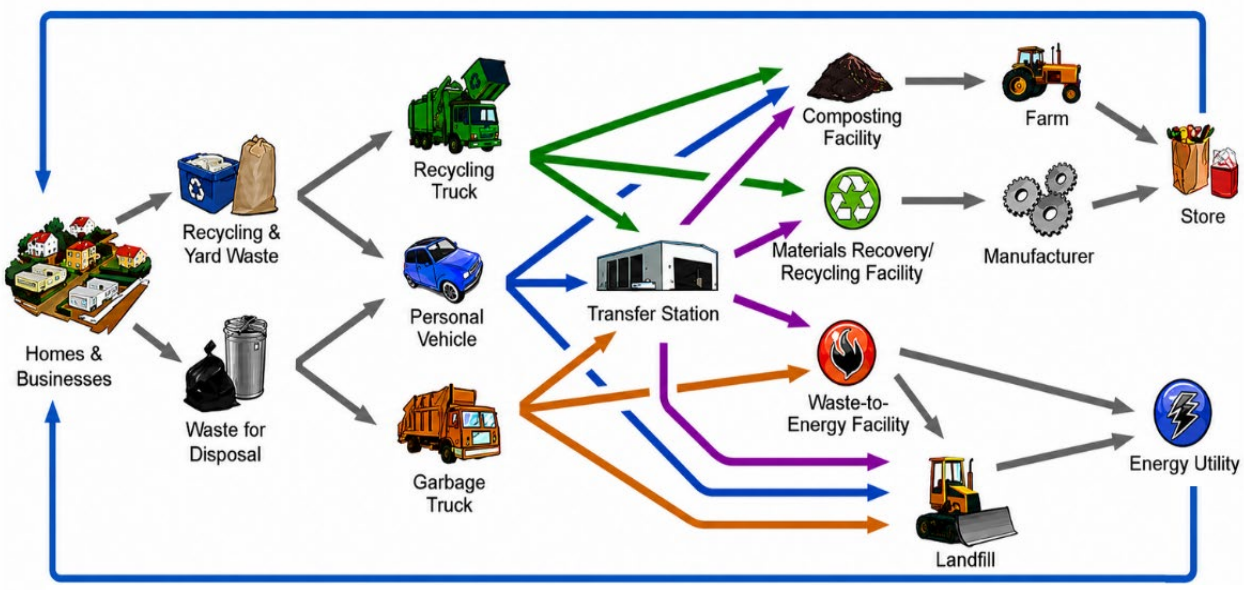


Figure 1. Solid waste management infrastructure and processes.

markets, while waste-to-energy facilities recover value from residual waste streams through energy generation and volume reduction.

The EPA established the non-hazardous materials and waste management hierarchy to acknowledge that no single approach is suitable for all types of materials and waste streams. This hierarchy prioritizes management strategies based on environmental preference, with a strong focus on reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting as essential elements of efficient materials management.[2]

Figure 2. EPA non-hazardous solid waste management

Nationally, the recycling and reuse sectors generate substantial economic activity. The EPA estimates that recycling and reuse activities generate 681,000 jobs, $37.8 billion in wages, and $5.5 billion in tax revenue generated through material recovery, manufacturing feedstocks, and secondary markets.[3]

To encourage material source reduction and reuse, the EPA is supporting a shift to a circular economy.[4] This approach aims to maximize the value of resources by extending product life, eliminating waste through improved design of materials, products, and systems. Unlike the traditional linear model, where resources are extracted, used, and discarded as waste, a circular economy focuses on reducing material use, and reusing waste for new manufacturing.[5]

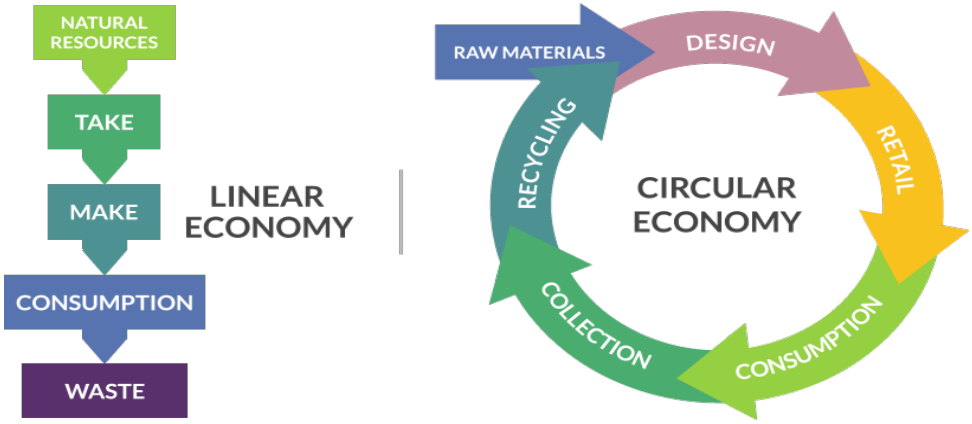


Figure 3. Graphic comparing the linear economy versus circular

THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Central Oklahoma's materials economy reflects both the opportunity and the limitations of this shift in practice. Waste Management (WM) in Oklahoma City is a prime example of a private sector business in the Central Oklahoma circular economy. They operate a private Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Oklahoma City. In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, the facility received over 24,000 tons of materials. Nearly 16,000 tons (66.67% of all materials) were sorted, bailed and sent to recycling companies. However, 7,500 tons were considered contaminated, which occurs when non-recyclable items are put in with recyclables or if the items are soiled with food. Contaminated recycled goods must be treated as waste and disposed of at a landfill.

Materials such as paper and cardboard stay in Oklahoma and are transported to two paper mills, the Republic Paperboard in Lawton and Smurfit Westrock in Oklahoma City, which is dedicated to paper and cardboard recycling, fiber recovery, and material processing. Additionally, Smurfit Westrock and Waste Management provide consulting, training, waste audits, bale pick-up service, and mixed-load sorting. The two papermills in the state demonstrate the circular economic opportunity for paper and cardboard products within Oklahoma to retain materials and economic value.

However, many materials that are not paper and cardboard leave the state of Oklahoma. For instance, the City of Norman’s residential curbside recycling is taken to Smurfit Westrock and then transported to South Hutchinson, Kansas where 75% of all materials are sorted, recycled, and reenter the manufacturing market.[6] Glass is transported to North Texas to be reused as roadbeds, concrete, and decorative tile. Materials being shipped out-of-state is a missed opportunity to use these materials in Central Oklahoma’s circular economy.[7]

REGIONAL OVERVIEW: INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Until now, no comprehensive picture of solid waste infrastructure, services, and funding across these eight counties has existed in one place. The maps and data that follow make visible a system that has never been mapped at this scale. What emerges is a baseline for measuring progress, a diagnostic for where the system is failing, and a foundation for decisions that have long been made without it.

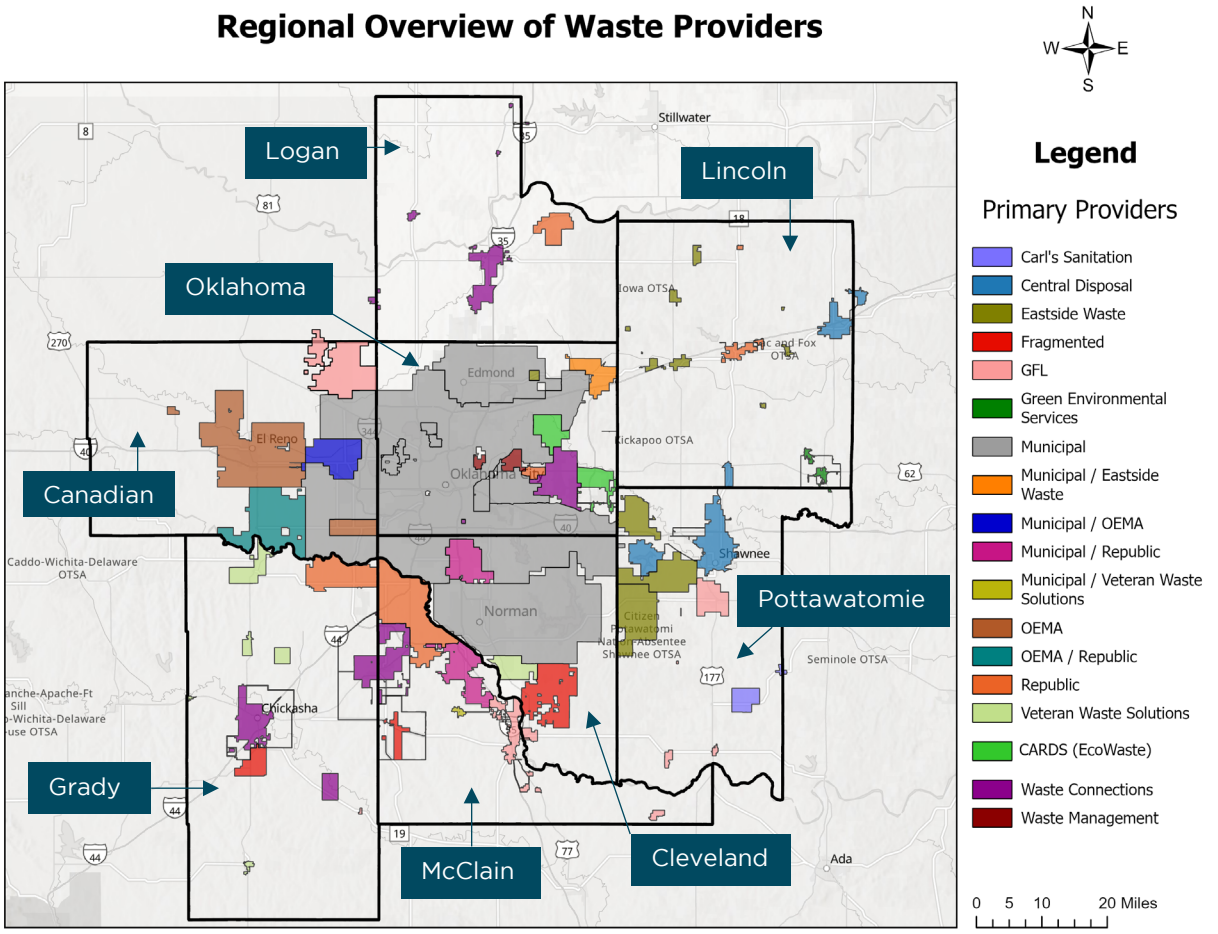


Figure 4. Spatial distribution of service coverage by solid waste provider across the region.

Urban and suburban areas within the region typically have consistent access to waste disposal services, whereas rural communities often experience notable gaps in coverage. The most significant service deficiencies are found in Lincoln and Logan Counties. While residents in larger towns benefit from regular waste collection, individuals living on the outskirts of these municipalities may encounter difficulties in properly disposing of their waste. These disparities underscore the need to enhance waste management services in underserved areas.

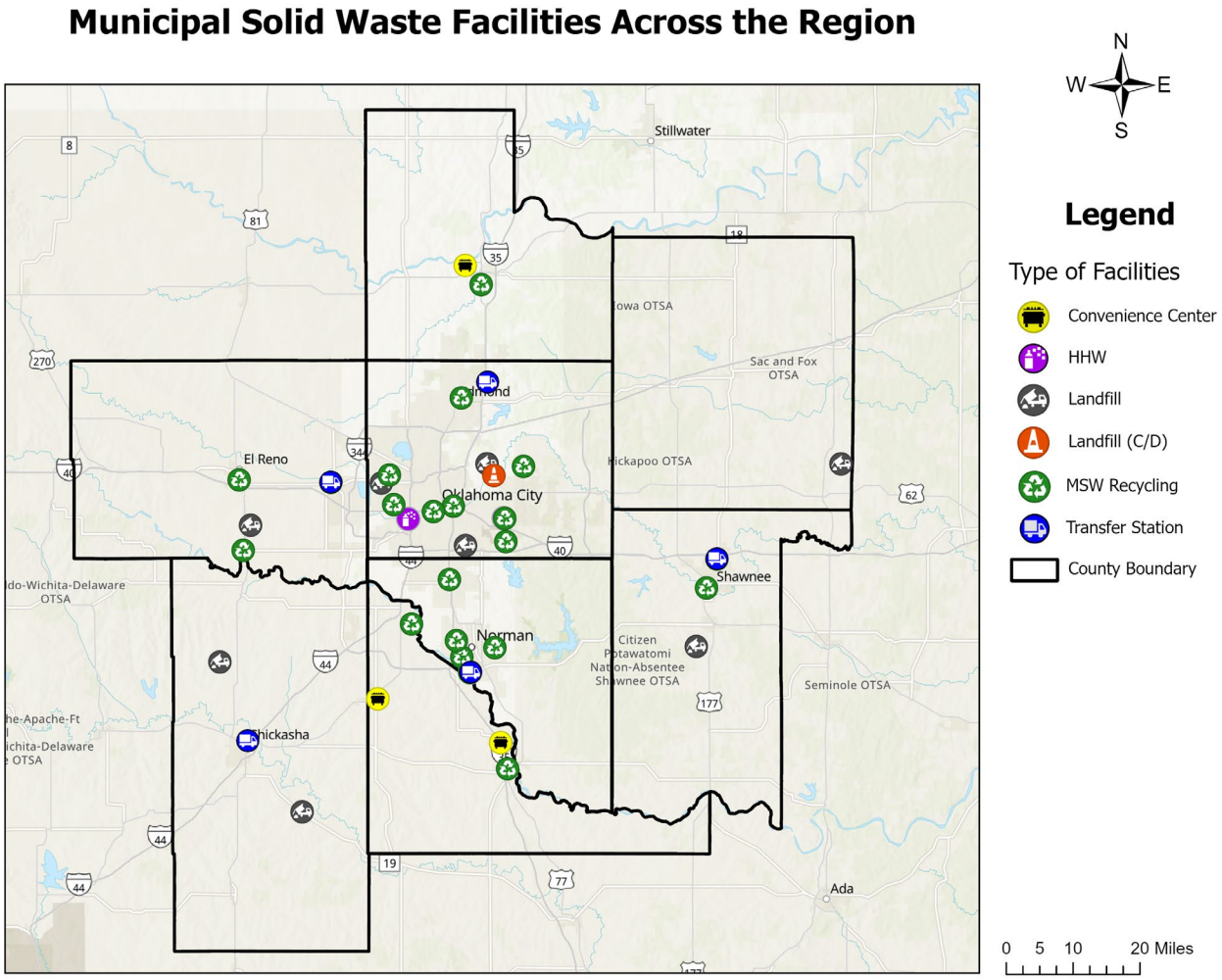


Figure 5. Geographic distribution of municipal solid waste facilities in the eight-county region.

The Region's Municipal Solid Waste Infrastructure Inventory[8]

- 3 Convenience Centers
- 5 Transfer Stations
- 3 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facilities
- 17 Municipal Recycling Centers

  (Yukon and Shawnee recycling centers are co-located with transfer stations and may not be visible)
- 10 Landfills

The region contains three dedicated household hazardous waste collection facilities located in Oklahoma City, Midwest City, and Norman. These facilities provide residents with safe and environmentally responsible options for materials that cannot be managed through conventional solid waste systems. Common household products such as paints, solvents, cleaners, automotive fluids, pesticides, herbicides, and other chemical-based materials may contain hazardous components that can pose risks to human health and environmental quality if improperly disposed of. By diverting these materials from the municipal waste stream, HHW facilities help prevent contamination of soil, surface water, and groundwater resources while supporting broader waste reduction and pollution prevention objectives.

The Oklahoma City HHW Collection Center serves as the region's primary HHW facility and provides disposal services free of charge to Oklahoma City residents with proof of residency. In addition to collection services, the facility operates a Swap Shop, where usable products received through the program are made available for redistribution to other residents. This reuse strategy extends product life cycles, reduces waste generation, and supports resource conservation. Through intergovernmental agreements, the facility also provides access to residents from the following communities.[9]

- The Village
- Yukon
- Tinker Air Force Base
- Shawnee
- El Reno
- Edmond
- Bethany
- Nichols Hills
- Warr Acres
- Mustang
- Moore

Midwest City's HHW Collection Facility provides a complementary service within the region and operates on an appointment only basis. While the facility does not offer a reuse program similar to Oklahoma City's Swap Shop, it extends disposal services through Memorandums of Understanding with several neighboring communities, including.[10]

- Choctaw
- Del City
- Forest Park
- Jones
- Nichols Hills
- Nicoma Park
- Slaughterville
- Spencer
- Unincorporated Areas of Oklahoma County

The Norman HHW Facility provides a dedicated disposal outlet for Norman residents and operates by appointment with proof of residency. Similar to Oklahoma City's program, the facility includes a Swap Shop where usable products collected through the program are made available for redistribution. At present, the facility is limited to Norman residents, however, the city is in the process of expanding service access to neighboring communities.[11] Such partnerships could improve regional access to household hazardous waste management infrastructure while leveraging existing facility capacity and operational expertise.

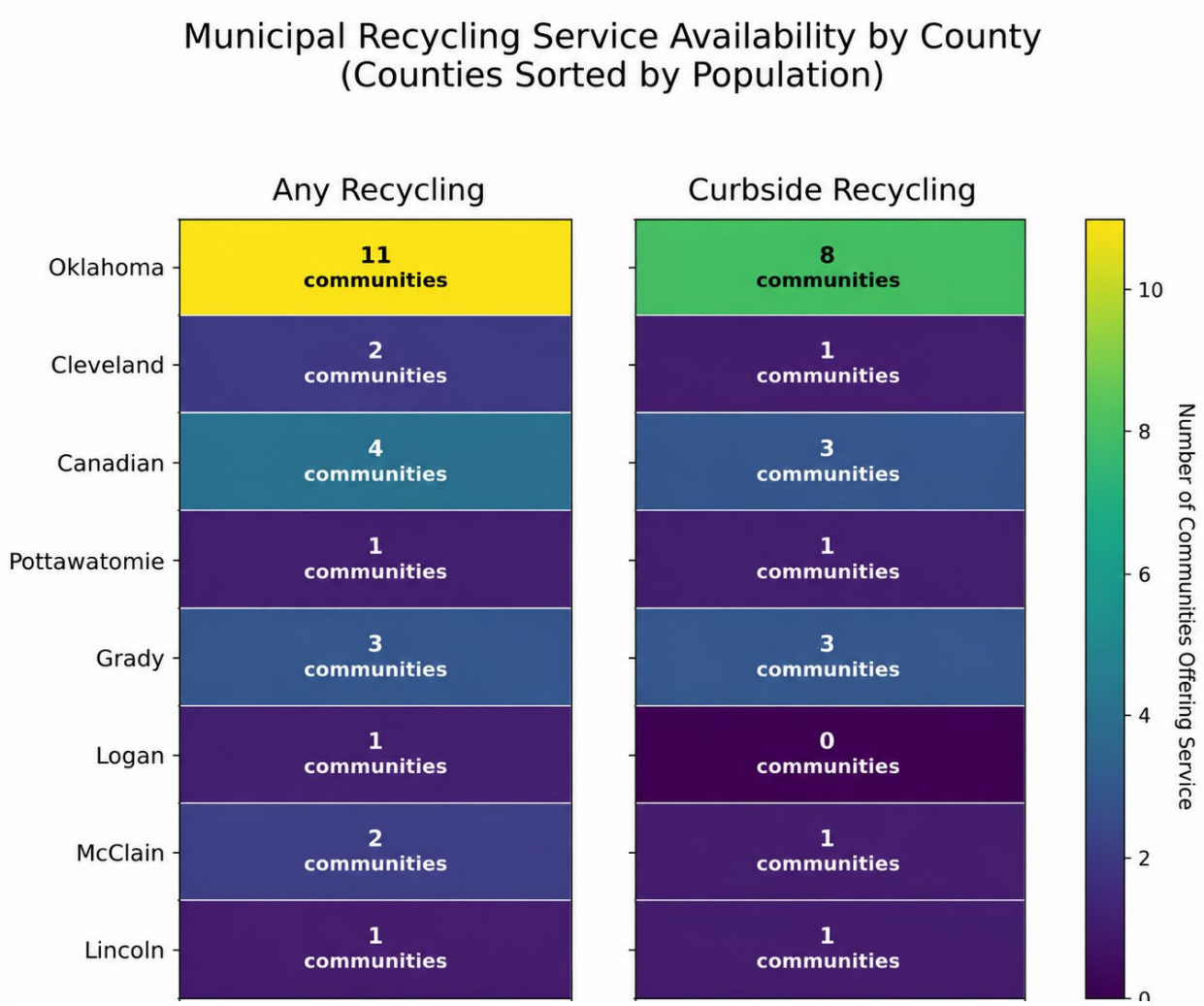


Figure 6. Number of communities offering recycling and curbside recycling services by county. Counties are ordered by population. Communities with unverified service information were excluded from the analysis.

Municipal recycling service availability by county highlights the uneven distribution of recycling programs throughout the region. While larger metropolitan counties contain the greatest number of communities offering recycling services, several rural counties have limited municipal recycling infrastructure, which may affect residents' access to diversion opportunities and contribute to continued reliance on landfill disposal.

This trend extends beyond recycling services and is reflected in the broader distribution of solid waste infrastructure across the region. As distance from Oklahoma City increases, the availability and diversity of waste management facilities generally declines, resulting in fewer disposal and diversion options for residents and businesses. These conditions are exemplified in Lincoln and Logan Counties. Logan County relies primarily on a transfer station, where waste is consolidated and transported to disposal facilities outside the county. Similarly, Lincoln County is served by a single municipal solid waste landfill located along its eastern boundary.

While these facilities provide essential waste management services, their limited number and geographic distribution reduce convenience, increase transportation distances, and constrain access to waste disposal infrastructure for large portions of the population.

Notably, three of the eight counties in the region, including McClain, Cleveland, and Logan do not have active landfills.

VARIANCE IN MUNICIPAL RATES

The effectiveness of this network is influenced in part by local waste utility rates, which affect both operational costs and service accessibility. A comprehensive comparative table of monthly residential solid waste rates is below in Figure 7.

This table presents the highest, lowest, and average utility rates among municipalities within each county, along with the most contracted waste service provider for each county. The table shows that local rates may vary, and in some cases, lower rates may reflect efficiencies within the system or differences in service levels and facility utilization. Cities with the asterisks (Edmond, Blanchard, and OKC) have a combined utility rate for both trash and recycling services. Additionally, OKC's rate includes bulky waste. A notable outlier was observed in Tecumseh, which charges homeowners $35/month (the highest of all municipalities in the 8-county region) and charges renters over twice that amount, $75/month.

Rate data of this kind is rarely compiled or made publicly available — municipalities typically negotiate service arrangements in isolation, without visibility into regional pricing norms or neighboring communities' contracts.

Table 2: Monthly Residential Solid Waste Utility Rates by County

Canadian County	CITY	PROVIDER	RESIDENTIAL RATE
Lowest Rate	Calumet	OEMA	$16.83
Highest Rate	Piedmont	WCA (GFL)	$26.90
Average Rate	$21.87		
Most Common Provider	OEMA		
Cleveland County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Moore	Municipal/Republic	$11.50
Highest Rate	Noble	Veteran Waste Solutions	$18.54
Average Rate	$15.02		
Most Common Provider	Fragmented		
Grady County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Blanchard *	Waste Connections	$18.75
Highest Rate	Tuttle	Republic	$29.78
Average Rate	$24.27		
Most Common Provider	Waste Connections / Veteran Waste Solutions		
Lincoln County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Chandler	Republic	$19.00
Highest Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A
Average Rate	$19.00		
Most Common Provider	Eastside Waste		
Logan County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Guthrie	Waste Connections	$16.82
Highest Rate	Cedar Valley	Municipal	$26.46
Average Rate	$21.64		
Most Common Provider	Waste Connections		
McClain County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Newcastle	Republic	$14.21
Highest Rate	Purcell	GFL	$25.00
Average Rate	$19.61		
Most Common Provider	GFL / Republic		
Oklahoma County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Edmond *	Municipal	$16.93
Highest Rate	Oklahoma City *	Municipal	$27.04
Average Rate	$21.99		
Most Common Provider	Municipal Authorities		
Pottawatomie County	**CITY**	**PROVIDER**	**RESIDENTIAL RATE**
Lowest Rate	Shawnee	Central Disposal	$19.86
Highest Rate	Tecumseh	GFL	$35.00-$75.00 (Homeowners-Renters)
Average Rate	$27.43		
Most Common Provider	Fragmented		

Figure 7. Municipal Rate Table. *Denotes combined services. Blanchard and Edmond combine trash and recycling; OKC combines trash, recycling, and bulky waste.

REGIONAL LANDFILL WASTE

The annual tonnage of waste reported DEQ[12]

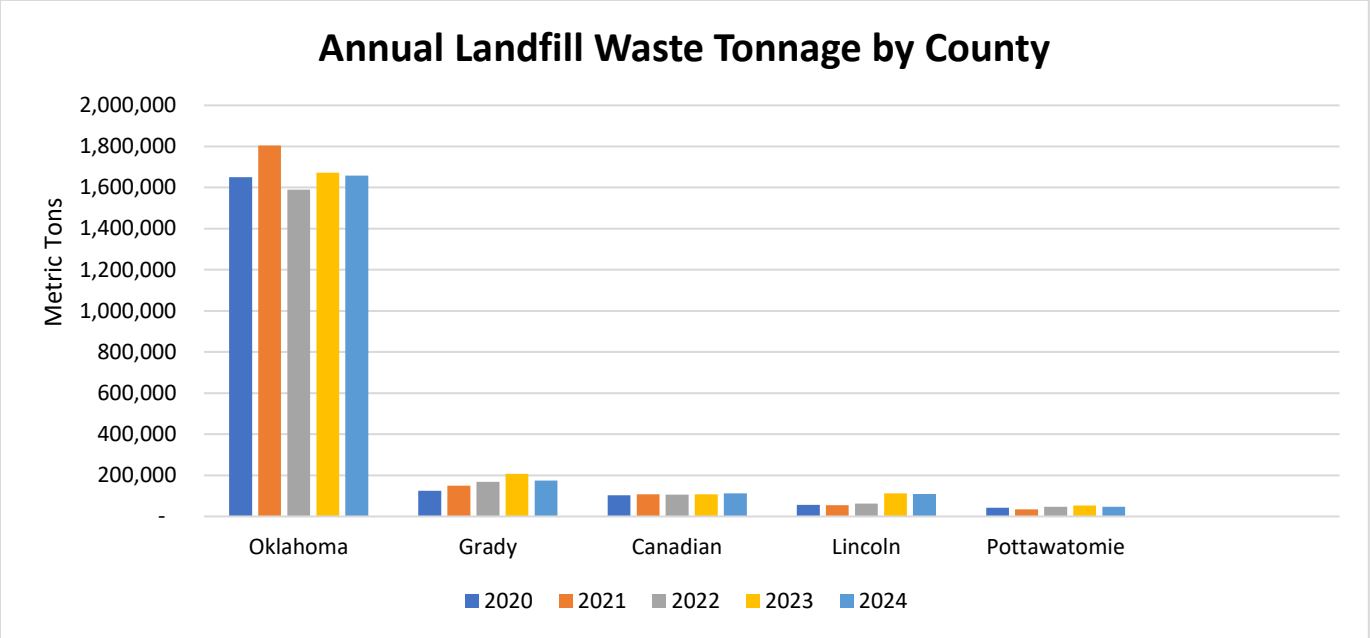


Figure 8. Annual landfill waste tonnage reported to DEQ by the five counties with active landfills, 2020-2024.

Data reported to DEQ indicates that Oklahoma County manages a substantially higher volume of municipal solid waste than any other county in the assessment region. Waste tonnage levels among the counties have been generally consistent over the past four years, apart from Lincoln County, which has exhibited a modest increase in volume since 2022. Understanding these waste volume trends is essential for proactive resource planning and serves as a foundation for evaluating landfill gas capture opportunities and optimizing environmental management strategies.

LANDFILL GAS EMISSIONS AND CAPTURE STRATEGIES

In landfills, methane forms when organic waste breaks down. Once released, it traps heat in the atmosphere and can contribute to hotter conditions, poor air quality, and increased stress on communities during extreme heat. In 2022, municipal solid waste landfills accounted for 14.4% of U.S. methane emissions from human activities, making them the nation's third-largest source in that category.[13]

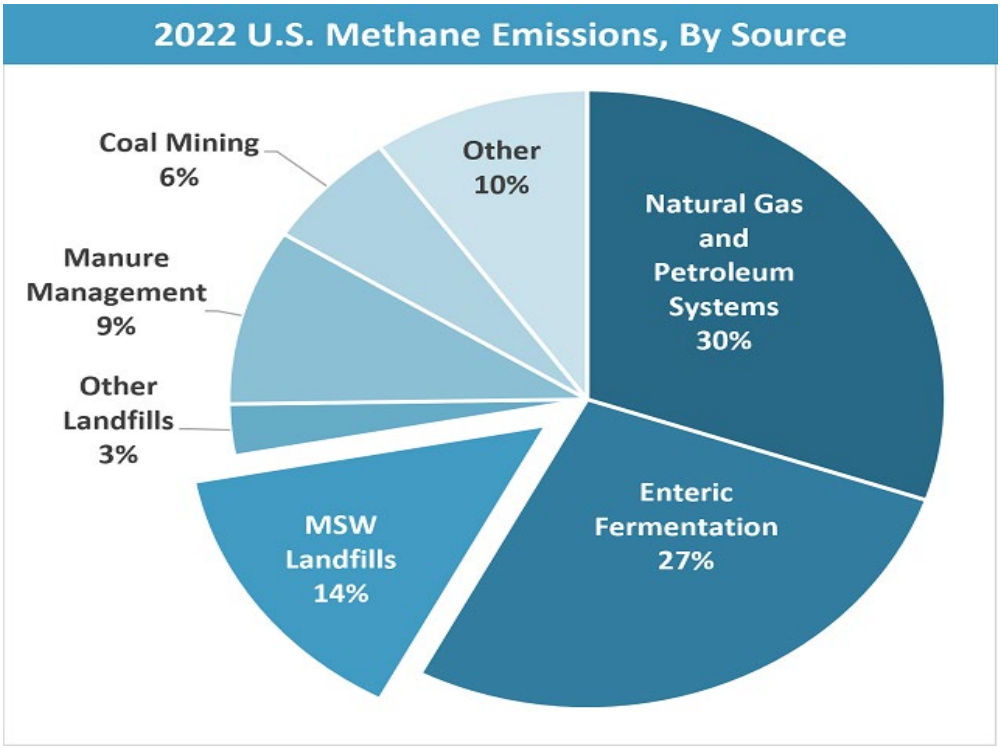


Figure 9. United States methane emissions by source in 2022 according to the EPA.

The scale of methane emissions from municipal landfills represents a lost opportunity to capture and use the emissions as an energy source. As a result, the EPA created the Landfill Methane Outreach Program to collaborate and aid industries and communities to reduce and leverage methane emissions.

Landfill gas can be effectively captured and converted into a renewable energy source, mitigating odors and reducing health risks associated with uncontrolled emissions. The collection and utilization of landfill gases also prevent methane release, limiting its impact on local air quality and smog. Landfill gas-to-energy projects offer economic benefits by generating revenue and supporting job creation within local communities and the broader region.[14]

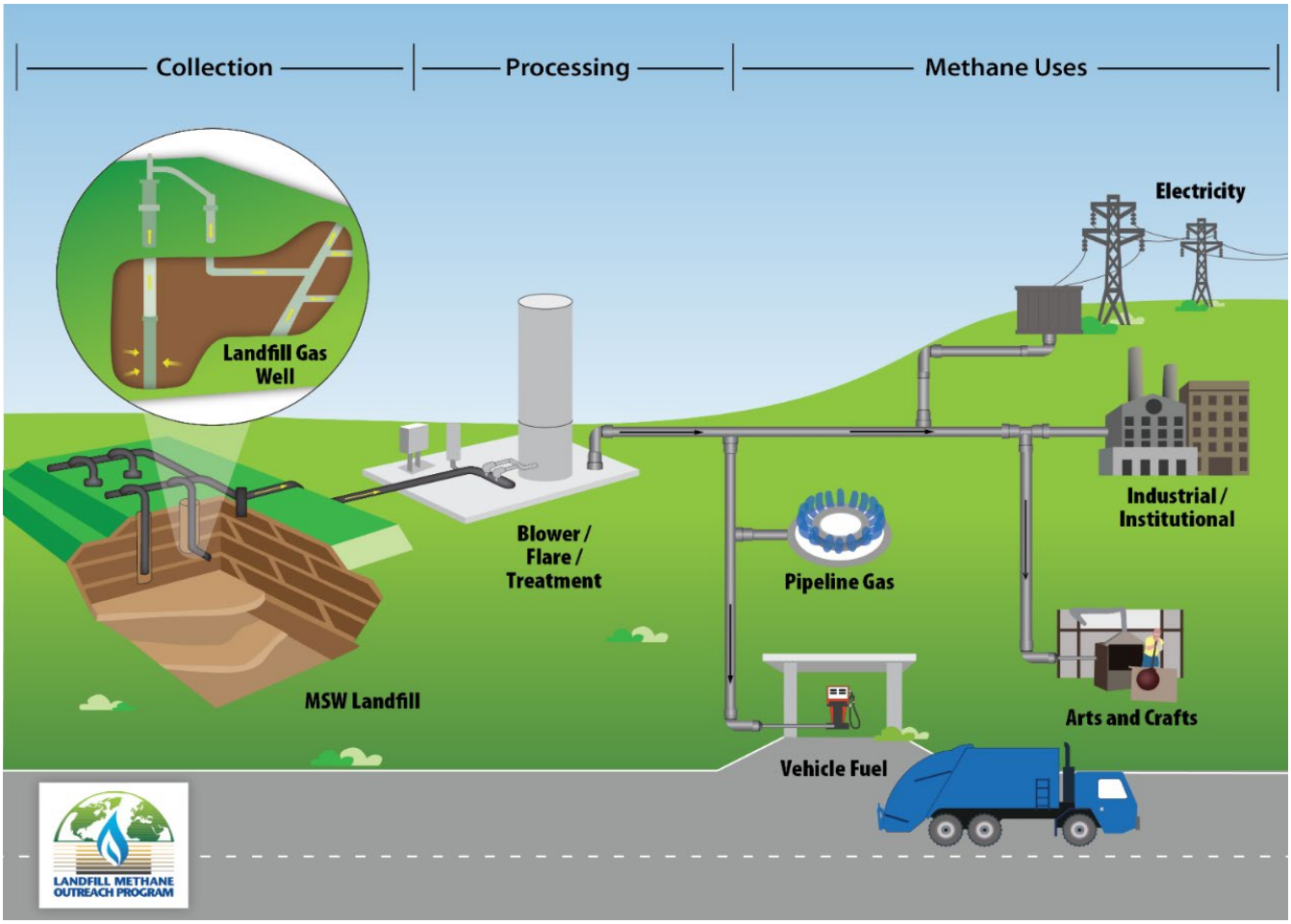


Figure 10. The graphic depicts the collection and treatment of landfill gas, highlighting its conversion to methane for various end uses such as industrial applications, pipeline gas, and vehicle fuel.

As part of its initiative to promote landfill gas capture systems, the EPA has developed a comprehensive database detailing municipal landfills feasibility for potential gas capture projects. [15]

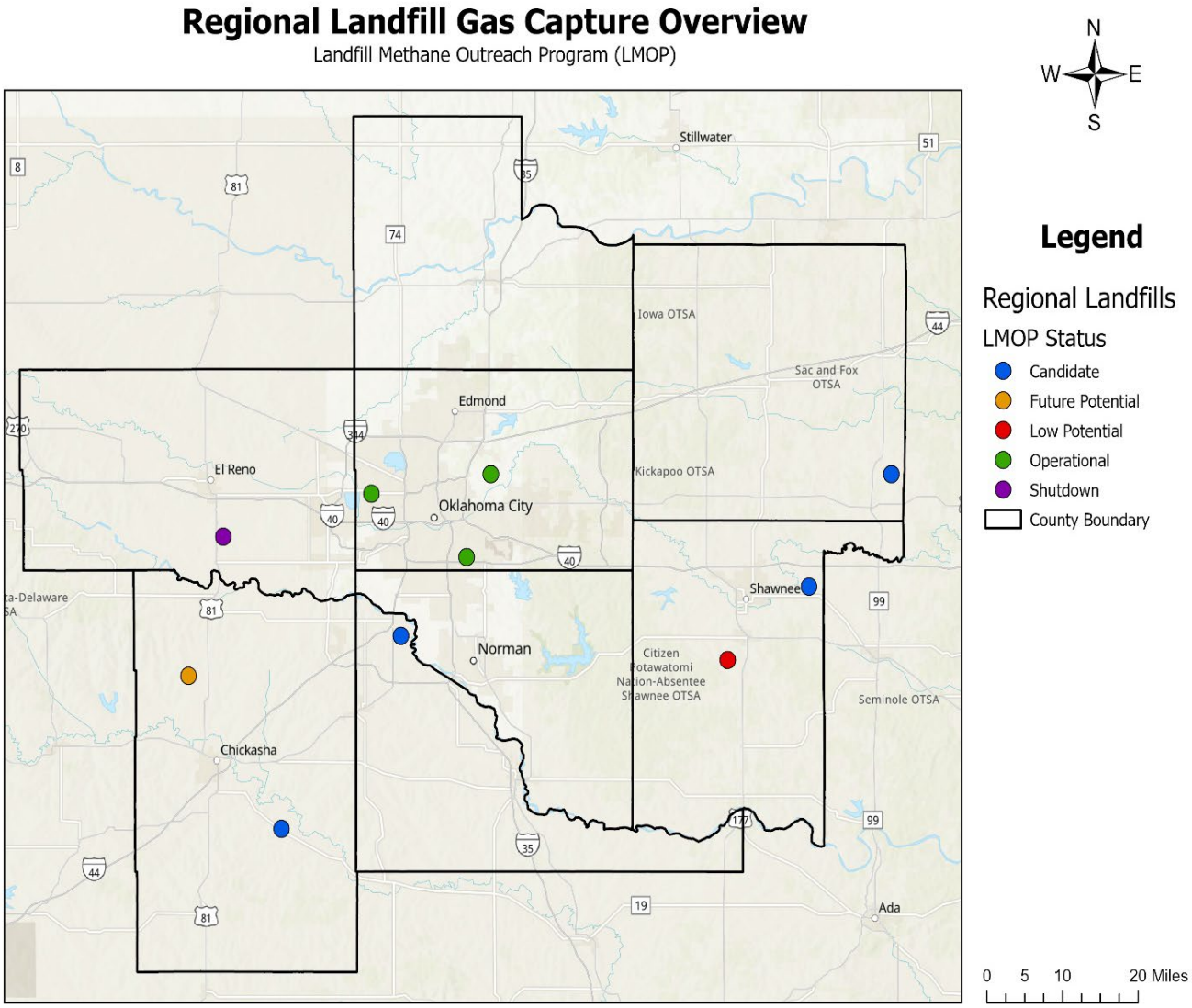


Figure 11. Landfill locations, operational status, and landfill gas capture potential.

Within the region, the EPA's database reveals that three landfills currently operate landfill gas capture systems in Oklahoma County. Analysis indicates that five additional sites across four counties demonstrate considerable potential for the development of landfill gas capture infrastructure.**Implementing landfill gas capture at these locations would improve environmental management, support economic growth, and enhance local renewable energy production.**

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL: LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Liquid waste includes wastewater, contaminated water, sludge, and other byproducts from manufacturing, energy production, commercial activities, and industrial processes. Depending on its source, liquid waste may contain contaminants that require specialized handling and disposal.

Common management practices include treatment and disposal through underground injection wells. Underground injection wells are designed to isolate

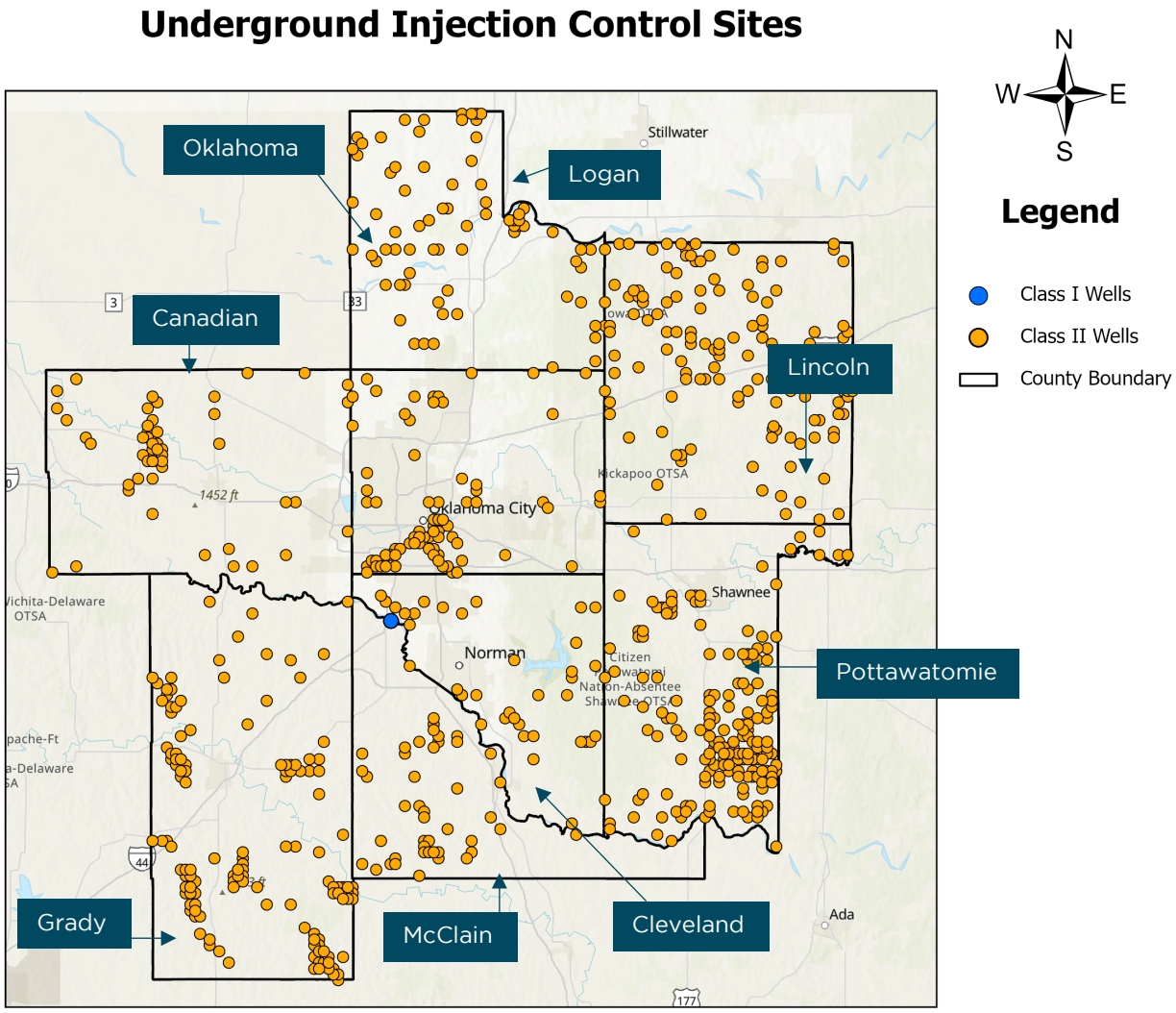


Figure 12. Active Class I and Class II underground injection wells in the eight-county region.

waste fluids within deep geologic formations. Class I wells, which are regulated by DEQ, are utilized for the disposal of both hazardous and non-hazardous industrial and commercial waste. Class II wells are exclusively for fluids related to the oil and gas industry, they are permitted by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.[16] Within the study region, there are two active Class I wells and 932 Class II wells in operation.

For the purposes of this study, the focus is limited to Class I injection wells, as Class II wells associated with the oil and gas industry fall outside the scope of this assessment.

The Class I injection well in Lincoln County, operated by Mid-way Environmental, is permitted to receive, process, store, and dispose of non-hazardous contaminated water, sludge, and other liquid wastes generated by various commercial and industrial entities. The facility has a maximum receiving capacity of 324,000 gallons per 12-hour period. [3]

The injection well located in McClain County is operated by Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) near their energy plant.This dedicated facility disposes exclusively of non-hazardous cooling tower wastewater generated by the plant. [4]

[3] Mid-Way Environmental: Commercial Class I Injection Well
[4] DEQ Underground Injection Control Permits: Oklahoma Gas & Electric

REGULATED MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT

Regulated medical waste consists of materials generated during diagnosis or treatment that may contain infectious agents capable of causing disease. Common examples include sharps, blood-contaminated materials, microbiological cultures, pathological waste, and other potentially infectious materials requiring specialized handling and disposal procedures to protect public health and the environment.[17]

A related waste stream is pharmaceutical waste, which includes unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications. The U.S. DEA (DEA) oversees the collection and disposal of controlled substances through its Diversion Control Program and authorized medication take-back network. Proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste is essential as improper disposal can contribute to accidental poisoning, substance misuse, and environmental contamination of water resources.[18] To support safe disposal practices, the DEA has designated 64 drop-off locations throughout the eight-county region.

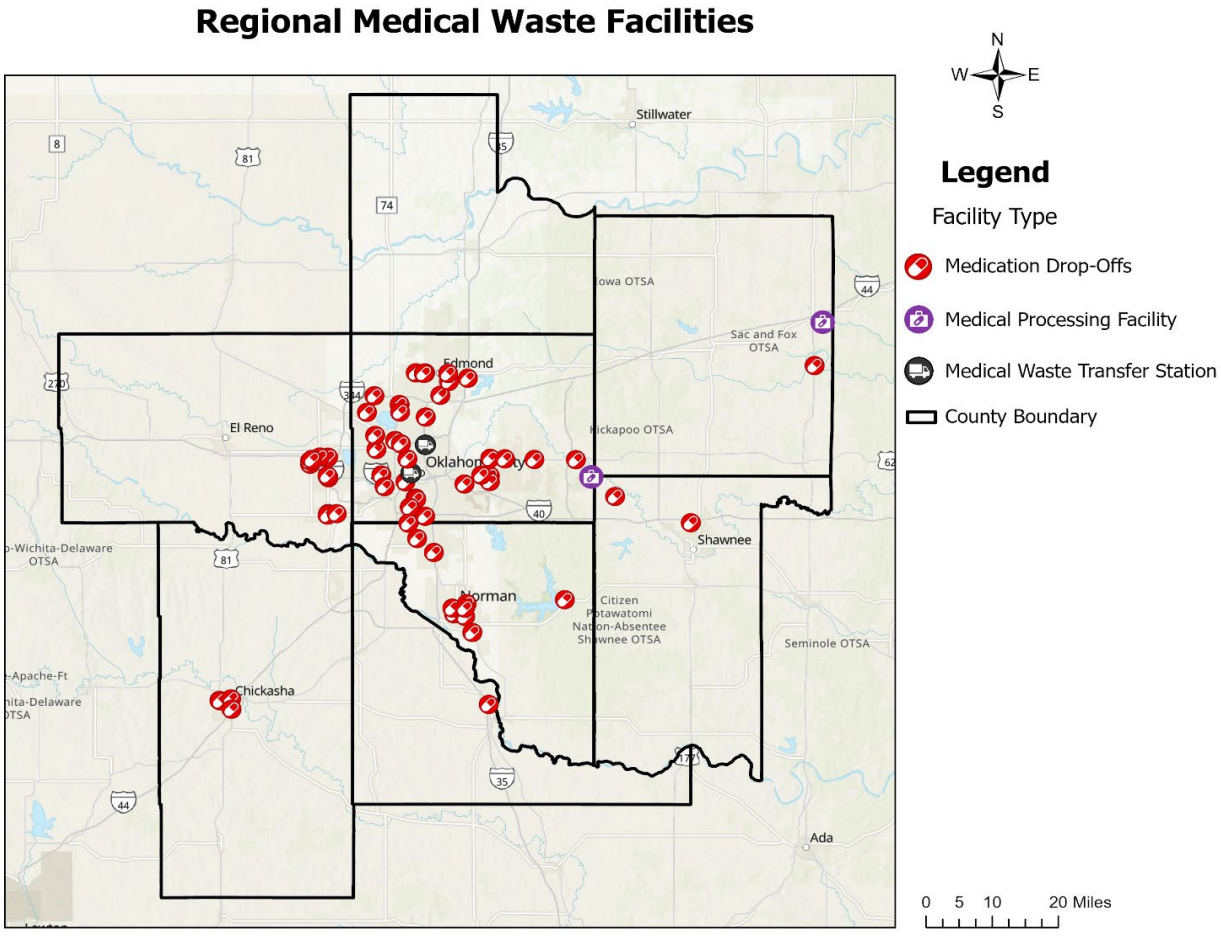


Figure 13. Locations of DEA-designated medication drop-offs, medical transfer stations, and medical waste processing facilities across the region.

The medical waste infrastructure also includes two regulated medical waste transfer stations and two permitted medical waste processing facilities. Transfer stations serve as consolidation points where medical waste is collected and prepared for

transport to treatment facilities. Once received at a processing facility, medical waste is treated through methods such as steam sterilization or high-temperature incineration to destroy pathogens and eliminate potential health risks before final disposal.

Following treatment, most residual materials are rendered noninfectious and may be disposed of in permitted municipal solid waste landfills, while certain waste streams, including pathological and pharmaceutical wastes, may require incineration to ensure complete destruction of potentially hazardous components.[19] Reducing medical waste protects sanitation workers and the public by lowering the risk of injury, contamination, and costly specialized disposal.

PRIVATE MATERIAL RECOVERY AND REUSE NETWORK

In addition to publicly operated recycling and waste management programs, the region benefits from an extensive network of private-sector businesses that support material recovery, recycling, and reuse. These businesses collect, process, and market a variety of recyclable materials, including metals, paper, electronics, batteries, used oil, tires, and organics, as detailed in the Appendix, Table 1.

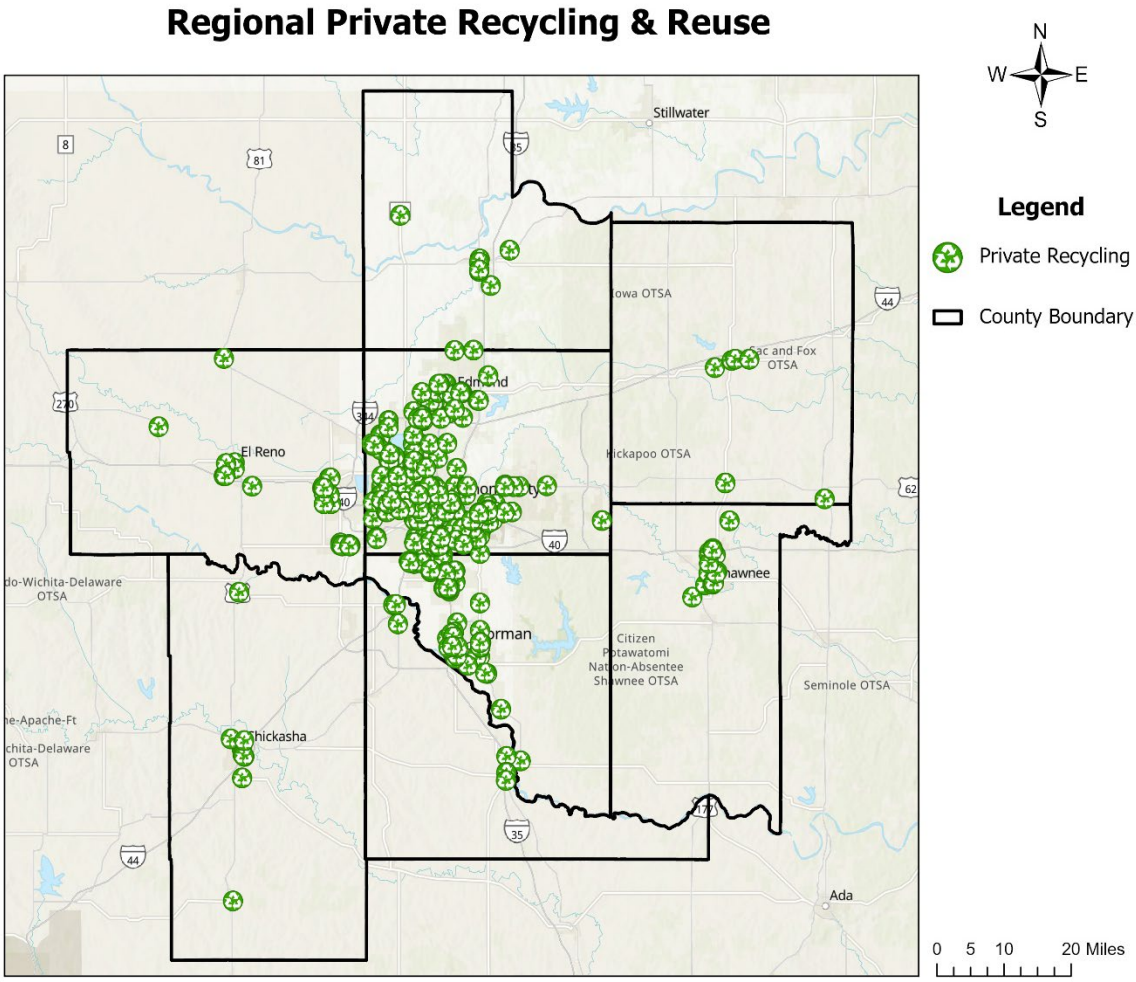


Figure 14. Geographic distribution of private businesses that will accept materials from the public for either recycling or reuse.

The assessment identified 405 private entities throughout the eight-county region that accept one or more materials for recycling, recovery, resale, or reuse. **These businesses represent a significant component of the regional waste diversion infrastructure and provide residents and businesses with alternatives to landfill disposal.**

SOLID WASTE FUNDING & REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Oklahoma solid waste management programs are supported in part through a statewide disposal fee. Under Title 27A § 2-10-802, non-generator-owned commercial landfills, incinerators, commercial composting facilities, and roofing material recovery facilities are required to collect a disposal fee of $1.25 per ton of waste received and remit those funds to DEQ. Revenue generated through this program serves as a dedicated funding source for the administration of the Oklahoma Solid Waste Management Act. The Solid Waste Management Act supports regulatory oversight, facility permitting, environmental compliance activities, technical assistance, public education, and solid waste planning initiatives. These funds also help finance local solid waste management programs, illegal dumping prevention efforts, environmental enforcement activities, and cleanup projects throughout the state.[20]

DEQ is also authorized to fund and support counties in solid waste cleanup efforts and equipment purchases, with at least 10% of the solid waste fees collected under Title 27A § 2-10-802 allocated to this program. From 1997 to 2016, the program was administered by the Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma (ACCO), and since then by the Oklahoma Cooperative Circuit Engineering Districts Board (OCCEDB). Beginning in 2024, DEQ allocated an extra $50,000 annually specifically for storm debris cleanup.[21] In fiscal year 2026, OCCEDB awarded a total of $705,000 statewide to counties through the Solid Waste Program, with just over $100,000 distributed within the eight-county Assessment area. The allocation of these funds among counties is shown in Figure 16.[22]

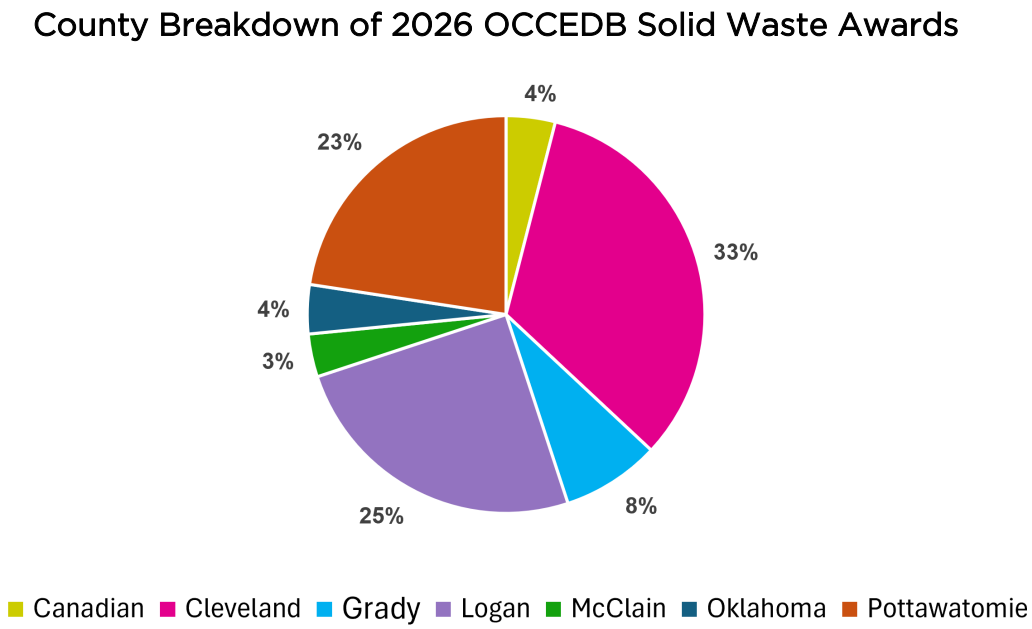


Figure 15. Solid waste awards in the Assessment region.

The distribution of program funding shown in Figure 16 indicates that nearly half of total funding is allocated to “Dump Roll Offs,” which support illegal dumping cleanup efforts. By comparison, preventative enforcement activities, such as the Trash Cop program, account for approximately 1% of total program funding. This distribution suggests an opportunity to evaluate whether additional investment in prevention and enforcement strategies could help reduce the frequency of illegal dumping incidents and, consequently, the need for recurring cleanup expenditures over time. For rural counties with limited financial resources, reducing cleanup costs may allow a greater share of available funding to be directed toward expanding waste management and recycling infrastructure, improving service accessibility, and addressing long-term system needs.

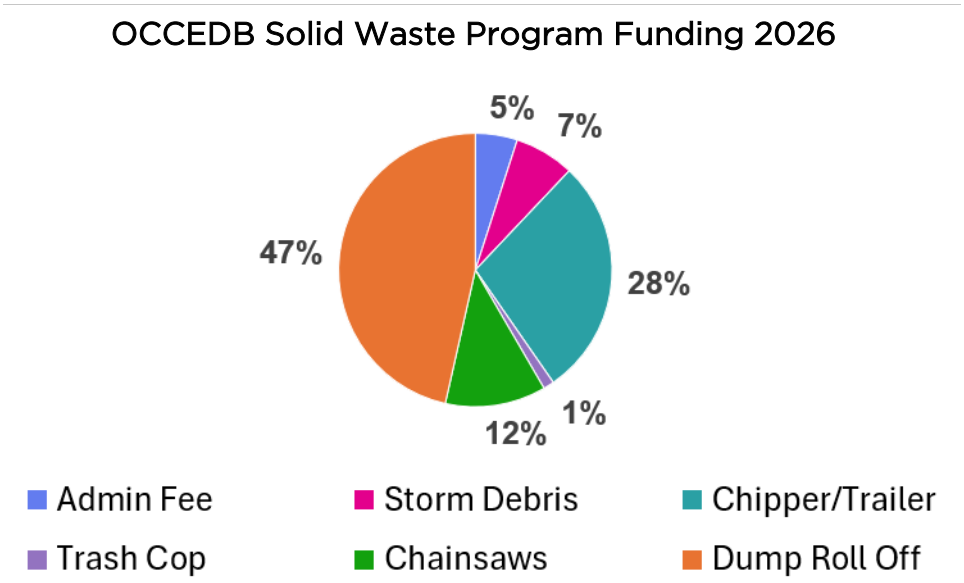


Figure 16. Allocation of OCCEDBG financial awards by program

Although DEQ provides solid waste funding to counties and other eligible entities, these investments are distributed across individual jurisdictions and projects without a coordinated regional framework. As a result, funded activities do not necessarily align with one another or contribute to a broader, collaborative solid waste management strategy.

COUNTY PROFILES

The following county profiles provide a detailed assessment of solid waste infrastructure, service availability, and management practices within each county. Recognizing that solid waste management systems are shaped by population density, infrastructure investment, and local service capacity, the eight counties were divided into two tiers. Tier 1 (Oklahoma, Canadian, Cleveland, and Pottawatomie) counties represent larger populations and service centers, where economies of scale support a broader range of waste management and diversion programs. Tier 2 (Grady, McClain, Logan, and Lincoln) counties are characterized by more rural development patterns and dispersed populations, with variation in operational and financial conditions for service delivery. The profiles that follow examine these county specific conditions and identify the infrastructure assets, service gaps, and opportunities that influence long-term material management.

TIER 1 COUNTIES

OKLAHOMA COUNTY

Oklahoma County has an estimated population of 822,125 residents within 708 square miles, making it the most populous county in Oklahoma and home to approximately 20% of the state's population.[23] The county seat is Oklahoma City, which is also the state capital. Oklahoma County contains 20 municipalities, including Edmond, Midwest City, Del City, and Bethany, and encompasses a diverse mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities. As a major center for economic activity, government operations, and cultural institutions, the county supports a broad range of industries, including energy, aerospace, healthcare, and education.

Solid waste management in Oklahoma County is characterized by a combination of municipal and private-sector service delivery models. Most municipalities provide direct sanitation services to residents through locally managed programs. Oklahoma City's Solid Waste Management Division, for example, provides curbside refuse collection, recycling, and bulky waste services to more than 220,000 single-family households.[24] Collection services are provided through a combination of municipal operations and private contracts, with Waste Management responsible for both residential refuse collection and all curbside recycling services.

Oklahoma City provides waste services to businesses, commercial establishments, and institutions, allowing a maximum of three 90-gallon refuse carts per day. Businesses, commercial establishments, and institutions that exceed this limit must contract with an approved, licensed private sanitation hauler.[25]

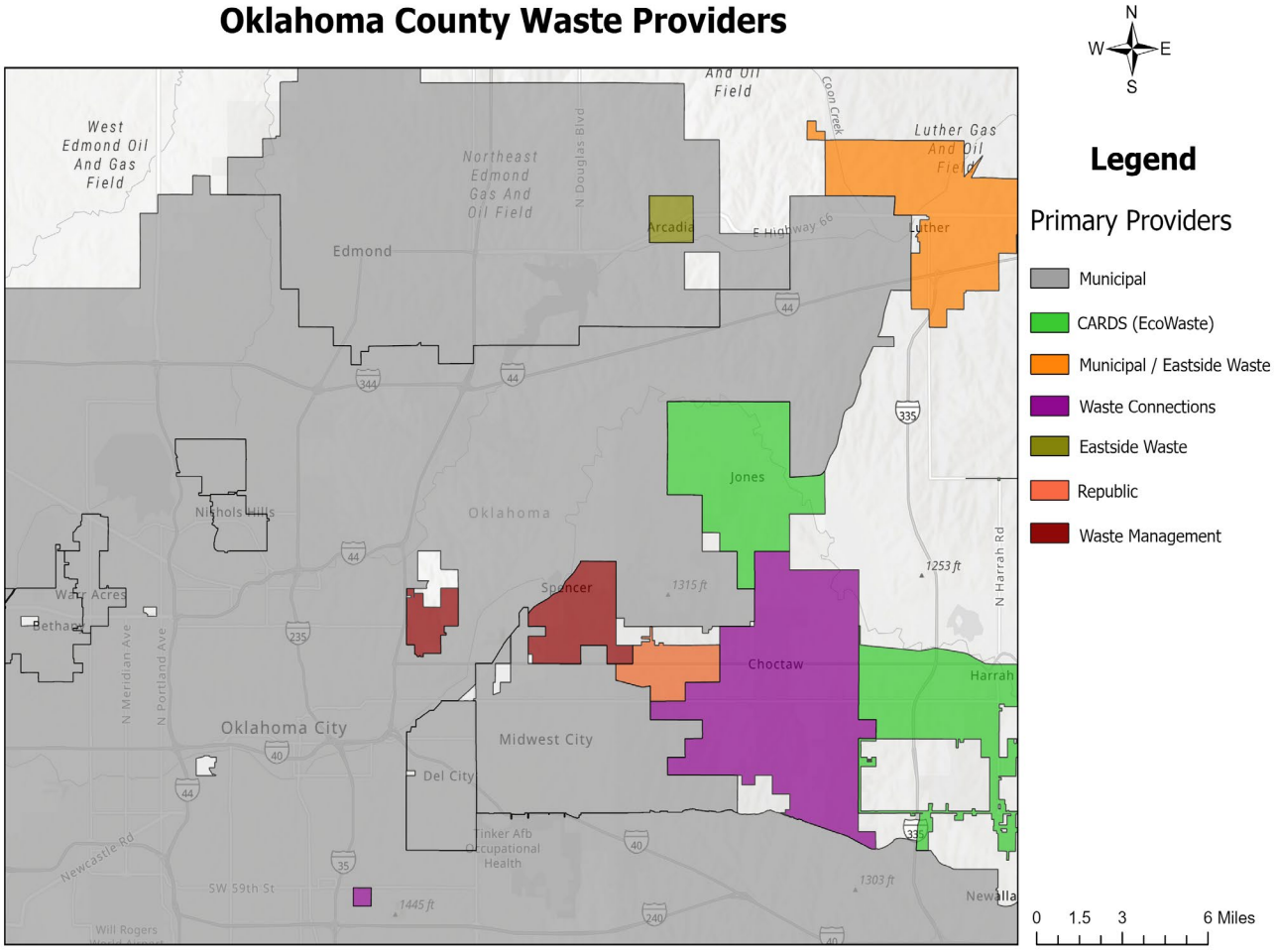


Figure 17. Oklahoma County solid waste management providers for each municipality.

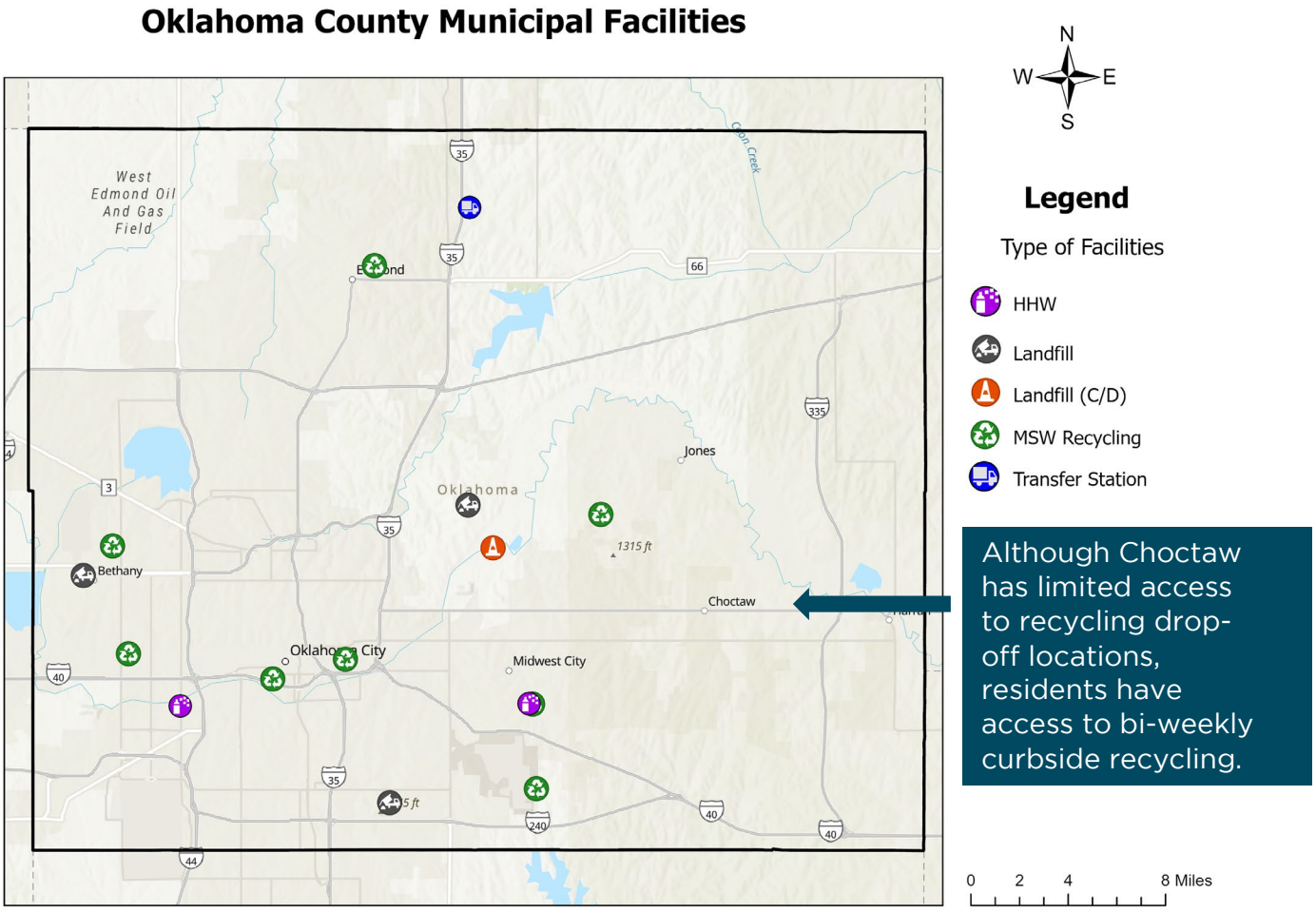


Figure 18. Municipal solid waste facilities within Oklahoma County by type.

The inventory of Oklahoma County's municipal solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 8 Municipal Recycling Collection Sites (MSW)
- 3 Municipal Landfills
- 1 Construction and Demolition Landfill (C/D)
- 1 Transfer Station
- 2 Household Hazardous Waste Facilities (HHW)

(One MSW facility is co-located with the Midwest City HHW site and may not be visible on the map)

OKLAHOMA COUNTY LANDFILLS

Oklahoma County is served by four landfills. Three of these facilities accept municipal solid waste, while Northeast Landfill is limited to construction and demolition (C&D) debris, providing specialized capacity for this waste stream.

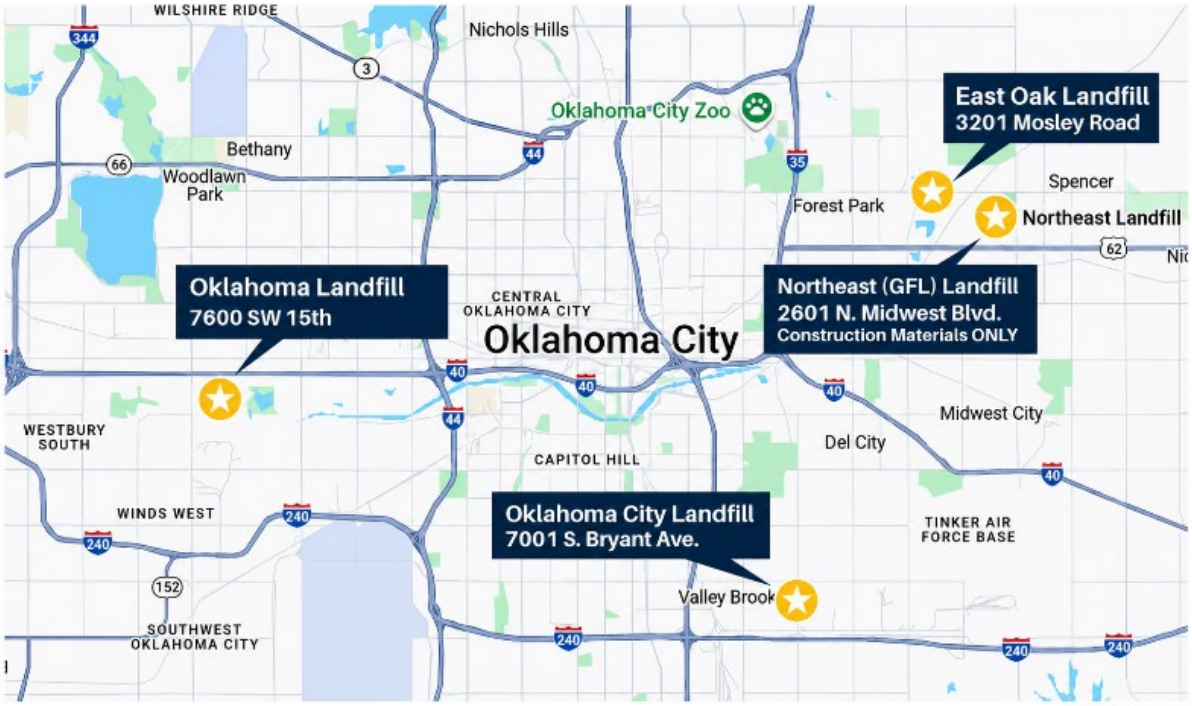


Figure 19. Geographic location of Oklahoma County Landfills.

Residents may dispose of waste at Oklahoma City landfills year-round, subject to site-specific guidelines and disposal fees. The city also hosts Free Landfill Days at all four landfills twice a year. During these events, residents may dispose of bulky items, including construction debris at the designated facility, at no charge by presenting a utility trash bill and valid identification.[26]

Annual landfill data reported to DEQ over the past four years show increased waste volumes at three facilities. These landfills receive waste from multiple counties, the observed increases likely reflect growing regional demand for landfill disposal services rather than changes within Oklahoma County alone. The Northeast C&D Landfill experienced the largest increase, with tonnage rising by 70,483 tons during this period. In contrast, East Oak Recycling & Disposal reported a slight decline. [27]

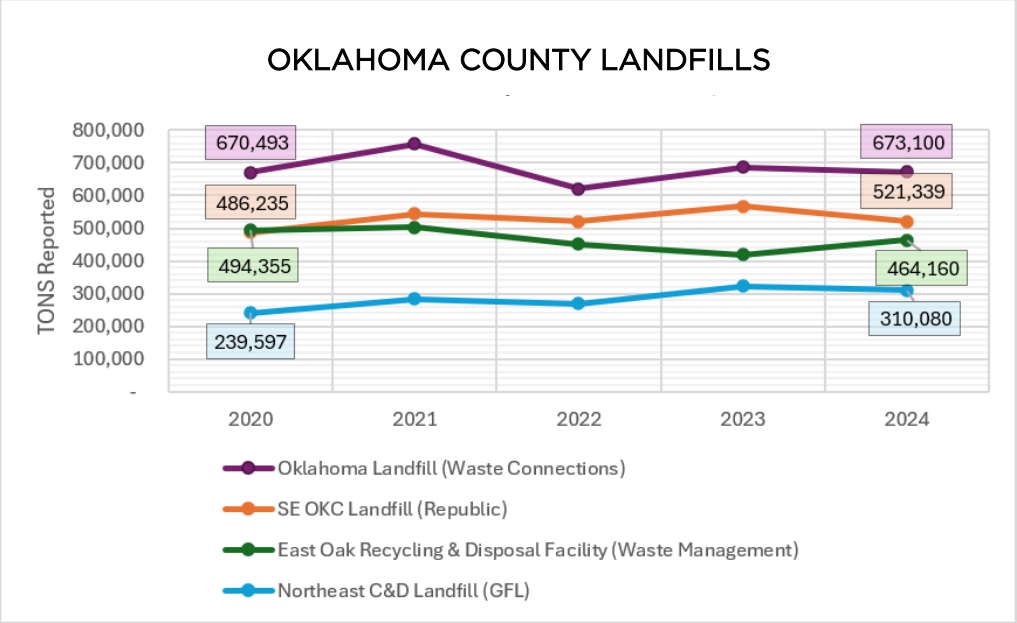


Figure 20. Time series plot conveying annual tonnage reported to DEQ for all four landfills in the county.

The relatively stable aggregate waste volumes are noteworthy given that Oklahoma County's population increased by 2.5 % during the same period.

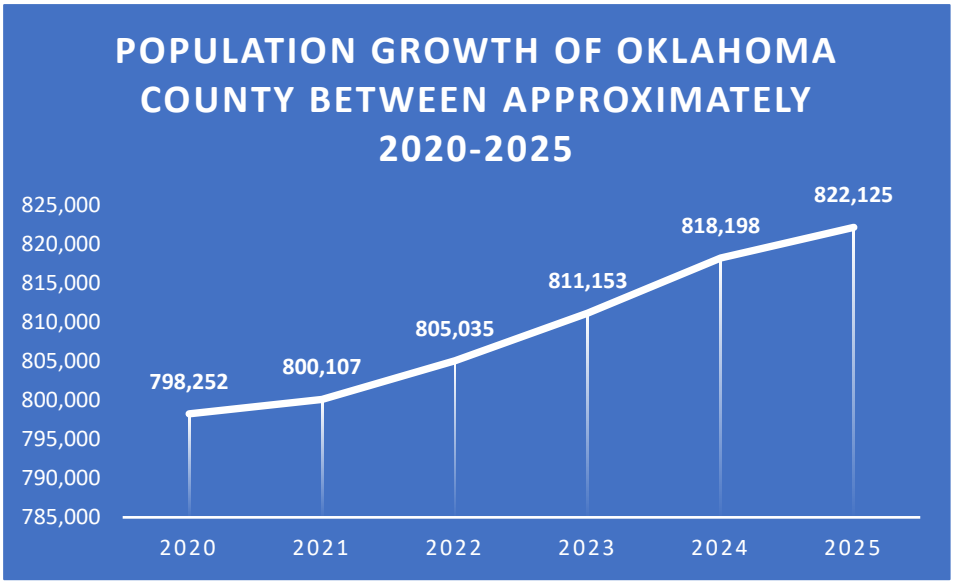


Figure 21. Oklahoma County population growth from 2020 to 2025.[28]

Landfill emissions reported to EPA supplements the waste volume records, providing insight into the air quality implications of disposal operations in the county.[29]

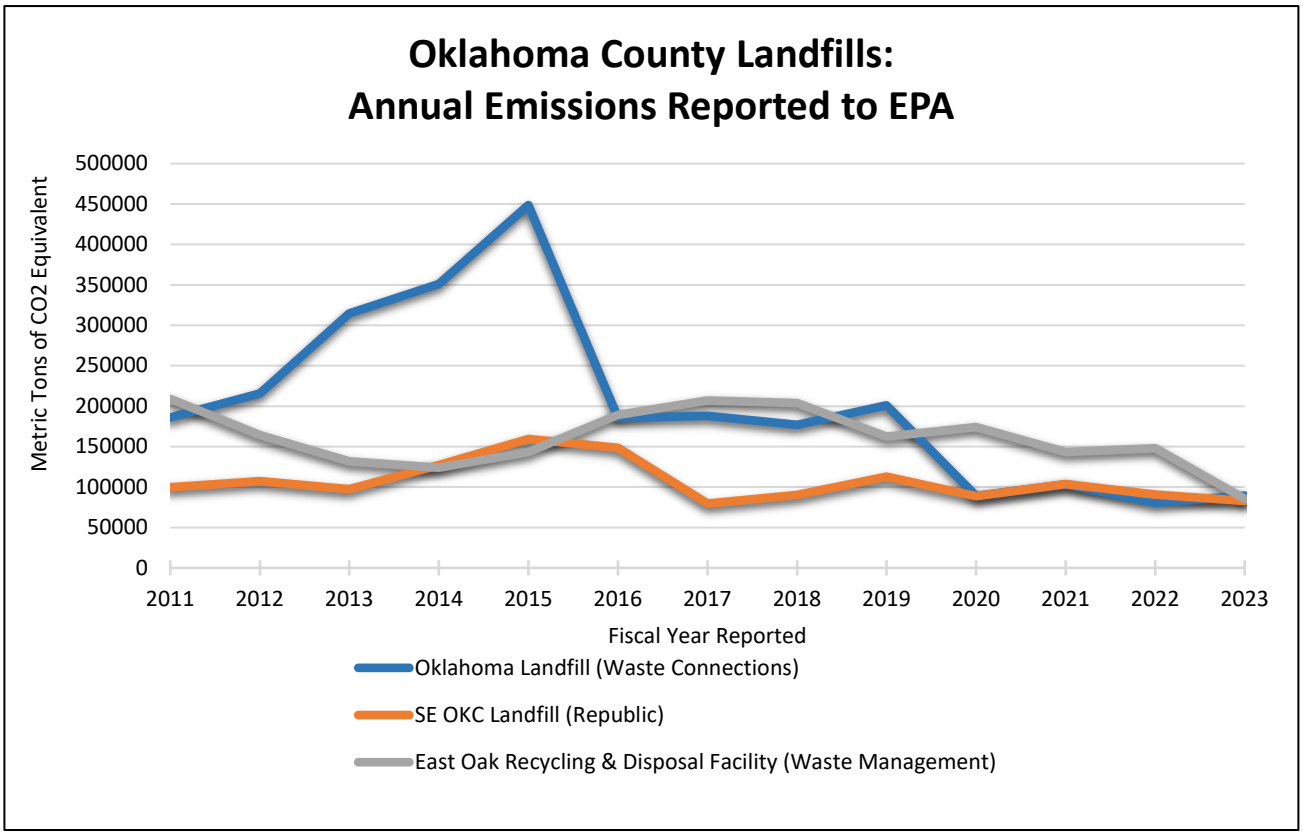


Figure 22. Annual reports of municipal Oklahoma County landfill emissions between 2011 and 2023.

All three municipal solid waste landfills in Oklahoma County have landfill gas collection systems that capture methane. The recovered gas is processed into renewable natural gas and used for a variety of beneficial purposes, including vehicle fuel and injection into commercial natural gas pipelines.[30] These collection systems not only reduce harmful emissions but also provide a cleaner energy source for local vehicle fleets.

MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Disposal of medical and pharmaceutical waste is an increasingly important dimension of solid waste management and public health protection. Oklahoma County contains a specialized medical waste processing facility that safely treats and disposes of regulated medical waste at approved landfills. Medical waste may include biohazardous waste, trace chemotherapy materials, pathological waste, and non-controlled pharmaceuticals. The facility operates under an DEQ permit and receives medical waste from approved transporters across Oklahoma, serving approximately 2.3 million residents.[31]

Pharmaceutical waste refers to unused or expired medications that create risks including accidental poisoning, misuse, and environmental contamination. Nationally, approximately 35,000 emergency department visits each year involve unintentional medication overdoses among children under the age of five.[32] To reduce these risks, permanent medication disposal boxes are located at pharmacies, police departments, and hospitals to provide safe disposal options that prevent medications from entering landfills and waterways.The DEA recognizes 34 designated medication drop-off locations in Oklahoma County.[33]

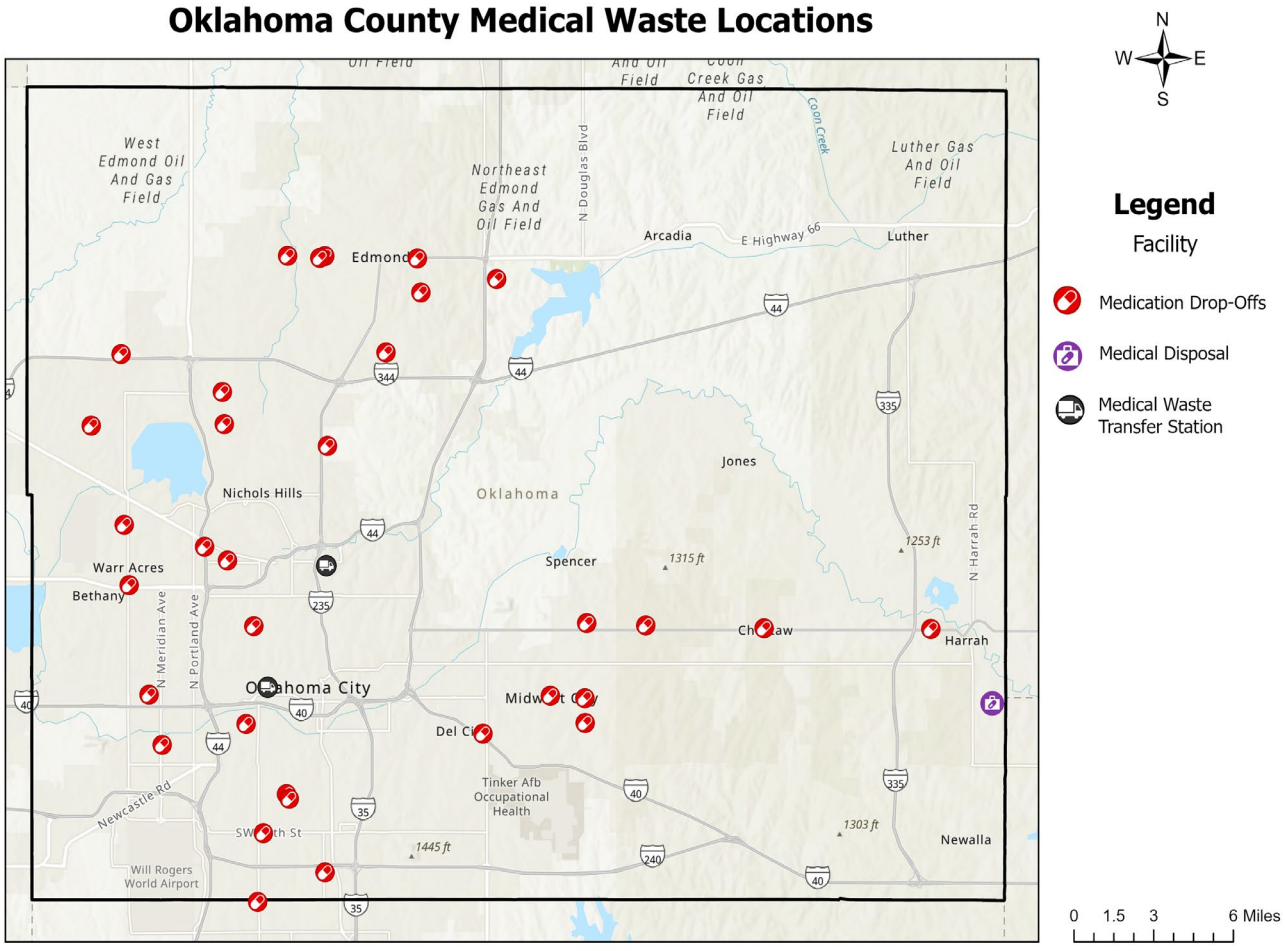
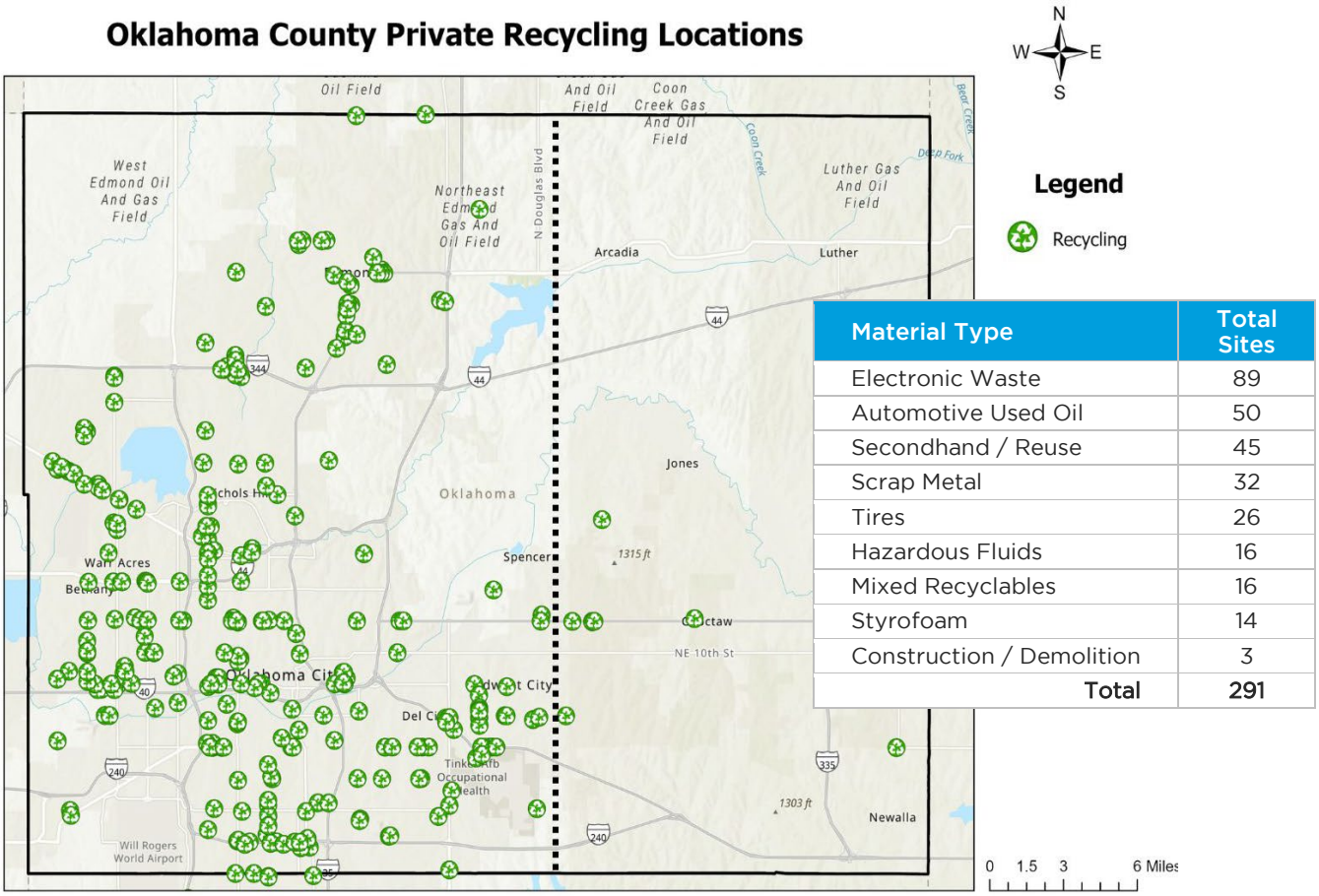


Figure 23. DEA designated year-round drop-off locations for medication waste and a medical processing facility in Oklahoma County.

PRIVATE RECYCLING & REUSE

There are 291 private recycling and diversion locations for various materials across Oklahoma County, excluding municipal collection facilities.

The distribution of these sites reveals a pronounced west-east disparity, with significantly fewer collection points in the eastern portion of the county. Western Oklahoma County has a dense cluster of businesses that accept a variety of materials for recycling and reuse, enabling residents to divert a wide range of items. The distribution shown in Figure 24 includes secondhand thrift stores that accept clothing and household items, extending the useful life of materials before they enter the waste stream.



Material Type	Total Sites
Electronic Waste	89
Automotive Used Oil	50
Secondhand / Reuse	45
Scrap Metal	32
Tires	26
Hazardous Fluids	16
Mixed Recyclables	16
Styrofoam	14
Construction / Demolition	3
Total	**291**

Figure 24. Geographic distribution of private recycling facilities in Oklahoma County, displaying a significant gap in recycling accessibility for eastern residents.

Oklahoma City's extensive access to recycling positions it as the primary diversion hub in the region. Currently, approximately 70% of materials placed in residential recycling carts are successfully processed and sent to manufacturers for recycling.

The remaining 30% consist of non-recyclable or non-accepted items, such as plastic bags, garden hoses, clothing, textiles, hangers, and mixed plastics. These materials are classified as contaminated materials and directed to landfills. Oklahoma City's curbside recycling participation rate is 43%, while its contamination rate is approximately 10% above the national average.(34)

> *"Contamination costs all of us," Utilities Director Chris Browning said, "since non-recyclable items must be pulled out from among the many good materials in the recycling stream, a process which costs time and money. We want to reduce that number so those who participate in recycling can have confidence their efforts aren't going to waste."*

In addition to Oklahoma City, the City of Edmond is taking proactive steps to reduce waste through its Resiliency Action Plan.[5] As part of this effort, Edmond has adopted a policy requiring all municipal offices and buildings to provide recycling wherever a waste bin is available. The plan also aims to improve recycling services for residents by expanding infrastructure and providing recycling signage and portable bins at all City-sponsored events.(35)

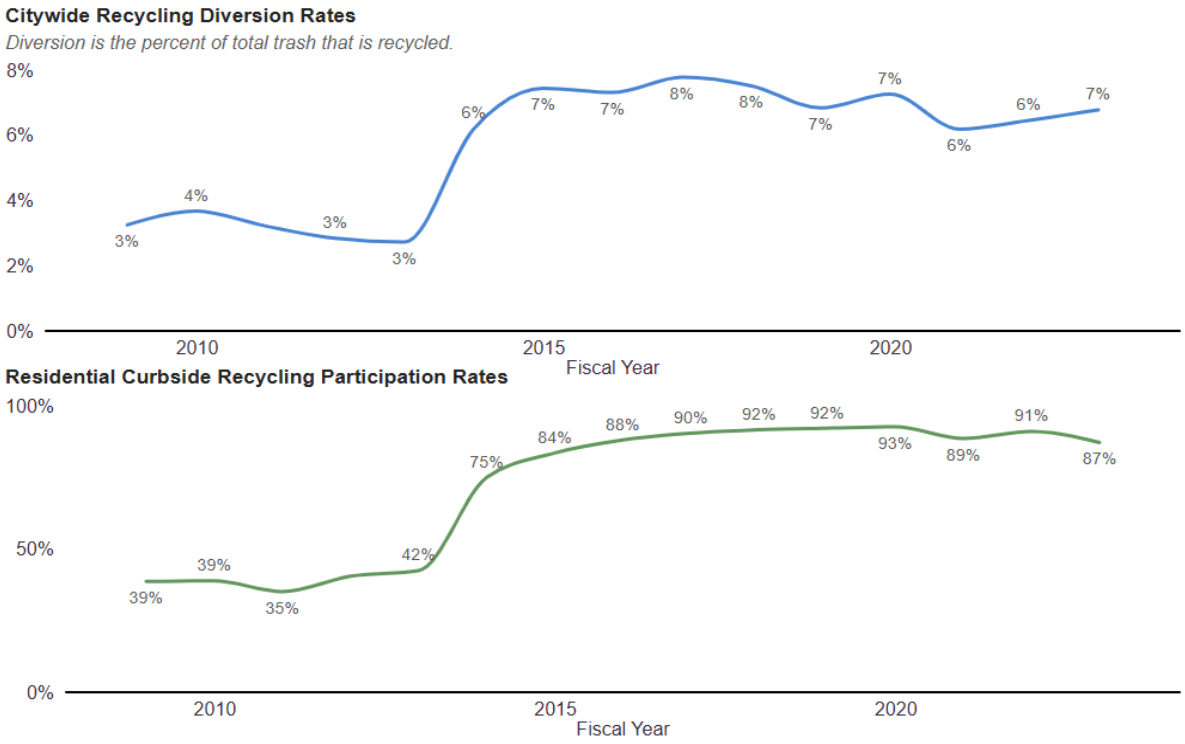


Figure 25. City of Edmond diversion and curbside recycling rates between 2009 and 2023.

[5] Figure 25 – City of Edmond Resiliency Action Plan

In 2013, the City of Edmond upgraded from 18-gallon recycling bins to 95-gallon rolling carts after residential recycling volumes outgrew the capacity of the smaller containers. The transition doubled residential recycling participation, demonstrating how larger, more convenient collection containers can increase resident participation in curbside recycling programs.

In addition to its recycling efforts, Edmond promotes backyard composting through education and outreach initiatives designed to encourage residents to divert organic materials from the waste stream. As part of this effort, the city has distributed 12 backyard composters to residents and provides resources on composting practices. By supporting at-home composting, the program helps raise awareness of organic waste diversion and offers residents an opportunity to manage food scraps and yard waste outside of the municipal collection system.

Complementing their recycling and composting outreach, Edmond offers a doorside collection service for household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic waste, provided through a partnership with Republic Services. This program allows residents to conveniently schedule unlimited collections each year at no additional cost. Residents call a dedicated hotline or sign up online, answer questions about their materials, and receive a collection kit with instructions to prepare the waste for pick-up. On the scheduled date, a technician collects the prepared materials from the resident's doorstep, ensuring all HHW and electronic waste is properly sorted, packaged, and either recycled or safely disposed of. This service makes hazardous and electronic waste disposal more accessible and efficient for Edmond residents.[36]

CLEVELAND COUNTY

Cleveland County has 303,952 residents across 539 square miles, making it the third most populous county in Oklahoma.[37] The county seat and largest city, Norman, is a major educational and cultural center and home to the University of Oklahoma. The county includes municipalities such as Moore, Noble, and Lexington and contains a mix of suburban and rural communities.

Cleveland County includes both suburban and rural communities with solid waste management varying across municipalities. The City of Norman operates the only fully municipal solid waste service in the county. In contrast, the City of Moore uses a hybrid system that combines municipal services with a private contractor, Waste Management. South of Norman, in more rural areas such as Slaughterville, waste services are fragmented, with multiple small private providers and does not have a standardized service model. This pattern reflects the area's lower population density and rural character.

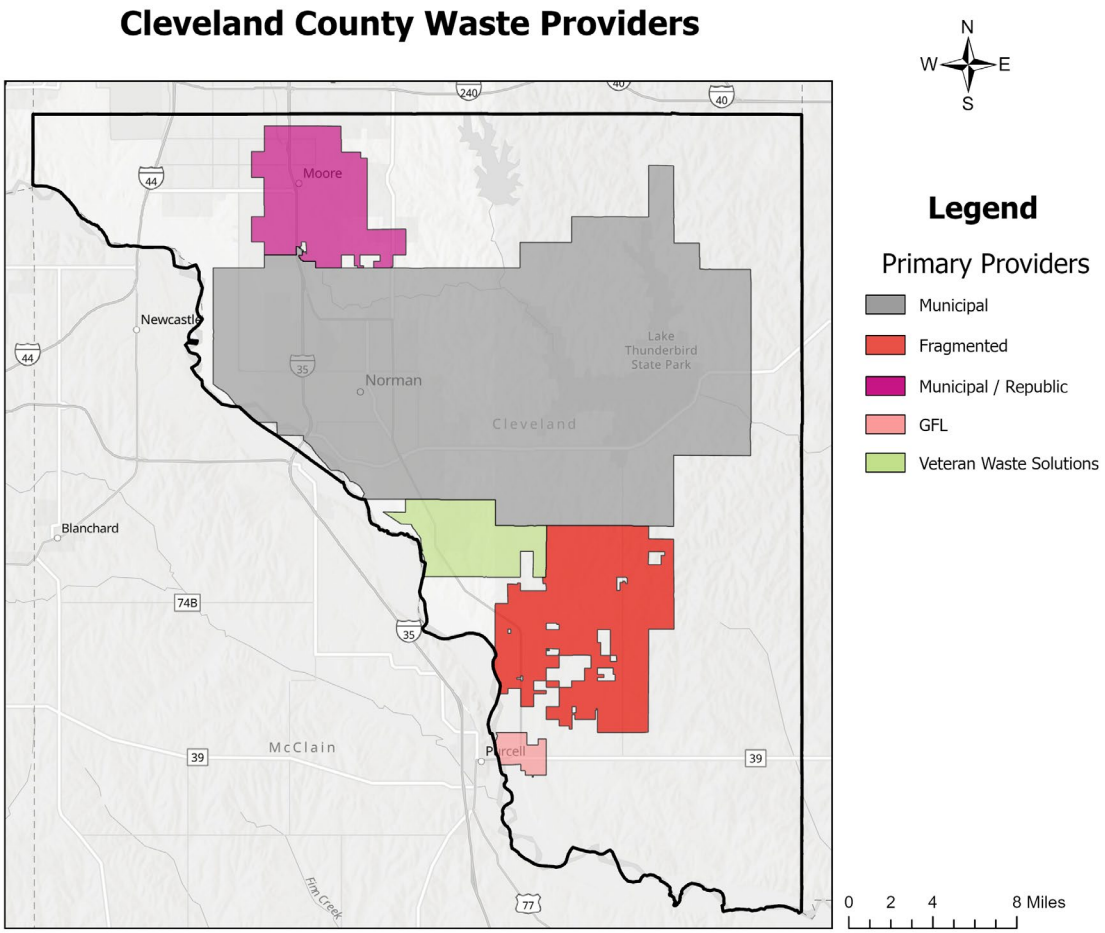


Figure 26. Cleveland County solid waste providers for each municipality.

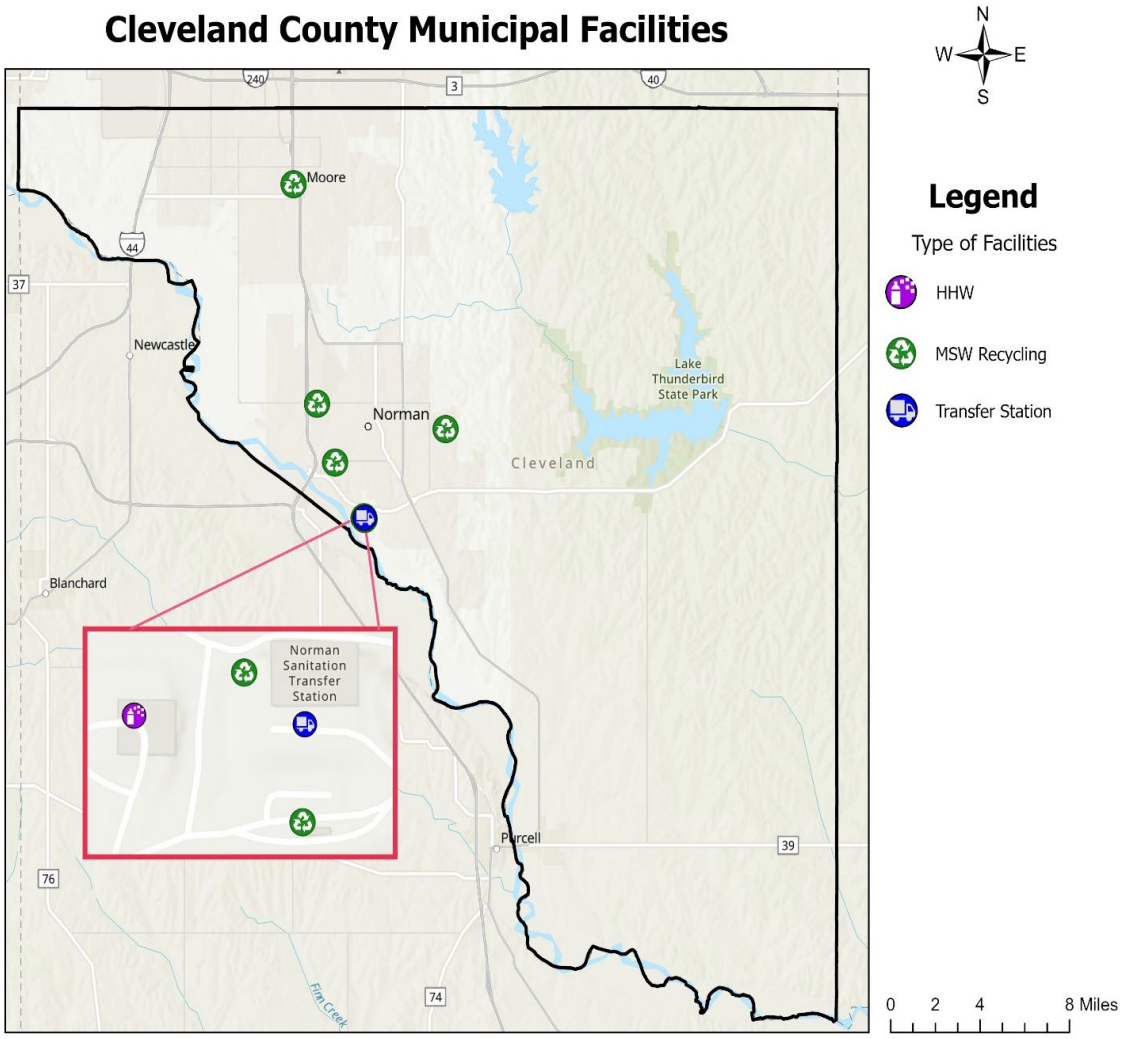


Figure 27. Cleveland County municipal solid waste facilities by type.

The inventory of Cleveland County's municipal solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 6 Municipal Recycling Locations
- 1 Transfer Station (Norman transfer station serves as a collection point for both waste and recycling)
- 1 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility

As Cleveland County does not have an operating landfill, it relies on a transfer station to transport waste to a landfill for disposal. Effective diversion strategies are therefore critical to managing the county's solid waste. The City of Norman offers comprehensive recycling services for both solid and organic materials, as well as disposal options for household hazardous waste.

However, in 2022, an Environmental Officer funded through DEQ identified an illegal dumping site on private property in western Norman, leading to the arrest of three individuals. More than nine tons of illegally discarded waste were removed from the site over several months. The site's proximity to the Canadian River raised concerns about potential water contamination, underscoring the environmental consequences of unmanaged illegal dumping.[38] This incident demonstrates the value of DEQ's Environmental Officer Grant Program in supporting local enforcement, protecting public health and environmental quality.

Figure 28. Illegal Dumping site in Norman, Cleveland County.

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Beyond traditional solid waste and recycling facilities, Cleveland County residents may safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications at eight DEA designated collection sites.[39] These secure drop-off locations support regulatory compliance and public safety. Although one site is located on the far eastern edge of the county, the southern region currently lacks any such facilities. Targeted outreach to pharmacies in Slaughterville or Lexington could expand access and improve convenience for residents in those areas.

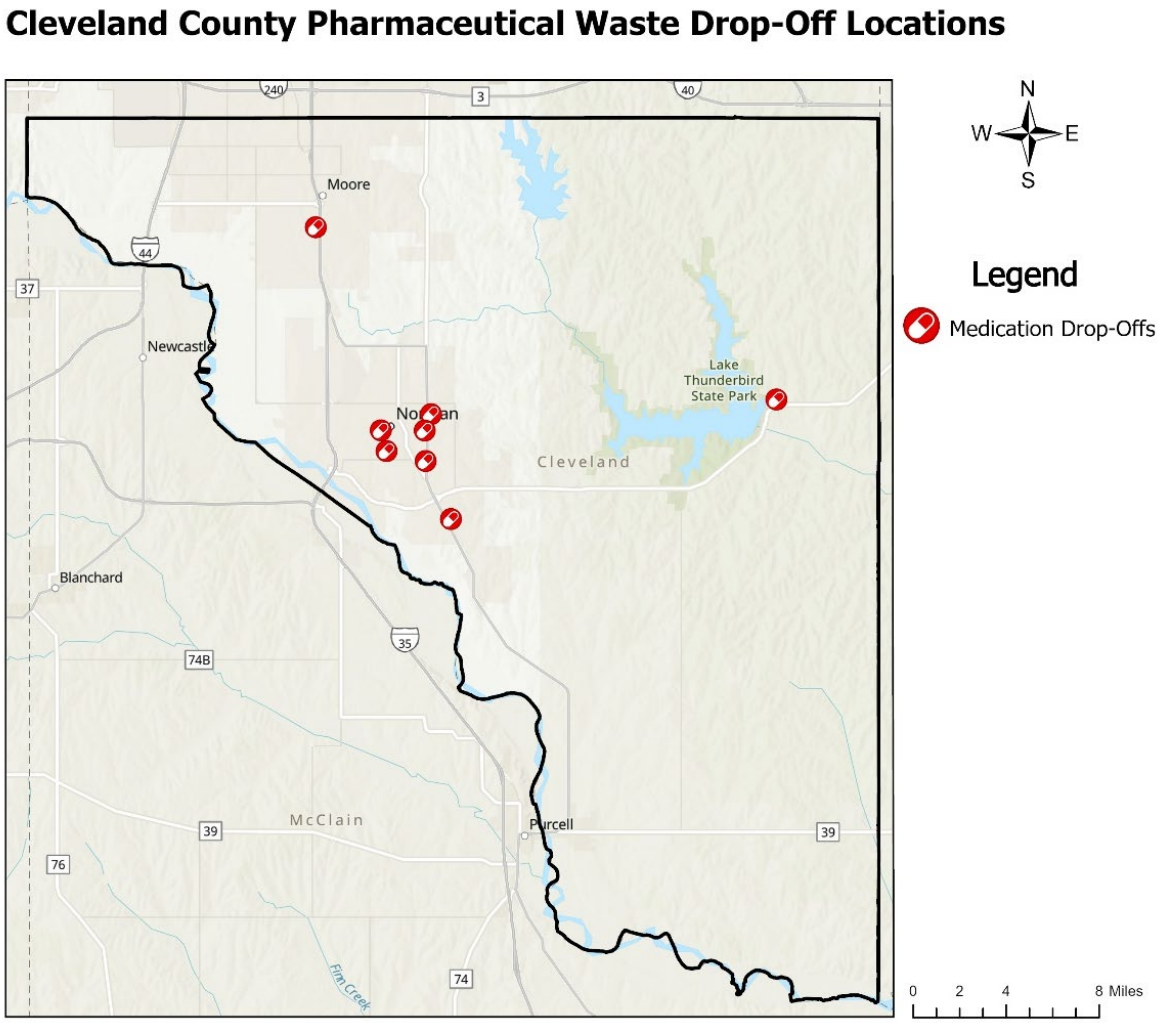
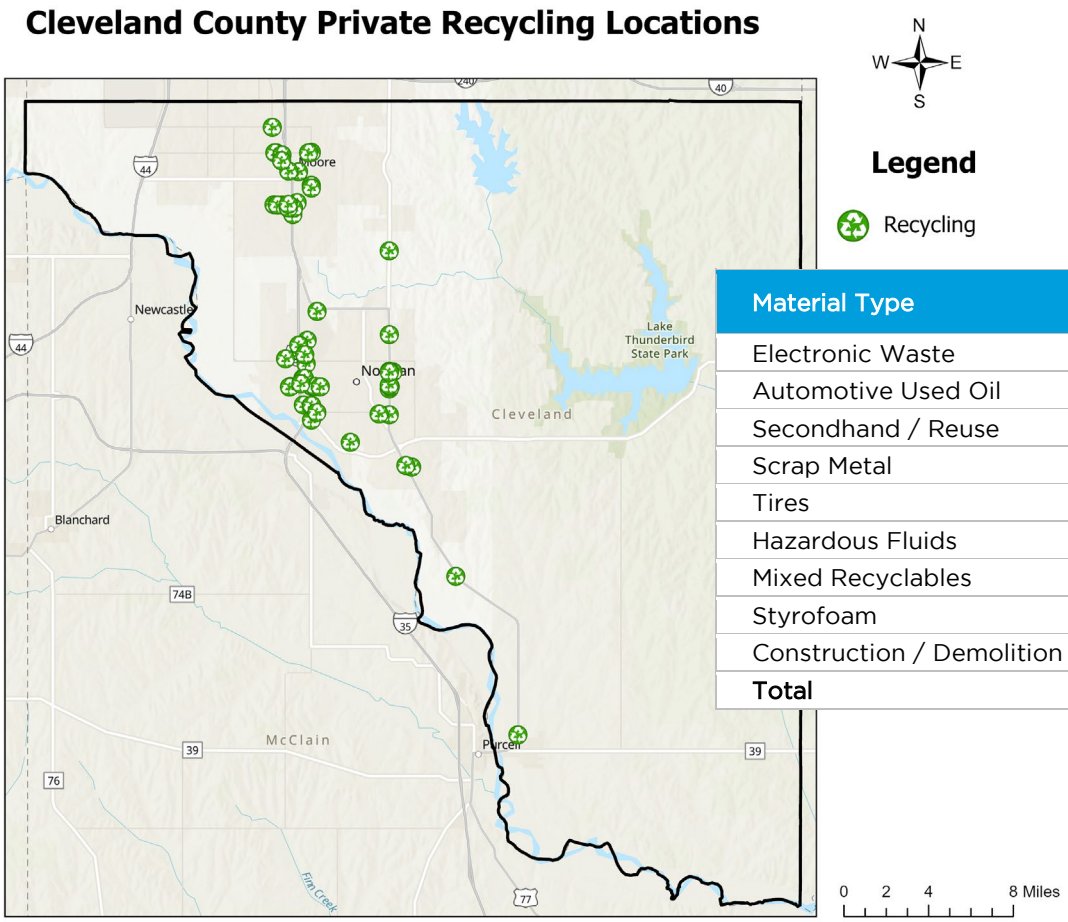


Figure 29. DEA designated year-round drop-off locations for medication waste in Cleveland County.

PRIVATE RECYCLING & REUSE

In addition to municipal recycling services, 57 private businesses across Cleveland County accept materials for recycling and reuse, further supporting local waste diversion efforts. Similar to Oklahoma County, Cleveland County exhibits a pronounced west-to-east disparity in recycling accessibility. Recycling infrastructure and private-sector recycling opportunities are concentrated within the county's more urbanized western communities, particularly around Norman and Moore, where higher population densities and commercial activity support a broader range of collection and processing services. In contrast, the eastern portion of the county is characterized by lower-density rural development, resulting in fewer businesses and facilities capable of economically supporting recycling operations.



Material Type	Total Sites
Electronic Waste	12
Automotive Used Oil	15
Secondhand / Reuse	9
Scrap Metal	3
Tires	7
Hazardous Fluids	4
Mixed Recyclables	4
Styrofoam	2
Construction / Demolition	1
Total	**57**

Figure 30. Geographic distribution of private recycling facilities in Cleveland County, displaying a significant gap in recycling accessibility for eastern residents.

CANADIAN COUNTY

Canadian County is the fastest-growing county in Oklahoma, with a population of approximately 187,189 residents and a 20.4% population increase since 2020.[40] The county seat is El Reno. Canadian County includes nine municipalities, including Yukon, Mustang, Piedmont, and Union City, and is characterized by a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities. Canadian County's solid waste service structure is organized around the Oklahoma Environmental Management Authority (OEMA), a Canadian County Public Trust that provides hauling and disposal services directly to member municipalities across the county and portions of adjacent counties.

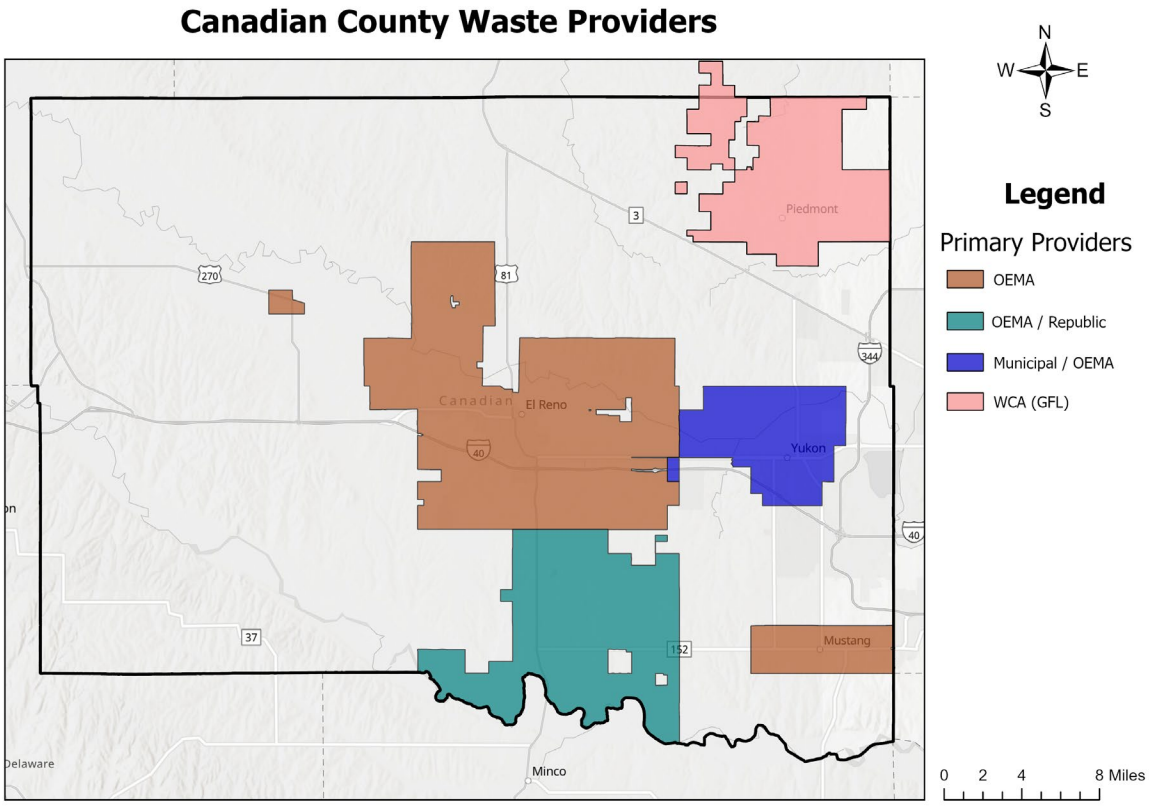


Figure 31. Canadian County solid waste providers for each municipality.

While OEMA serves as the primary service provider for much of the region, several municipalities use hybrid management systems. Yukon, for example, operates through a combination of municipal authority and OEMA, while Union City partners with Republic Services for a portion of its services. Piedmont is the only municipality in Canadian County that relies exclusively on private contractors, currently served by a GFL Environmental affiliate.[41]

OEMA provides hauling and disposal services to the following municipalities:

- Mustang
- El Reno
- Union City
- Okarche
- Kingfisher
- Gracemont
- Eakly
- Calumet
- Yukon (disposal service only)

OEMA's expansive service reach is directly connected to its ownership of the local landfill, which anchors the county's solid waste management infrastructure.

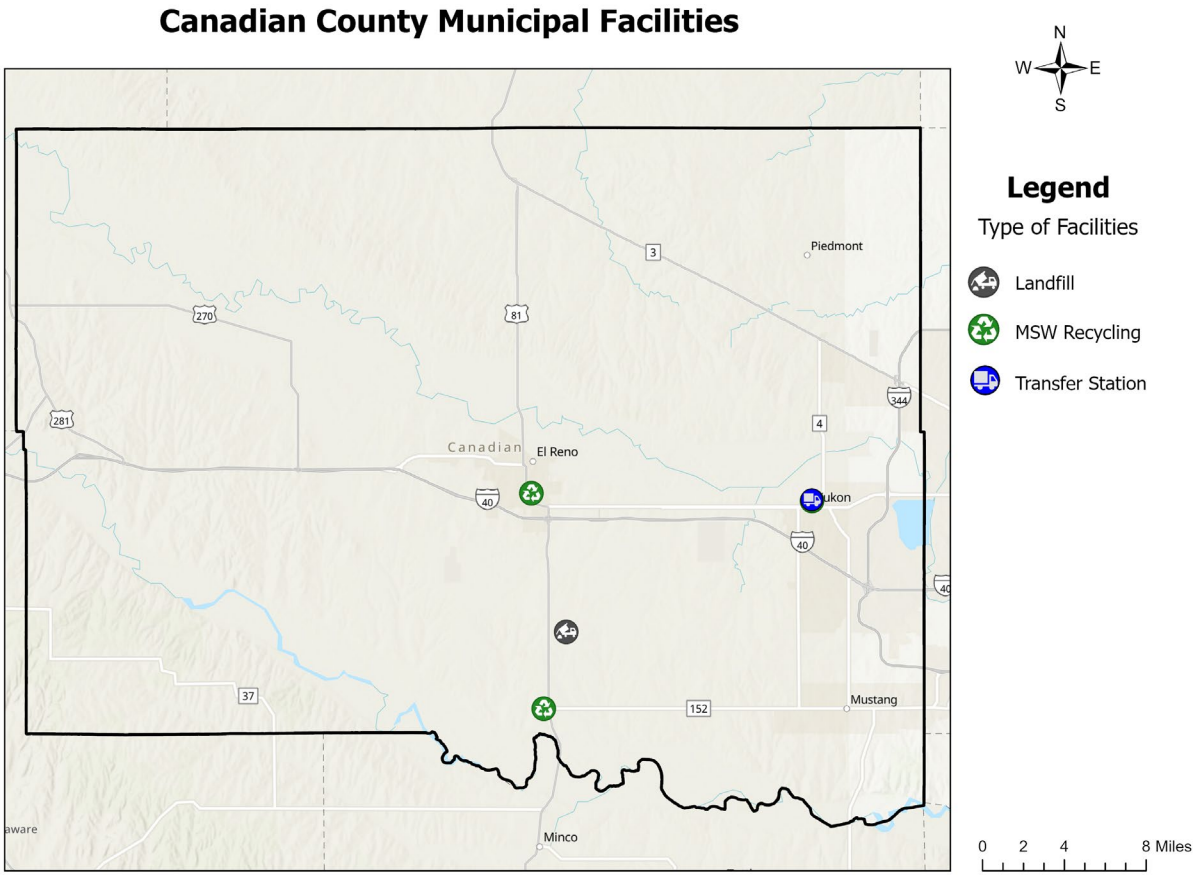


Figure 32. Canadian County municipal solid waste facilities by type.

The inventory of Canadian County's municipal solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 3 Municipal Recycling Locations (MSW)

  (Yukon's municipal recycling site is co-located with the transfer station and may not be visible)

- 1 Transfer Station
- 1 Landfill

Though Canadian County is the fastest growing county in the state, it has a smaller solid waste infrastructure footprint than counties with comparable populations. The western portion of the county is predominantly rural, and limited access to waste facilities may contribute to improper waste disposal. Although the OEMA landfill in Union City provides core disposal capacity, an additional transfer station in the western area could improve operational efficiency and service access across the county.

CANADIAN COUNTY LANDFILL

The OEMA Landfill, established in 1974, occupies a permitted 120-acre site, with 67.5 acres currently used for active waste disposal. The facility accepts solid waste from Canadian, Grady, Oklahoma, and Cleveland Counties, using its own fleet of trucks for transportation. The facility receives approximately 370 tons of municipal, commercial, and industrial waste daily, and processes nonhazardous liquid.[42]

The landfill's permitted design capacity is approximately 7.143 million cubic yards. As of the end of 2021, the facility had accepted a total of 6.109 million cubic yards of waste since opening, leaving approximately 1.034 million cubic yards of permitted capacity remaining. In response, OEMA plans to expand the landfill eastward and is currently relocating a water channel to comply with 100-year floodplain regulations before proceeding with the proposed expansion.[43] The landfill's annual tonnage reports to DEQ show increasing waste volumes, underscoring the need for facility expansion.

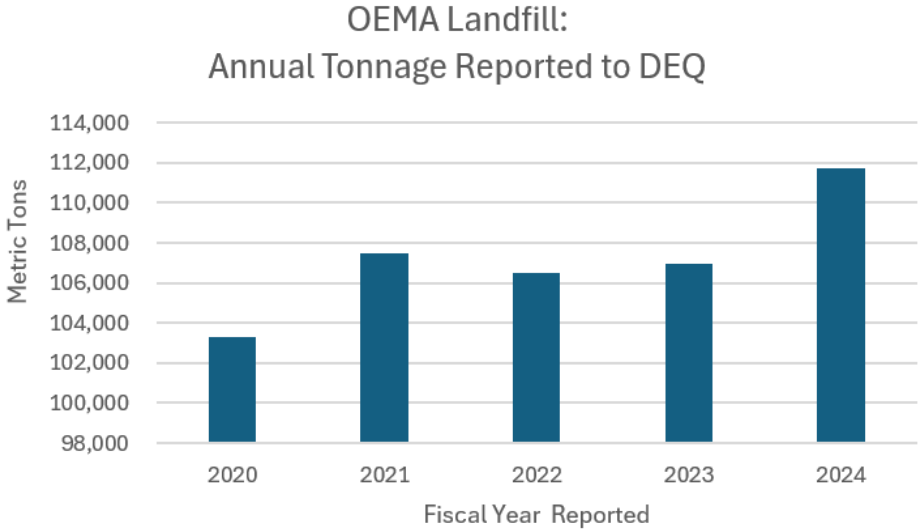


Figure 33. OEMA Landfill annual waste volume reported to DEQ from 2020 to 2024.[44]

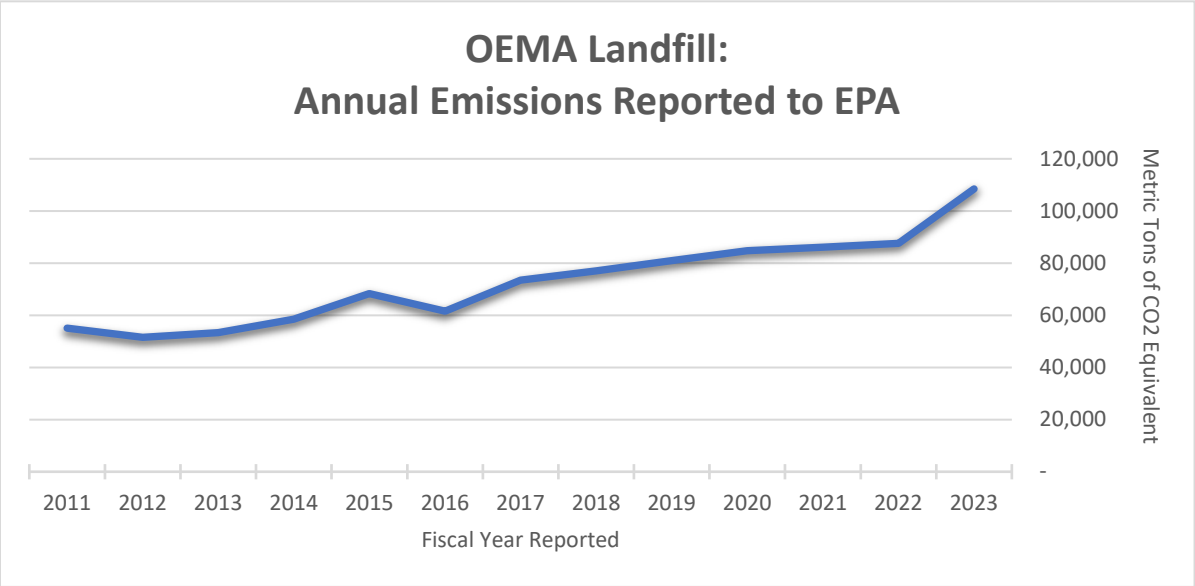


Figure 34. Annual reports of OEMA Canadian County landfill emissions between 2011 and 2023. [45]

Landfill gas emissions at the OEMA facility have grown alongside increasing waste volumes, though they remain substantially lower than emissions reported at the major Oklahoma County landfills. Similar to several Oklahoma County facilities, OEMA installed a landfill gas extraction system in 2006. From 2007 until the closure of the adjacent Red River Brick facility in 2020, captured landfill gas was used as a fuel source for brick manufacturing operations, with excess gas directed to an on-site flare. In 2022, OEMA initiated discussions with Red River Brick regarding potential reactivation of the gas collection system.[46]

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

In addition to standard solid waste and recycling services, Canadian County residents may dispose of unused or expired prescription medications at 10 DEA-designated drop-off sites.[47] These locations provide safe, secure disposal options that support regulatory compliance and public health.

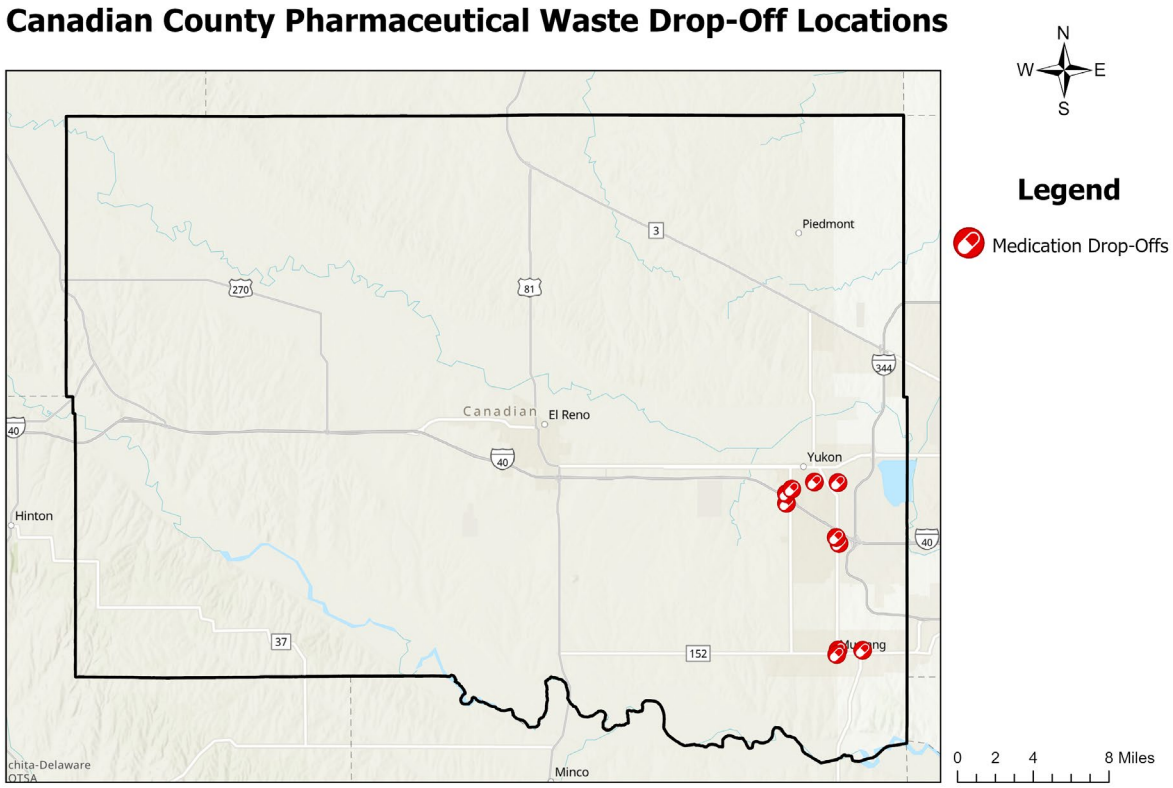
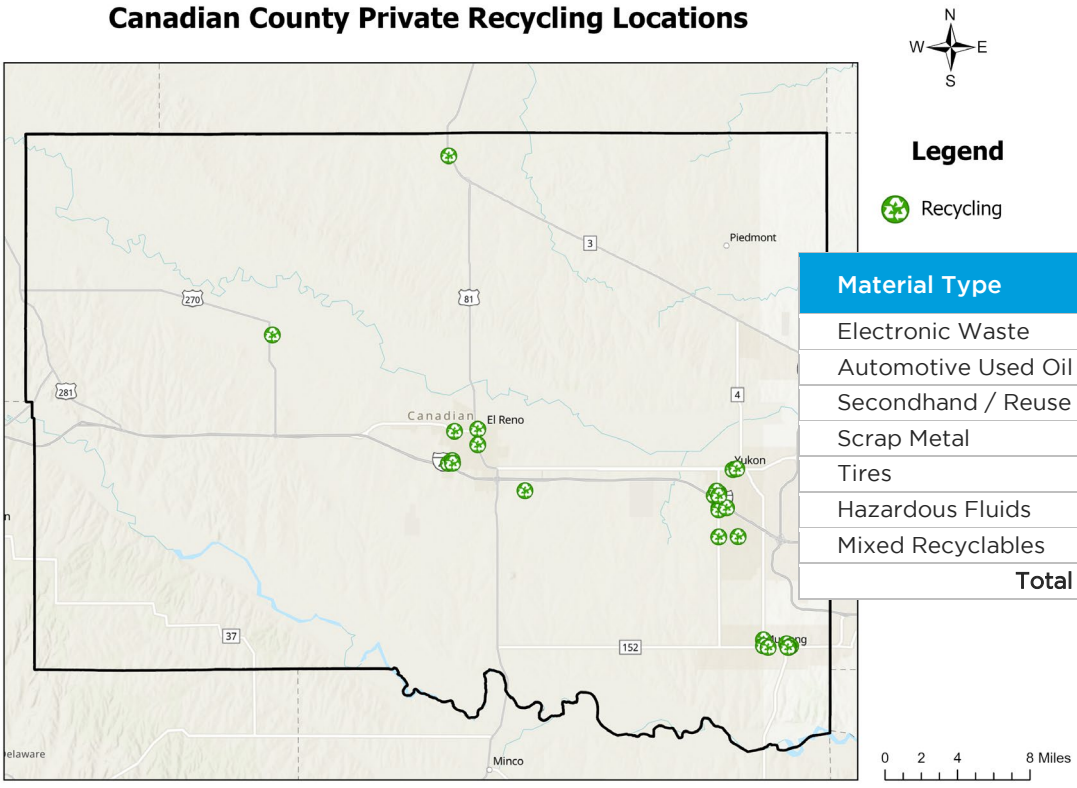


Figure 35. DEA-designated year-round drop-off locations for medication in Canadian County.

The distribution of existing sites reveals a clear need for additional collection points across western Canadian County, where most residents currently face considerable travel distances to access proper disposal facilities. Expanding both the number and geographic distribution of collection sites would improve accessibility and support compliant disposal practices across the county.

PRIVATE RECYCLING & REUSE

Beyond municipal solid waste facilities, Canadian County provides 28 locations where residents can recycle a range of materials. These sites include private recycling businesses, secondhand retailers, automotive service providers, and facilities accepting a variety of recyclable and reusable materials. This network of private recyclers supports diverse recycling needs and supports extending the lifespan of products while promoting responsible waste management across the county.



Material Type	Total Sites
Electronic Waste	7
Automotive Used Oil	9
Secondhand / Reuse	3
Scrap Metal	2
Tires	2
Hazardous Fluids	2
Mixed Recyclables	3
Total	**28**

Figure 36. Geographic distribution of private recycling facilities in Oklahoma County

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

Pottawatomie County is has 75,102 residents across approximately 793 square miles.[48] The county features a blend of urban and rural communities, with Shawnee as the county seat and primary economic center.

The county's municipalities utilize four private waste providers. The southwest and northeast corners of the county show gaps in direct service coverage, likely reflecting the limited population density in those areas.

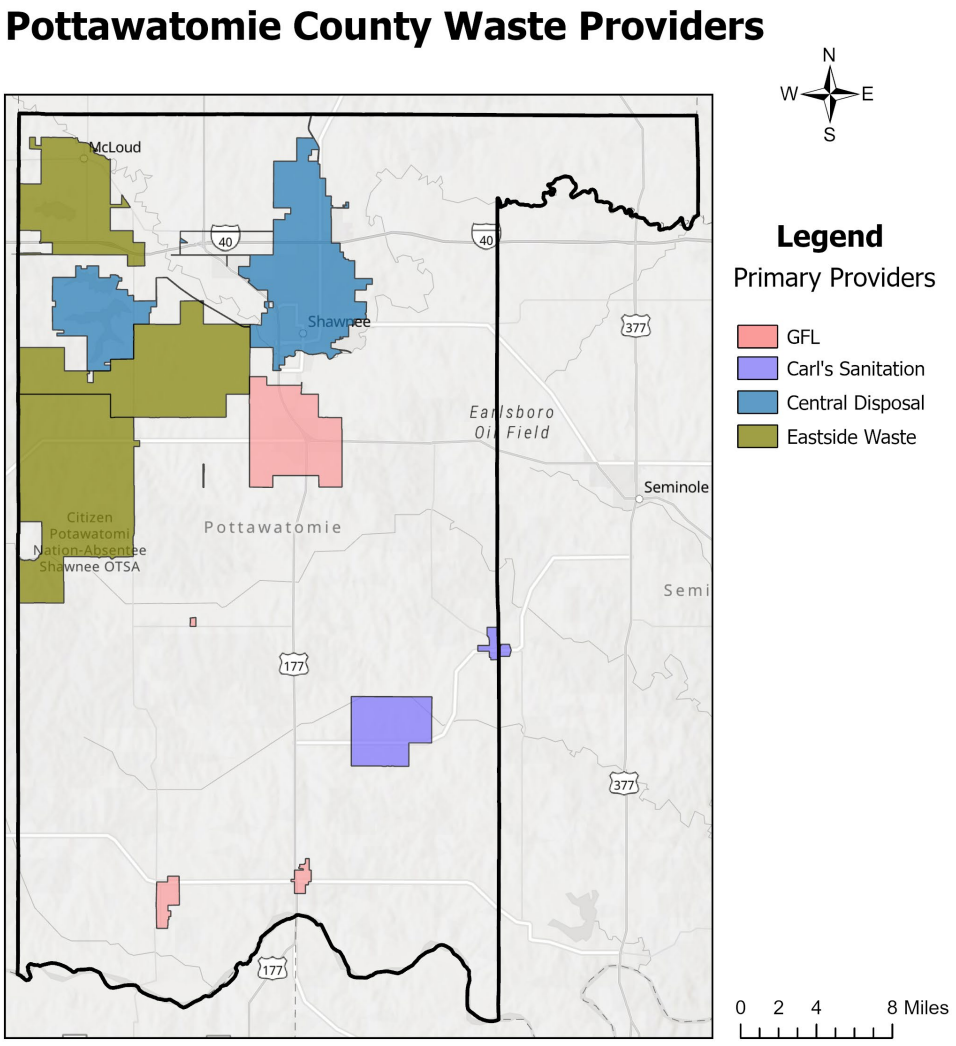


Figure 37. Pottawatomie County solid waste providers for each municipality.

Pottawatomie County Municipal Facilities

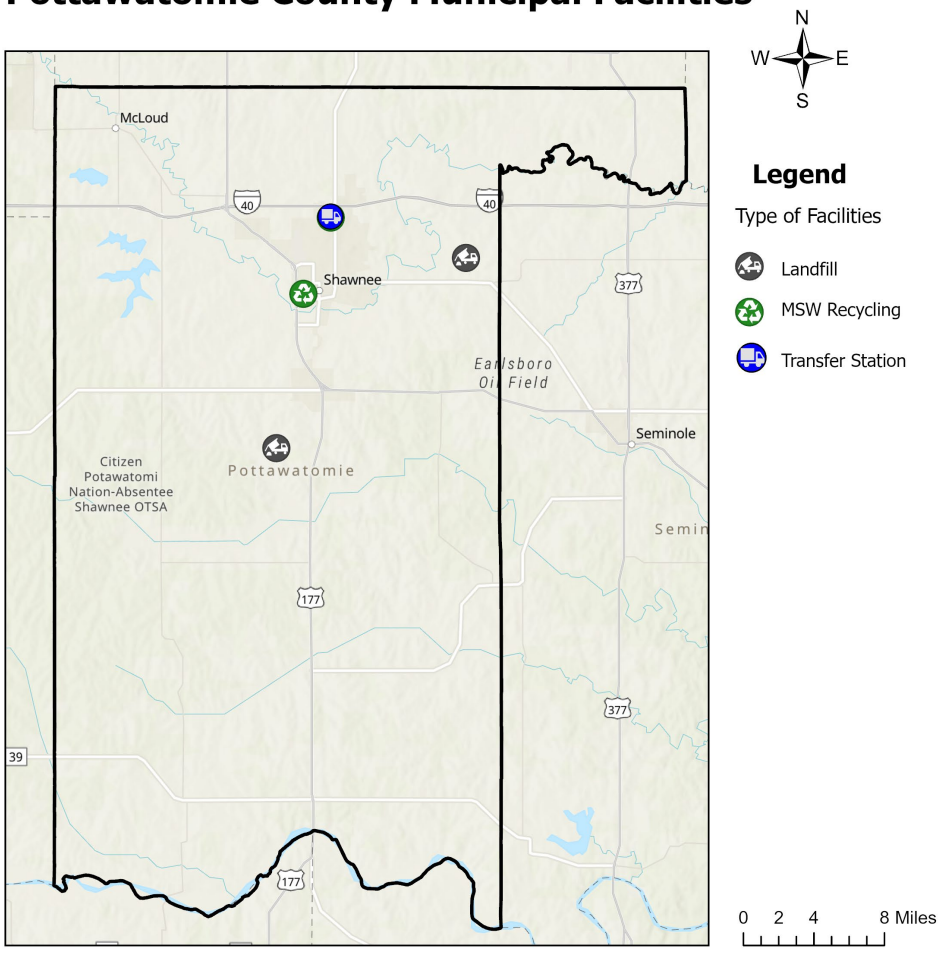


Figure 38. Pottawatomie County municipal solid waste facilities by

The inventory of Pottawatomie County's municipal solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 2 Municipal Recycling Locations (MSW)

(Shawnee's municipal recycling facility is co-located with the transfer station and may not be visible)

- 1 Transfer Station
- 2 Landfills

Pottawatomie County's lower population density shapes the scale and distribution of its solid waste infrastructure, which is less extensive than more densely populated Oklahoma County. However, the southern portion of the county remains largely undeveloped without reliable access to municipal solid waste infrastructure. Despite these limitations, the county benefits from two landfills that play an important role in supporting regional disposal needs.

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY LANDFILLS

The county contains two privately operated landfill facilities. The Canadian Valley Landfill, located east of Shawnee, is owned by BFI Waste Systems of Oklahoma, Inc. Although the landfill has not undergone final closure, it has not accepted waste for many years. The county's second landfill is operated by Absolute Waste Solutions, Inc. and is commonly referred to as the Brooksville Environmental Landfill. Data availability varies between the two facilities. Annual waste disposal tonnage was available for the Absolute Waste Solutions Landfill, whereas landfill emissions data were available only for the Canadian Valley Landfill. The corresponding analyses are presented in Figures 39 and 40.

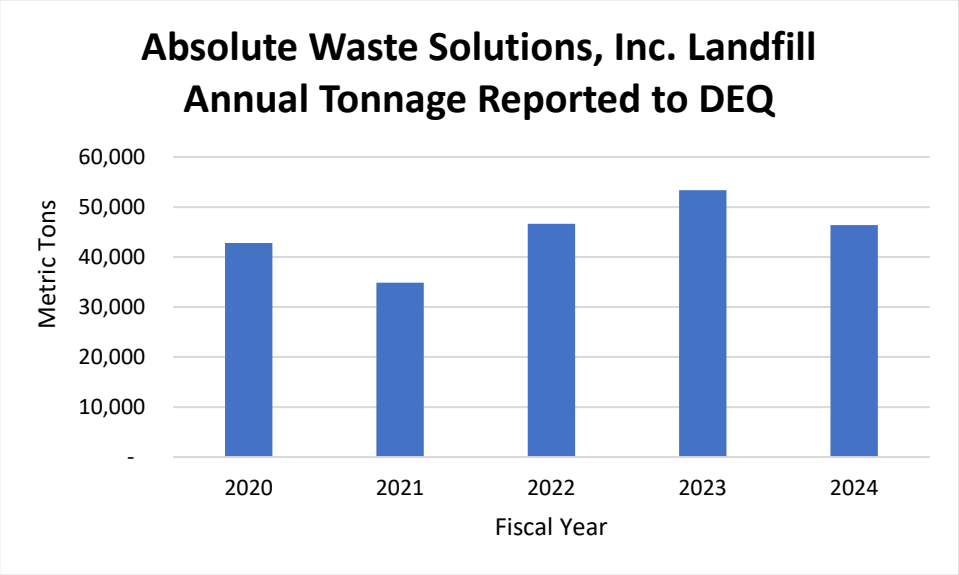


Figure 39. Absolute Waste Solutions, Inc. Landfill annual waste volume reported to DEQ from 2020 to 2024.[49]

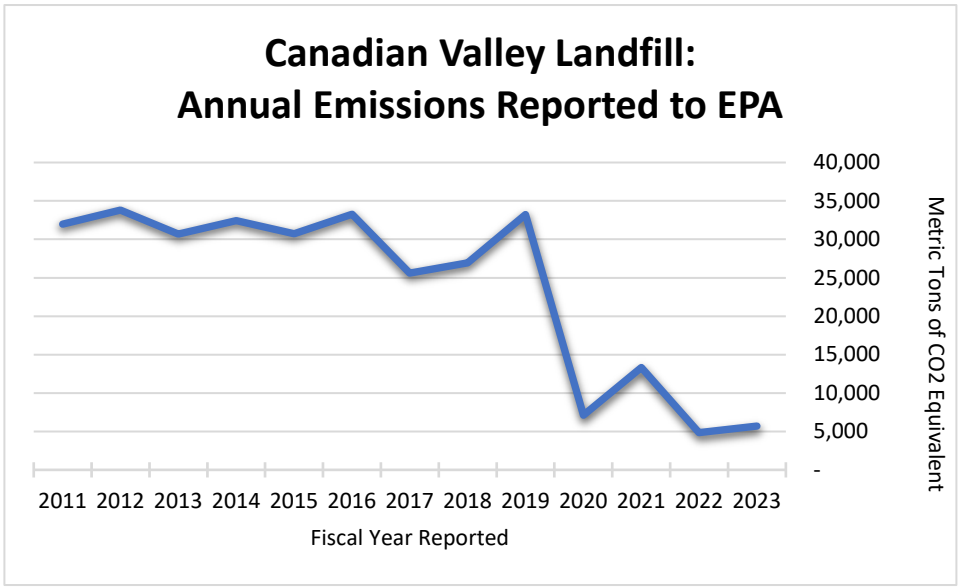


Figure 40. Annual reports of Canadian Valley Landfill emissions in Pottawatomie County between 2011 and 2023. [50]

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

Expanding beyond conventional waste services, Pottawatomie County residents can safely dispose of unused or expired prescription medications through two DEA-authorized collection sites.[51] These secure drop-off locations provide an environmentally responsible disposal option, help prevent misuse, and support regulatory compliance.

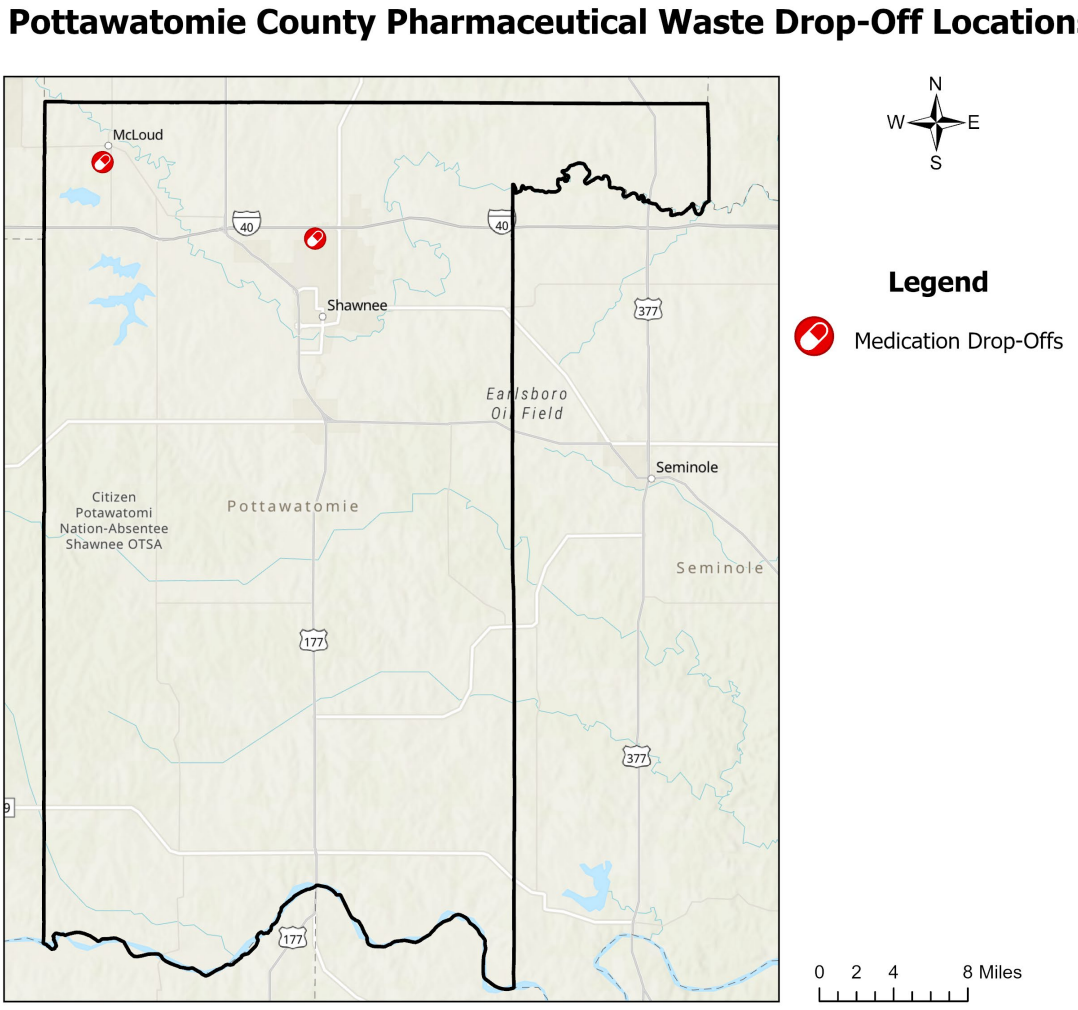


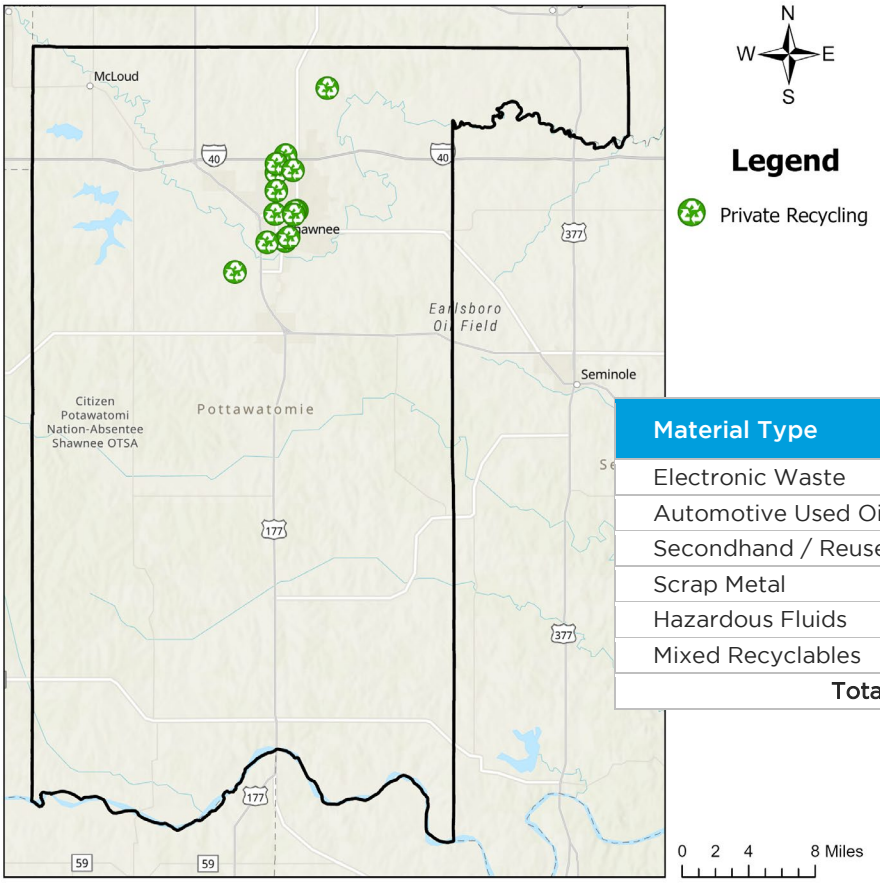
Figure 41. DEA-designated drop-off locations for medication waste in Pottawatomie County.

With only two designated medication drop-off locations located in the northern portion of the county, access to pharmaceutical disposal services remains limited for residents in southern areas. Expanding the geographic distribution of collection sites would improve accessibility and help ensure more equitable service coverage across the county.

RECYCLING & REUSE

Pottawatomie county has 10 privately operated recycling locations, concentrated primarily in the Shawnee area.

Pottawatomie County Private Recycling Locations



Material Type	Total Sites
Electronic Waste	2
Automotive Used Oil	4
Secondhand / Reuse	1
Scrap Metal	1
Hazardous Fluids	1
Mixed Recyclables	1
Total	**10**

Figure 42. Geographic distribution of private recycling facilities in

Substantial service gaps exist across the remainder of the county, particularly in the southern region, where no recycling options are currently available. Residents in these underserved areas lack access to municipal or private recycling services and have limited options beyond self-transport, a burden that falls disproportionately on households without access to a personal vehicle or the means to haul bulk waste across significant distances.

TIER 2 COUNTIES

GRADY COUNTY

Grady County has a population of 59,128 residents across approximately 1,100 square miles, the largest land area of any county in the study region.[52] The county seat is Chickasha, which serves as the primary commercial, governmental, and service center. Grady County includes a mix of urban, rural, and agricultural communities. The county is home to municipalities such as Chickasha, Tuttle, Blanchard, and Minco contributing to the county's economic development. Agriculture remains a significant component of the local economy, complemented by the manufacturing, energy, transportation, and retail sectors.

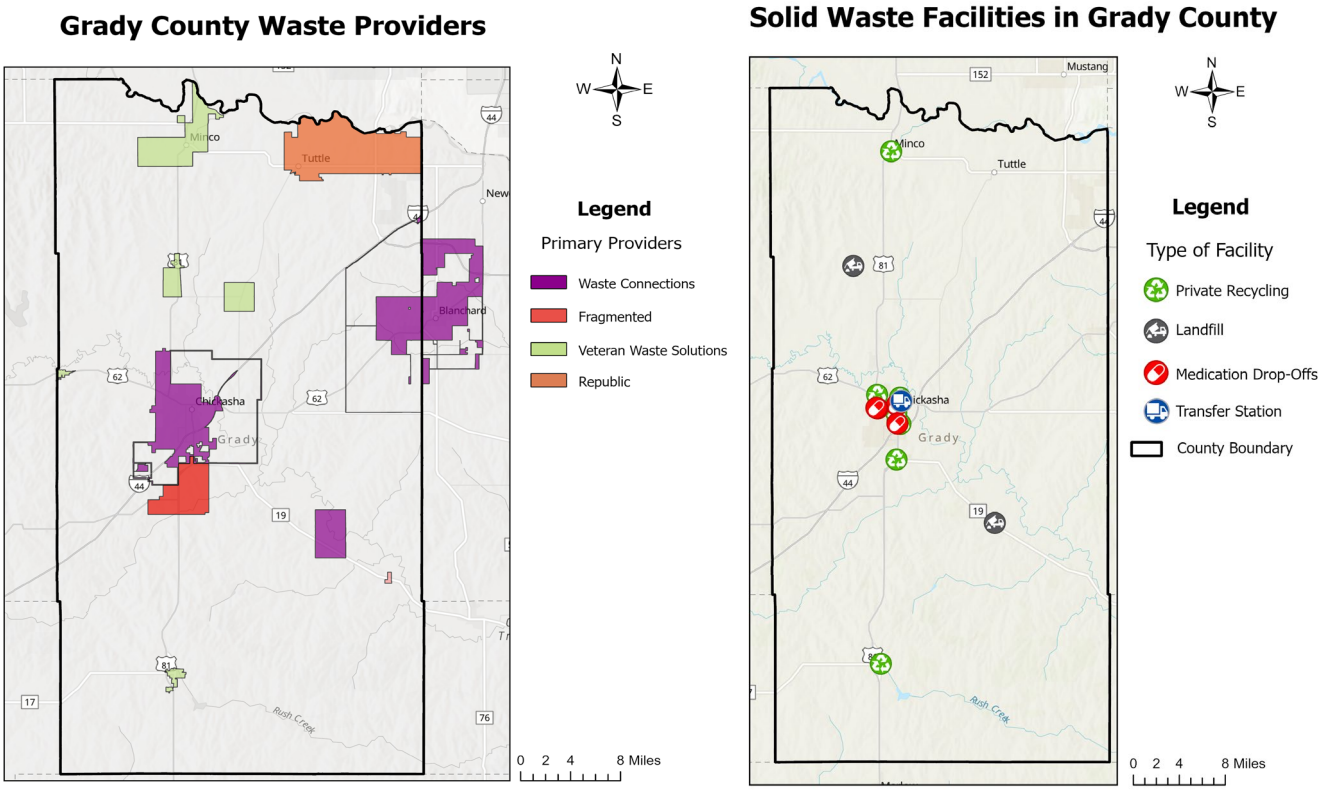


Figure 43. Locations of waste service providers and solid waste management facilities in Grady County.

Solid waste management across Grady County is provided by three private haulers, with rural areas relying on a fragmented network of smaller providers. Although the Great Plains Landfill has not received waste for many years, it has not undergone final closure.

The inventory of Grady County's solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 2 Landfills
- 1 Transfer Station
- 4 Designated Medication Drop-Offs [53]
- 10 Private Recycling and Reuse Locations

MCCLAIN COUNTY

With a population of 49,647 residents across approximately 571 square miles, McClain County is primarily rural, encompassing small towns and agricultural communities.[54] The county is served by a range of solid waste management facilities and providers.

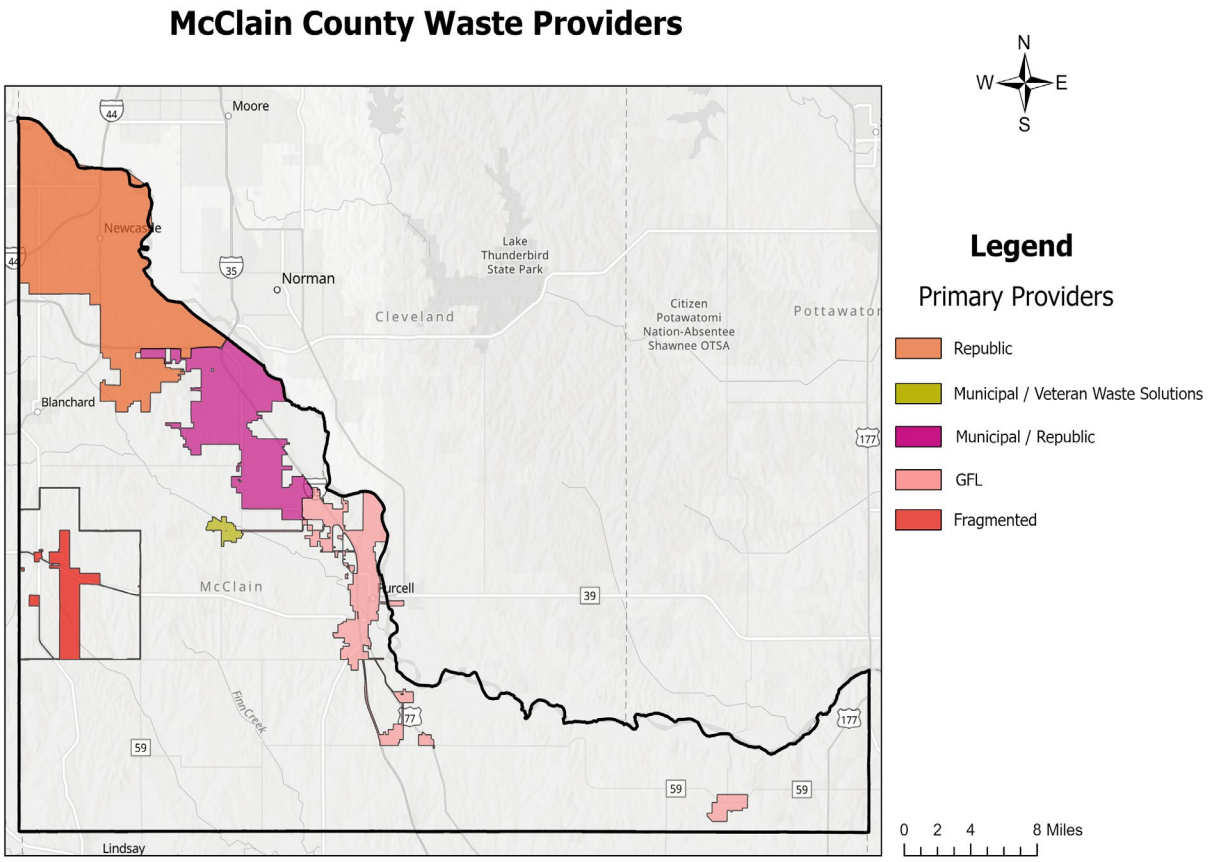


Figure 44. McClain County solid waste providers for each municipality.

Solid waste collection is provided by two major private haulers, with some municipalities using hybrid arrangements combining local and private services, while rural areas rely on a fragmented network of smaller providers.

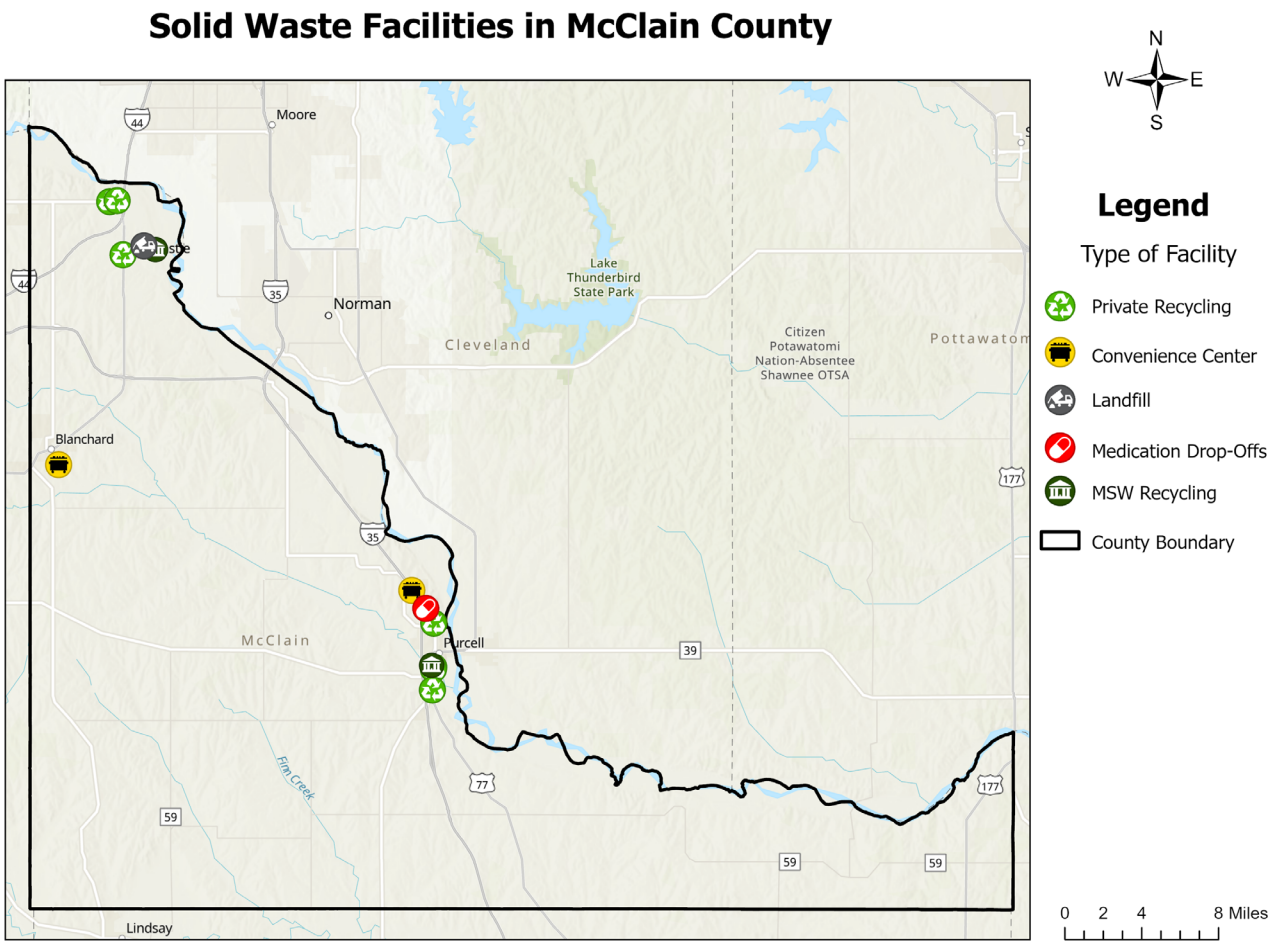


Figure 45. McClain County solid waste facilities by type.

McClain County hosts two convenience centers that function as collection points for the temporary storage of municipal solid waste. Although there is a landfill located in Newcastle, it has not accepted waste in several years but has not undergone final closure.

The inventory of McClain County's solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 2 Convenience Centers
- 1 Landfill
- 2 Municipal Recycling Sites (MSW Recycling)
- 1 DEA-Designated Medication Drop-Offs [55]
- 9 Private Recycling and Reuse Locations

LOGAN COUNTY

Logan County has a population of 55,473 across 744 square miles and is characterized by rural landscapes and agricultural communities.[56] Solid waste management options in the county are limited, with residents relying primarily on a small number of facilities and providers.

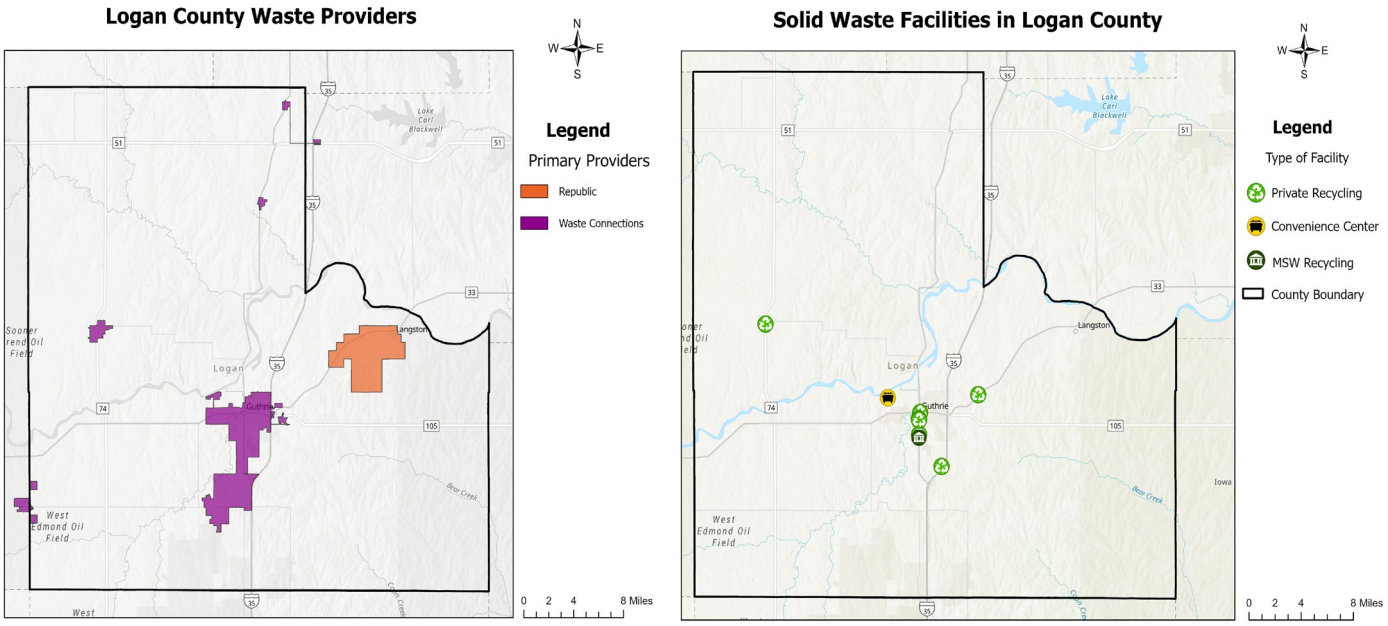


Figure 46. Locations of waste service providers and solid waste management facilities in Logan County.

A notable finding is that Logan County does not have any DEA-designated medication drop-off locations, leaving residents without a convenient option to dispose of unused or expired medications. This represents a public health gap with direct implications for both environmental contamination and misuse prevention. The county relies on Republic Services and Waste Connections for collection and disposal of waste.

The inventory of Logan County's solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 1 Convenience Center
- 1 Municipal Recycling Site (MSW Recycling)
- 0 Designated Medication Drop-Offs [57]
- 7 Private Recycling and Reuse Locations

LINCOLN COUNTY

Lincoln County has a population of 35,278 across 952 square miles.[58] The county is characterized by its agricultural heritage, small towns, and open landscapes. Solid waste collection is served by four private providers.

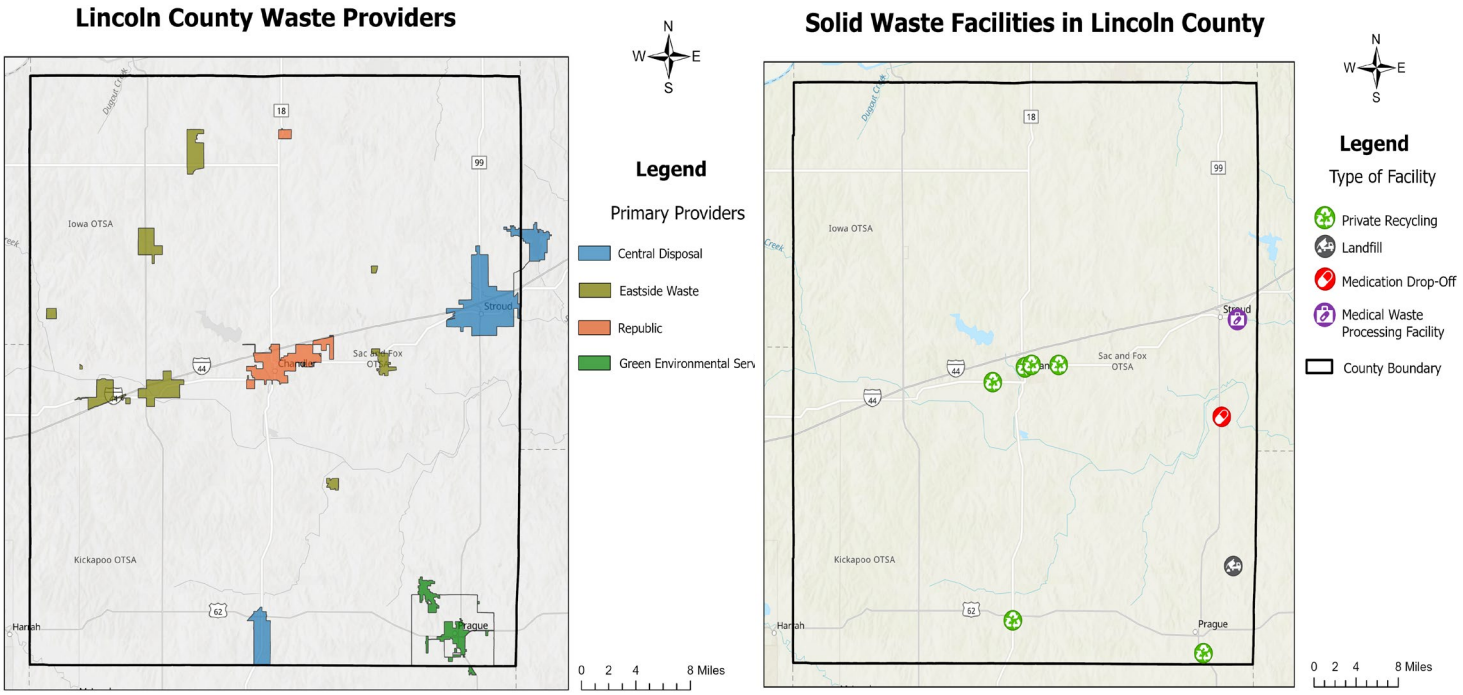


Figure 47. Locations of waste service providers and solid waste management facilities in Lincoln County.

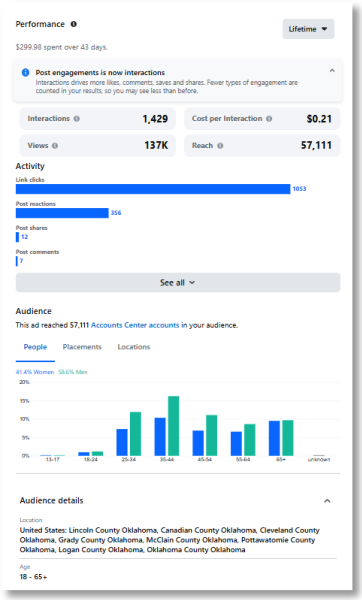
The county's medical waste processing facility ensures that regulated medical waste is safely treated and disposed of at authorized landfills. Operations encompass a range of waste types, including biohazardous material, trace chemotherapy agents, pathological waste, and non-controlled pharmaceuticals, conducted under an DEQ permit.

The inventory of Lincoln County's solid waste infrastructure includes:

- 6 Private Recycling and Reuse Locations
- 1 Landfill (MSW)
- 1 Medication Drop-Off
- 1 Medical Processing Facility

WHAT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS SAID

Between November 2025 and May 2026, ACOG gathered feedback on solid waste and materials management across the central Oklahoma region through two parallel efforts: a multi-channel public engagement process branded Trash Talks, and in-depth qualitative interviews with subject matter experts in solid waste management. Trash Talks was open to municipal staffs, ACOG Board members, and the public, and was conducted through the PublicInput digital platform, which hosted a project page, surveys, and maps.



Paid social media promotion to drive participation ran from November 18 through December 31, 2025, across Facebook, Instagram, X, and NextDoor. ACOG partnered with the Cities of Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Norman, Edmond, and Moore to distribute the survey through municipal utility newsletters and social media channels — a partnership that increased survey participation by approximately 10 percent.

An internal ACOG staff engagement effort, organized as a friendly competition to encourage employees to take the survey and recruit friends and family, generated an additional 66 responses.

Printed flyers and posters promoting the Trash Talks survey were distributed in public locations throughout the communities, such as libraries and coffee shops, and were also provided to non-profit organizations to facilitate wider dissemination of the survey among their members at community events.

In total, the *Trash Talks* process generated 6,350 survey views, 366 survey participants, 4,172 responses, 282 open-text comments from residents, 43 responses from municipal staff, and 29 responses from ACOG Board members. All public-facing materials were provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin Chinese; participants could also respond by text or voicemail.

Participation was not evenly distributed across the region: responses were concentrated in Oklahoma County and the urbanized portions of the study area, with notable clusters in ZIP codes associated with Oklahoma City, Bethany/Warr Acres, Yukon, Edmond, and nearby suburban communities. Comments also reflected experiences in Norman, Moore, Shawnee, Harrah, Newcastle, Logan County, and rural and unincorporated parts of the region.

The Subject Matter Expert (SME) practitioner qualitative interviews drew on direct operational experience across composting, recycling, e-waste collection, materials processing, contract administration, and public education. Interview participants represented Bergen Enterprises, Fertile Ground Cooperative, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful, the Metropolitan Environmental Trust, the City of Norman, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, OKC Beautiful, the City of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma Recycling Association, Oklahoma State University Extension, the University of Oklahoma, and Tinker Air Force Base.

What is striking about the two input streams is how consistently they describe the same regional condition — from different vantage points. Practitioners described a system that is fragmented, contract-constrained, and operating without a regional coordination mechanism. Residents, municipal staff, and Board members described the same system from the perspective of daily use: uneven access, confusing rules, limited options for hard-to-manage materials, and a clear interest in services that are not consistently available. The sections that follow present findings from both sources, integrated where they converge.

PART I: WHAT RESIDENTS, MUNICIPAL STAFF, AND BOARD MEMBERS SAID

Community engagement was conducted through the *Trash Talks* survey, generating 6,350 views, 366 participants, 4,172 responses, and 282 open-text comments. Resident survey responses revealed a consistent pattern: residents who want to recycle and reduce waste but who often lack the access, infrastructure, or clear guidance to do so. Four themes emerged across resident responses, reinforced in different language by municipal staff and Board members.

THE RANGE OF MATERIALS THE CURRENT SYSTEM ACCEPTS IS TOO NARROW

The single most frequently raised concern across all resident comments was the limited range of materials accepted for recycling. Residents named specific gaps with precision: glass, plastics beyond types 1 and 2, batteries, electronics, plastic bags, lightbulbs, and medications appeared repeatedly. Many had clearly done their homework — they knew exactly what their program accepted, what it excluded, and they wanted the gap closed.

> *"We need glass recycling at the curbside. Also need more than plastic 1 and 2. Need a good way to recycle plastic bags from stores. Also, batteries are a pain to recycle because you have to make an appointment in Cleveland County."*
> — Norman resident
>
> *"I end up throwing away batteries and old electronics because I am unaware of a convenient way to dispose of them." — Norman resident*

A consistent secondary theme was confusion about plastic resin codes — the numbers molded into plastic products. Multiple residents asked for labeling that uses those codes rather than generic material names.

> *"Please classify plastics by the number that is printed on the item. Saying 'don't recycle polystyrene' isn't helpful if I don't know what it is. Better to say 'don't recycle #6 plastic.'" — OKC resident*

Residents in Shawnee, Moore, and smaller municipalities described programs that were already narrower than those in larger cities — small totes, no cardboard acceptance, no glass.

> *"In Shawnee we need full size trash cans for recycling instead of the little totes we have now. We also need to be able to recycle cardboard and glass at the curb, along with additional numbered plastics other than just nos. 1 and 2." — Shawnee resident*

Household hazardous waste — paint, medications, sharps, motor oil — generated consistent demand for more accessible drop-off options. The current appointment-based model drew specific criticism.

> *"I don't want to have to make an appointment to drop off hazardous waste — primarily batteries. I'd like to know available hours and go during those, no appointment needed." — OKC resident*

RESIDENTS ARE READY FOR ORGANICS MANAGEMENT — THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS NOT

Organics diversion was the second-largest theme by volume and the highest-ranked by community endorsement. Comments asked for curbside collection of yard waste, food scraps, and leaf and grass clippings with a consistency that signals latent demand the current system has not addressed. Many residents referenced cities in other states where organics collection is standard practice. Several expressed willingness to pay more for it.

> *"The city of OKC needs curbside green waste collection. Yard waste would be the first hurdle, but ultimately accepting yard and food waste would be wonderful." — OKC resident*

For example, the City of Oklahoma City collects bagged leaves and grass clippings through regular trash service, but it does not offer a separate curbside yard-waste composting program.

For more information on composting, see the Community Composting Pilot Program Case Study.

SERVICE GAPS FALL DISPROPORTIONATELY ON RENTERS, RURAL RESIDENTS, AND OUTER-RING COMMUNITIES

Recycling access is not evenly distributed across the region, and residents are aware of it. Comments from apartment dwellers, residents of unincorporated areas, and those in smaller municipalities described conditions that diverge sharply from services available to single-family homeowners in larger cities.

> *"I am in an apartment and it's basically a giant dumpster. I don't have any easy recycling options." — OKC resident*
>
> *"My apartment complex offers 'rubbish' and 'recycle' chutes, but both go to the same bin." — OKC resident*

Rural and outer-ring residents described either no recycling service at all, or drop-off distances of 10 to 20 miles — a practical barrier for most households.

> *"We are out of city limits and so have private trash collection. Would love to see them offer some type of recycling service as well. I drive our recycling to Tinker Air Force Base from Logan County." — Logan County resident*

RESIDENTS DON'T BELIEVE THEIR RECYCLING IS ACTUALLY BEING RECYCLED

A smaller but analytically significant group of residents raised a different concern: not what the program accepts, but whether it functions at all. These comments described firsthand observations of recycling trucks dumping at the landfill or referenced reporting about plastics being shipped overseas or sent to disposal. The result in each case was the same — the resident stopped participating.

> *"I watched recycling trucks dump it at the city dump. Waste of time." — OKC resident*
>
> *"The recycling actually needs to be recycled. Lots of rumors that it's just sent to the landfill with trash." — OKC resident*
>
> *"I wish recycling in OKC was weekly. I would also like to see more assurance and proof that what we recycle is actually being recycled." — OKC resident*

This theme warrants treatment as a standalone finding because its implications are structural, not behavioral. Outreach campaigns focused on what goes in the bin will not reach residents who believe the bin is irrelevant. Rebuilding participation in these cases requires transparency — clear, accessible documentation of where materials go and what happens after collection. Several residents asked for exactly this: annual recycling statistics, facility names, materials outcome data. It is an achievable intervention with real consequences for participation rates across the region.

BULK AND LARGE-ITEM PICKUP: FREQUENCY AND PREDICTABILITY

Bulk and large-item pickup was the third-most-discussed topic in resident comments, driven primarily by residents in Norman, where twice-yearly pickup leaves long gaps, and in smaller municipalities with no scheduled service at all.

> *"We only get big trash twice a year in Norman, and people just put stuff in their yard for weeks." — Norman resident*
>
> *"Pick up more items on big trash days. We took two mattresses to the waste disposal site and were charged around $70. No wonder people illegally dump things." — OKC resident*

That second comment captures a pattern that ran through the data in multiple forms: when legitimate disposal is costly, inconvenient, or unavailable, illegal dumping follows.

MUNICIPAL STAFF PERSPECTIVES

Forty-three municipal staff members (public works) responded to a separate operational survey. Their responses provide the service-provider complement to the resident demand picture — and in several areas, the two data sets tell the same story from opposite ends.

Among the most consequential findings: 59% of responding municipalities reported that their communities do not collect recycling. Half of responding municipalities reported they are not currently collaborating with any other jurisdiction on solid waste functions. Where collaboration does occur, disposal is the most common area; recycling, public education, enforcement, and convenience center cooperation are rare.

When asked which infrastructure investments would make the biggest impact, additional collection trucks ranked first, selected by half of respondents — consistent with a system under basic capacity strain before it can address materials expansion. Recycling or composting facilities ranked second, followed by household hazardous waste facilities and transfer station upgrades.

On enforcement, 51% of municipal staff rated existing ordinances related to illegal dumping, litter, and open burning as only somewhat effective; 34% rated them as not very effective. Only 14% said their tools were very effective — indicating that illegal dumping is both a service delivery failure and an enforcement challenge.

ACOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS PERSPECTIVES

Twenty-nine ACOG Board members participated in a targeted survey. Illegal dumping ranked as the most pressing solid waste issue, selected by 57%, followed by costs and funding concerns at 54%, and recycling access at 46%. These rankings reflect the same issues residents flagged most consistently.

Support for regional pilot projects was strong and directionally aligned with resident demand: regional composting led at 63%, followed by battery and e-waste recycling at 52%, and construction and demolition recycling at 44%. Eighty-two percent of

Board respondents said ACOG should advocate for updates to state solid waste law or funding mechanisms — a near-unanimous signal of support for updated policies.

Board open-text responses on what success looks like converged on two themes: meaningful diversion from landfills and better-informed residents. Board priorities and resident concerns are in close alignment, a condition that positions the region well for coordinated action.

PART II: WHAT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS SAID

The twelve practitioner interviews produced findings that elaborate, explain, and in several cases directly account for what residents described. Where residents saw uneven service and limited options, practitioners identified the structural conditions that produce those outcomes: fragmented governance, inflexible contracts, insufficient processing capacity, and the absence of shared data infrastructure. The themes below draw on both the interviews and the public input, integrated where the two converge.

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA HAS NO REGIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR SOLID WASTE AND MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

The most consistent finding across the practitioner interviews is structural: central Oklahoma lacks any formal framework for coordinating solid waste and materials management across jurisdictional boundaries. Municipalities largely operate independently, negotiating separate contracts, developing individual programs, and making infrastructure investments with limited formal coordination. The practical results include uneven access to services, duplicated administrative effort, contamination challenges that cross municipal boundaries, and limited economies of scale for both public and private sector investment.

Several interview participants referenced COGs as institutions associated with regional planning, data integration, peer learning, and cross-jurisdictional coordination — and identified the absence of a functioning COG-level coordination mechanism for solid waste and materials management in central Oklahoma as a gap worth addressing. No interviewee described such a mechanism as currently operational in the region.

Most of the region's municipalities manage solid waste independently, without a shared regional framework for coordination. Municipalities negotiate separate contracts, develop individual programs, and make infrastructure investments with limited formal coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. OEMA in Canadian County is the notable exception to this, on a smaller scale. Half of responding municipal staff reported their jurisdiction does not collaborate with any neighboring community on solid waste functions — a condition that limits economies of scale, constrains service options, and leaves the region without a common basis for planning, data collection, or shared investment.

Half of responding municipal staff reported their jurisdiction does not collaborate with any other on solid waste functions. The fragmentation practitioners described in institutional terms is the same condition residents encounter as uneven service availability and place-dependent outcomes.

LONG-TERM CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT STRUCTURES REINFORCE DISPOSAL-FIRST DEFAULTS

Long-term exclusive contracts between municipalities and waste service providers emerged across multiple interviews as one of the primary structural barriers to system improvement. These contracts, often written without diversion incentives or flexibility provisions, limit the ability of cities to pursue alternative material streams or pilot new approaches even when the operational and fiscal rationale for doing so is clear.

Operators across sectors described a pattern in which established procurement and disposal practices persist not because they are optimal, but because altering them requires resources, coordination, and policy direction that are currently absent. Without clear regulatory requirements or financial incentives for diversion, the path of least resistance remains landfill disposal. Private operators interested in partnering with municipalities on organics, wood waste, or other diverted materials described difficulty gaining traction within procurement environments not structured to accommodate alternative approaches. Municipal staff responses reinforced the pattern: recycling, household hazardous waste management, and composting are among the services least commonly provided directly — not because interest is absent, but because the procurement environment has not made them routine.

UNRELIABLE DATA AND INCONSISTENT PUBLIC INFORMATION LIMIT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Data governance emerged as a significant barrier to regional planning, reporting, and performance measurement. Interview participants independently identified the absence of standardized measurement units as a functional barrier to regional data collection: federal programs require materials reported in tons; many operators work in cubic yards; some collection equipment uses gallons as the unit of measurement. The inconsistency prevents the creation of shared, uniform data systems that regional planning and analysis require.

The Oklahoma Recycling Association called for consistent municipal website guidance. The Metropolitan Environmental Trust identified fragmented directories as a standing barrier to public participation. Oklahoma City's Office of Sustainability noted that operational data from privately managed landfills — capacity, emissions levels, gas capture rates — is not publicly available in a form that supports regional planning. OSU Extension identified the absence of systematic tracking for illegal dumping, open burning, and enforcement capacity across counties as a gap with direct consequences for resource allocation.

The resident surveys confirmed this at scale. Among 283 public survey respondents, 29% identified uncertainty about accepted materials as the primary factor limiting their recycling participation — the same trust deficit that practitioners identified as a structural problem, not a communications one.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS EXIST BUT OPERATE IN ISOLATION

The region has meaningful assets — composting capacity in select locations, certified recycling operators, and a household hazardous waste facility in Norman that neighboring communities are actively seeking to access — but lacks the connective infrastructure to make those assets function as part of a coordinated regional system.

MET's Bobby Schultz identified the absence of 24/7 drop-off recycling centers as one of the most consequential service gaps in the OKC region, noting that schedule-accessible drop-off infrastructure is directly correlated with participation rates. OKRA highlighted the absence of regional infrastructure for managing household hazardous waste, e-waste, tires, sharps, and other hard-to-recycle materials, especially outside the urban core. Fertile Ground's Terry Craghead identified insufficient composting and recycling processing capacity statewide, and limited local glass processing infrastructure, as gaps with documented downstream consequences for material markets and operator viability.

Norman illustrates what sustained municipal investment can produce — and what the region lacks at broader scale. The city's 88% recycling participation rate, year-round household hazardous waste and e-waste drop-off, swap shop, free compost for residents and construction sites, and active private-sector partnerships demonstrate what integrated operational commitment achieves. Norman's household hazardous waste facility has since attracted formal interest from Newcastle, Purcell, and Chickasha.

ORGANICS ARE THE REGION'S HIGHEST-VALUE, LEAST-CAPTURED MATERIAL STREAM

Norman's Solid Waste Manager Michele Loudenback characterized food waste collection as among the highest-impact steps any city in the region could take — and Norman's program reflects that priority in practice: curbside yard waste collection, free compost and mulch for residents and construction sites, and a facility-based composting operation achieving near-total diversion of the city's organic stream, built through incremental partnerships with Fertile Ground Cooperative, Home Creations, and the city's own public works operations.

Bergen Enterprises and its affiliated Prairie Dirt Solutions own private organics infrastructure in the region. Prairie Dirt Solutions operates two DEQ-permitted composting sites — in Oklahoma City and Washington, Oklahoma — diverting 170,000 cubic yards of organic material from landfills annually while producing 64,000 cubic yards of finished compost, with documented performance metrics including a 67 to 99% reduction in sediment movement, 60 to 97% reduction in stormwater runoff, and water savings of at least 25%. OKC Beautiful identified urban wood waste as an additional underutilized stream with strong potential for beneficial recovery. The Oklahoma Recycling Association reinforced the material hierarchy: organics represent a higher-value recovery target than mixed plastics and warrant corresponding prioritization.

The public input confirmed this at the household level: 48% of survey respondents indicated willingness to participate in community composting if available, and ACOG

Board respondents selected regional composting as the most supported pilot concept at 63%. Private sector capacity, public demand, and documented municipal models are all present. The missing element is a coordination framework.

ELECTRONIC WASTE PRESENTS URGENT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES AND UNREALIZED ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

Oklahoma has no state-level requirement to divert electronic waste from landfills, despite the documented toxicity of many electronic components — lead, mercury, cadmium, and halogenated flame retardants — and the significant embedded value of the materials they contain. The growth of data centers and rapid technology turnover is generating e-waste volumes that existing event-based collection programs cannot absorb.

Norman's experience offers a replicable operational model. Following a lithium-ion battery fire in a municipal trash-hauling vehicle that caused approximately $500,000 in damage, the city modified its household hazardous waste facility permit to allow year-round e-waste drop-off and contracted with United Electronics Recycling, which is certified to the Responsible Recycling version 3 (R2v3) standard, an industry certification for electronics recyclers. The 2025 drive-thru event drew 805 vehicles, demonstrating the success of a structured drop-off event model.

Electronic waste also carries significant and increasingly recognized economic potential. Electronic devices contain recoverable quantities of rare earth elements — including neodymium, dysprosium, and terbium — essential to permanent magnets used in electric vehicles, defense systems, and advanced manufacturing.

Oklahoma is emerging as a participant in the domestic rare earth supply chain: Phoenix Tailings has selected Ardmore as the site of a DOE-funded demonstration facility producing high-purity rare earth metals from waste-derived feedstocks, as part of a $134 million DOE investment, and USA Rare Earth operates a rare earth magnet manufacturing facility in Stillwater, receiving up to $19.3 million through the DOE's Critical Materials Innovation program. Regional e-waste collection infrastructure carries economic development value, not only environmental management value. Only 9% of public survey respondents reported regularly recycling electronics; only 12% reported regularly recycling batteries. ACOG Board respondents selected battery or e-waste recycling as the second most supported regional pilot concept at 52%.

RECYCLING CONTAMINATION IS A SYSTEM DESIGN PROBLEM, NOT ONLY AN EDUCATION GAP

Contamination is shaped by system design, bin infrastructure, collection logistics, and public confidence in material disposition outcomes — not by public knowledge alone, and not addressable through communication campaigns in isolation.

The University of Oklahoma's Sarah Ballew documented contamination reductions through two specific interventions: placing instructional infographics at eye level above recycling receptacles rather than on lids or sides and deploying containers with material-specific openings that physically prevent insertion of the wrong items.

Figure 45. University of Oklahoma's recycling bins.

Ballew also identified color inconsistency in recycling receptacles across municipalities as a documented source of confusion. OKRA's Ellen Bussert identified resident skepticism about material disposition — the belief that collected recyclables are ultimately landfilled — as a suppressor of both participation rates and sorting discipline. Rebuilding confidence requires transparency about where materials go and what verifiable outcomes result, plus better bin design that shapes behavior.

SERVICE ACCESS IS UNEVEN ACROSS GEOGRAPHIES, INCOME LEVELS, AND COMMUNITY TYPES

OSU Extension's Keima Borsuah provided a detailed picture of conditions in rural communities: many lack consistent trash collection, have no recycling access, and rely on open burning and illegal dumping as default disposal practices in the absence of infrastructure alternatives.

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful's documented 2025 reach — 4,423 volunteers, 196 cleanup events, 101,800 pounds of litter removed, 8,110 students reached across more than 30 schools — demonstrates excellent nonprofit delivery capacity in the absence of regional infrastructure. Executive Director Evelyn Schaefer noted however, that grant-funded, volunteer-dependent programs are reactive by nature and cannot substitute indefinitely for systematized public service delivery.

OKC Beautiful's Natalie Evans described the relationship between poverty and environmental conditions as systemic: communities managing unmet basic needs are less positioned to prioritize environmental stewardship and have less institutional capacity to advocate for infrastructure investment.

Tribal Nations within the region are sovereign governments with their own environmental authorities, lands, program infrastructure, and member priorities. Several interview participants noted that tribal governments are part of the institutional landscape of solid waste and materials management in Oklahoma. This assessment did not include formal engagement with tribal the region's tribal nations, and makes no claims about conditions or needs within tribal jurisdictions. However, future regional planning efforts should create meaningful opportunities for tribal government participation on terms that the tribes themselves determine are appropriate for their members, consistent with their sovereign status.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE IS AN EMERGING MARKET FOR RECOVERED MATERIALS

The ODOT Materials Division described a performance-first decision-making framework in which material longevity, structural integrity, and lifecycle durability are the primary criteria for specification. ODOT currently permits Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) under controlled conditions, with existing specifications allowing up to 20% recycled content in non-surface base layers. Ongoing testing is examining RAP content of up to 35% in base layers and 25% in surface layers; specification updates are anticipated as research findings are incorporated into policy. Material quality variability, supply chain consistency, storage logistics, and federal procurement requirements all shape adoption timelines — legitimate technical and regulatory constraints that reflect appropriate stewardship of public infrastructure investment.

However, ODOT has other opportunities to incorporate more sustainable materials, such as using compost-based materials in roadside construction applications, including erosion control, stormwater management, slope stabilization, and revegetation. **Several states have documented the successful integration of compost into transportation specifications.** The Texas Department of Transportation has operated a compost-based erosion control program since 1993, developed in collaboration with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Texas Transportation Institute, and the composting industry. Texas provides a long-running peer-state example of how performance-based adoption could be structured. Regional private sector operators have expressed interest in collaborative demonstration projects that could generate the performance data necessary to inform future specification review in Oklahoma.

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES IN REGIONAL MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Communities across the country are exploring a range of materials management strategies that extend beyond conventional collection and disposal. The programs and approaches described below represent models that have demonstrated effectiveness in contexts broadly comparable to the Central Oklahoma region — including areas characterized by dispersed population, limited existing infrastructure, and voluntary rather than regulatory program structures. These examples are not prescriptive; they are offered to inform regional planning conversations and to illustrate the range of what has proven feasible at similar scales.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events represent one of the most widely adopted and operationally straightforward cooperative services available to multi-jurisdictional planning agencies. The model is well-established: a sponsoring entity — often a COG or regional planning commission — organizes periodic collection events at rotating locations across its member area, enabling residents to safely dispose of paints, solvents, pesticides, automotive fluids, batteries, and other materials that pose public health and environmental risks when disposed of in the general waste stream.

The Texoma COG administers appointment-based HHW collection events at locations across its multi-county region, funded through a combination of state environmental agency grants and penalty settlement funds. TCOG's executive director has described these events as playing a key role in ensuring that leftover or used household products are properly disposed of, while saving cities and counties the cost of HHW disposal fees and reducing the expense of crews responding to improperly disposed waste.

The Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority funds and administers an HHW collection program serving residents of its 12 member municipalities, offering nine annual collections that rotate location each month from April through November, providing free and convenient disposal to homeowners across the region.

The rotational format is particularly well-suited to a multi-county region, as it distributes access without requiring permanent infrastructure investment in each participating jurisdiction. Events are typically eligible for grant funding, and cost-sharing across member entities reduces the per-jurisdiction burden to levels that smaller municipalities and counties can absorb.

LEFTOVER PAINT COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Leftover latex and oil-based paint is among the most common household materials improperly disposed of or stockpiled in garages and storage spaces. Several national product stewardship programs now operate paint collection networks through retail hardware stores and municipal drop-off facilities at no direct cost to participating local governments.

PaintCare, a nonprofit organization, operates paint recycling programs in states with enabling legislation, working through a network of retail sites and municipal waste handling sites that volunteer to accept unwanted paint. PaintCare contracts for pickup from collection sites, with collected paint sorted by type and delivered to facilities that recycle it into new paint, other products, or blended fuel. In states where PaintCare operates, municipalities may opt in to the collection network by agreeing to serve as a drop-off point. Maine Department of Environmental Protection

PaintCare also operates PaintShare reuse programs that return good-quality unused paint to local communities at low or no cost. This reuse component has particular relevance for nonprofits, community organizations, and municipal public works departments that routinely use large volumes of paint. PaintCare

Oklahoma does not currently have a statewide paint stewardship program. Regional participation in retailer-based collection networks, or coordination with DEQ to explore voluntary program structures, could be a near-term opportunity to address a high-visibility, low-infrastructure waste stream.

TEXTILE RECOVERY PROGRAMS

Discarded clothing, footwear, bedding, and other textiles represent a growing share of the municipal solid waste stream and are among the materials most amenable to recovery through low-cost, no-infrastructure drop-off bin programs. Several national textile collection operators offer municipal partnership arrangements at no cost to participating jurisdictions.

Helpsy, a certified B Corporation operating in multiple states, provides textile collection bins and services to municipalities at no charge, including all equipment and insurance. In 2023, the organization diverted 15,000 tons of textile waste through its municipal partnerships, saving those municipalities approximately $1.3 million in disposal tipping fees. Municipal partners also receive royalty payments per ton collected. Helpsy

At the regional scale, the Capitol Region COG in Connecticut established a textile recycling program through a partnership with Bay State Textiles, providing collection bins at no charge to member municipalities at transfer stations, schools, and other public sites. Municipalities receive rebate payments for collected tonnage, with those funds used to support broader waste diversion programs. Crcogct

The model requires no capital investment, no regulatory authority, and no resident mandate. Bin placement at transfer stations, public works facilities, and municipal buildings within the region could be coordinated through a COG partnership arrangement, distributing both collection access and any revenue-sharing across member jurisdictions.

MATTRESS RECYCLING

Mattresses are among the most problematic bulky items in the municipal waste stream: they are difficult to compact, consume disproportionate landfill airspace, and are frequently illegally dumped when residents have no convenient disposal alternative. Regional collection events and permanent drop-off programs have demonstrated effectiveness in diverting this material stream.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), a nonprofit organization that operates recycling programs in states with enabling legislation, collected nearly 1.5 million mattresses in 2023, an increase of 3.3% from the prior year.

Where state-level mattress stewardship programs are not in place, regional agencies have organized periodic collection events that aggregate demand across multiple jurisdictions, reducing the per-unit cost of transport and recycling. Mattress recycling events are frequently combined with HHW or bulky item collection events, maximizing resident convenience and minimizing per-event administrative overhead.

ILLEGAL DUMPING REPORTING AND ENFORCEMENT NETWORKS

Illegal dumping imposes real costs on local governments — in cleanup, enforcement, and public health response — and those costs are often concentrated in rural or lower-income areas that lack the code enforcement capacity to respond effectively. Regional multi-jurisdictional enforcement networks have proven effective at both deterrence and cost-sharing.

The Capital Area COG in Texas has operated a Regional Environmental Task Force since 1996 — a network of law and code enforcement officers from 10 counties and two cities who collaborate to combat illegal dumping across the region. The task force operates a regional illegal dumping hotline, coordinates officer training, and conducts public outreach. A board of directors representing the 12 member agencies governs the group, with CAPCOG providing administrative support. Capcog

A shared regional hotline, coordinated through a COG or other entity and staffed with routing protocols that connect reports to the appropriate local enforcement authority, is among the lowest-cost, highest-visibility services a regional agency can provide in this domain. It signals public accountability without requiring significant staff expansion at the local level.

MATERIALS AND WASTE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Industrial and commercial materials exchange programs — in which one organization's surplus or byproduct material becomes a usable input for another — have been administered by regional planning agencies as a low-cost, voluntary service with measurable economic and diversion benefits. The model requires no mandate and is framed in economic rather than regulatory terms.

Region XII COG in Iowa administers the Iowa Waste Exchange, a no-cost program that maintains a database of available and wanted materials, connecting businesses that would otherwise dispose of materials with potential users. The program is funded by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Narc

A regional materials exchange function, administered by a COG and accessible to municipalities, counties, and businesses across the region, can capture value from streams including construction and demolition materials, agricultural byproducts, industrial process residuals, and surplus inventory. At minimum, a searchable online database with light staff support could be a replicable model.

EDUCATION AND PUBLIC OUTREACH INITIATIVES

DEQ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

DEQ's Environmental Education Program develops educational programs and materials, disseminating environmental education resources statewide, and training educators on how to implement those resources in classrooms. The program offers free presentations, booths, hands-on activities, and publications for schools, neighborhood associations, and community groups regarding air quality, land protection, solid waste, and recycling.

DEQ also administers an annual **Environmental Education Grant** program for K–12 teachers, school environmental clubs, and youth-serving organizations. Eligible categories include environmental club projects, green school efforts, edible school gardens, environmental education projects, outdoor classroom revitalization, recycling and composting programs. Applicants may apply for amounts from $200 up to $2,500 per grant. Funding for the grant is generated by the purchase of the Oklahoma Environmental Awareness vehicle license tags.

OKLAHOMA RECYCLING ASSOCIATION (OKRA)

OKRA is Oklahoma's leading statewide recycling education organization. As a nonprofit, OKRA promotes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting through education, outreach, and referral services while serving as a central communication hub connecting businesses, government agencies, organizations, schools, and residents.

Primary education initiatives:

Lunch and Learn series — a free, recurring in-person program that features speakers on contamination reduction, e-waste management, glass recycling, cigarette litter recycling, and HHW programs.

Annual Recycling Conference — a statewide convening for networking and discussing recycling markets, behavior change, zero waste events, and other recycling efforts, held at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center.

K–12 school resources — OKRA provides educational resources and programs that promote waste reduction and recycling, including curriculum materials, Waste-Free Lunch Days, Locker Cleanout Environmental Events, and a Solid Waste Management Resource Trunk featuring hands-on activities and displays focused on recycling, composting, litter prevention, illegal dumping, and HHW management.

Workgroups — OKRA maintains member-led workgroups in education & outreach, advocacy, waste exchange, product stewardship, composting, and glass.

OSU COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE — SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The OSU Extension Service provides waste management assistance through technical assistance, educational materials and programs, waste management analysis, and assistance to local and county solid waste decision makers implementing waste management plans. Topics covered include reduce, reuse, recycle, composting, littering, and illegal dumping. The program also provides assistance to rural communities with populations less than 2,500.

THREE DISTINCT PROGRAMS:

"Train the Trainer" in-service events for Extension Educators covering the full solid waste curriculum.

Oklahoma Environmental Law Enforcement Training Seminars, covering solid and hazardous waste, open burning, illegal dumping, environmental crimes, and enforcement resources, co-sponsored with DEQ.

Solid Waste Management Resource Trunks — available for 3-week loan to K–12 educators, featuring the "Close the Loop" display, tabletop samples of items made from recyclable materials, and activities on reduce/reuse/recycle, backyard composting, household hazardous waste, and illegal dumping and littering. Funded by a USDA Rural Development grant, co-sponsored by OKRA.

KEEP OKLAHOMA BEAUTIFUL (KOB) — STATEWIDE AFFILIATE

KOB's litter education program promotes the message that "Every Litter Bit Hurts" through engaging, hands-on projects designed to teach students about the environmental impacts of litter and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling. In addition to its educational efforts, KOB coordinates Great American Cleanup activities across Oklahoma each spring, provides recycling bins for community events and workplaces, and offers training and support to its statewide affiliate network. KOB also maintains a statewide recycling facility locator, helping residents easily identify recycling opportunities in their communities.

OKC BEAUTIFUL

OKC Beautiful is a nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the environmental and aesthetic quality of Oklahoma City through education, community engagement, and advocacy. As the leading environmental education and beautification organization in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, it plays a central role in promoting litter prevention, recycling, and volunteer stewardship initiatives that improve the community's quality of life.

KEY PROGRAMS:

Mother Earth — an interactive educational performance featuring professional actors that teaches students about litter abatement, recycling, and water conservation. In 2025, the program reached 8,110 students.

Earth Academy — a high school program that connects students with topics including conservation, waste reduction, and renewable energy. The Earth Academy program had 30 high school students participate in 2025.

Grow OKC — provides monthly environmental education and networking opportunities for adults, with events covering sustainable gardening, zero waste topics, herb planting, vermicomposting, and more.

Sustainability Social Hour — a monthly program featuring a different special guest and topic each time, bringing people together around sustainability and environmental topics.

Cigarette Litter Prevention & Recycling — provides free receptacles to commercial districts, with cigarette butts sent to TerraCycle to be repurposed into hard plastic for industrial products, such as benches.

Recycle Bin Loan Program — loaned 20 recycling bins at no cost for community events in 2025, helping support local waste reduction initiatives. OKC Beautiful provides the bins but does not collect or process the recyclable materials.

LitterBlitz Cleanup Events — In 2025, 196 cleanup events were held, supported by more than 4,400 volunteers who removed over 101,800 pounds of litter from the community.

OKLAHOMA GREEN SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The Oklahoma Green Schools Program provides resources, funding opportunities, and curriculum engaging students in environmental learning and hands-on investigations around energy efficiency, renewable energy, water quality, solid waste and recycling.

The program utilizes Project Learning Tree (PLT) School Investigations, which are student-led. The program's Waste and Recycling resource page includes the EPA's Tools to Reduce Waste in Schools, student food waste audit guides, school recycling program implementation plans, composting guides for educators, and EPA P2 Toolbox lesson plans.

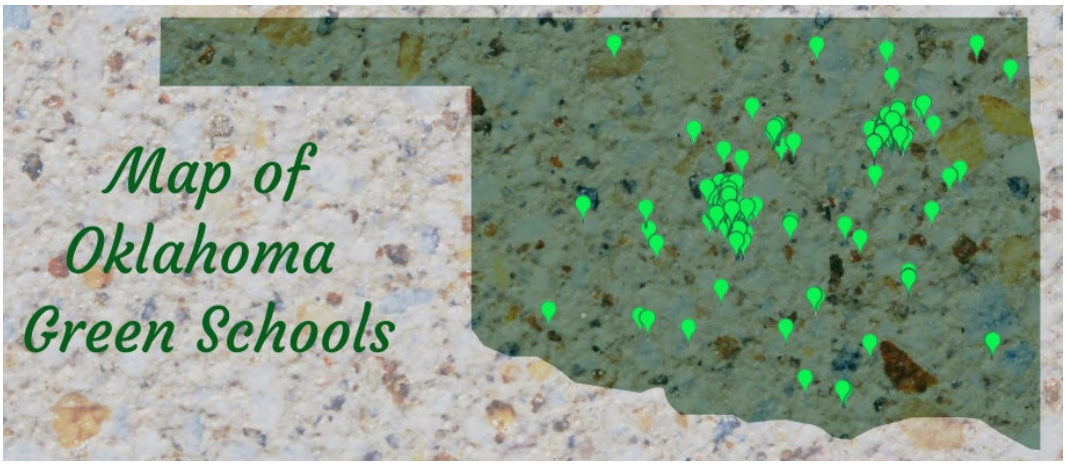


Figure 46. Statewide locations of participating and certified green schools in Oklahoma.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT

Municipalities and counties that procure solid waste collection, hauling, and disposal services independently forego the negotiating leverage that comes with aggregated contract volume. Regional cooperative procurement — in which a coordinating body develops shared contracts or marketing arrangements that member jurisdictions may opt into — consistently produces cost savings and reduces administrative burden for participating entities.

NH Recycles (formerly the Northeast Resource Recovery Association), founded in 1981, is the oldest and largest cooperative-model recycling nonprofit in the United States. The organization partners with more than 450 municipalities, businesses, and individuals across New England to strengthen recycling through economically and environmentally sound solutions, and is one of only a handful of nonprofits nationwide that enables communities to manage their own recycling programs by connecting them directly with end markets for recyclables.

NH Recycles negotiates competitive pricing from companies that purchase recyclables and helps member municipalities sell their materials to those companies.

In addition to cooperative marketing, the organization provides cooperative purchasing programs, educational and networking opportunities, and technical assistance across the general areas of waste reduction and recycling. Cooperative arrangements have produced measurable results for member communities. The town of Strafford, Vermont, for example, was paying $121 per ton for dual-stream recycling processing; by routing separated glass to one of NRRA's New Hampshire consolidation sites at $40 per ton, the community achieved substantial cost savings.

The relevance to the Central Oklahoma region lies not in the specific organizational form — which reflects New England's municipal structure — but in the underlying principle: aggregating material volumes and procurement demand across jurisdictions produces better market terms than any single municipality could achieve independently. Intergovernmental agreement frameworks already available to Oklahoma COGs provide a legal basis for analogous cooperative arrangements in hauling, HHW event contracting, equipment procurement, and recyclables marketing.

CASE STUDY 1: SAVING MONEY, REDUCING WASTE, AND PROTECTING WATER QUALITY WITH COMPOST

As Oklahoma communities look for ways to reduce landfill pressure and improve stormwater management, local compost leaders are pushing for changes to construction projects, especially road construction projects: replacing traditional silt fencing with compost filter socks for transportation and construction projects as well as using compost to re-establish vegetation and reduce stormwater runoff. During ACOG's regional solid waste planning discussions, stakeholders highlighted how Oklahoma lags neighboring states like Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri in adopting these practices, despite years of proven success elsewhere.

Fertile Ground, an Oklahoma City-based worker-owned cooperative, began producing filter socks using recycled wood and compost byproducts after local developers sought a more sustainable erosion-control option. The socks reduce soil disturbance because they do not require trenching like traditional silt fence systems, and they are more durable during active construction potentially reducing costs.

Use of compost for vegetation re-establishment during roadway construction could potentially reduce Oklahoma's heavy reliance on sod, fertilizer, and irrigation during highway stabilization projects. Compost-amended soil can reduce erosion, improving water quality.

Compost-based erosion control supports broader regional waste goals. Construction projects generate large volumes of vegetative debris that could be ground and reused onsite instead of burned or landfilled. Stakeholders pointed to Texas' decades-old compost specification program—created in response to dairy manure pollution in the Brazos River—as an example of how transportation agencies can simultaneously support private industry, improve water quality, and create stable end markets for compost products.

KEY DATA POINT

Approximately half of U.S. states—including Texas, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, and California—already allow and use compost filter socks and compost-amended soils for highway stabilization as a standard erosion-control practice.

REGIONAL TAKEAWAY

Compost-based erosion control could work across Oklahoma communities—from ODOT highway projects to municipal roadwork, park improvements, and private development. By creating stronger local markets for compost and vegetative waste reuse, communities can reduce landfill dependence, support local recycling businesses, improve water quality, and lower long-term infrastructure costs.

Source Notes: Fertile Ground Meeting Transcript, January 2026.

CASE STUDY 2: SOLVING A PUBLIC SAFETY PROBLEM AND CAPITALIZING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY THROUGH LEGISLATION: HB 1907 (THE BATTERY STEWARDSHIP ACT)

Consumer batteries in cell phones, laptops, lawn equipment, and other products power our lives. With more household batteries, there are more batteries entering the municipal waste stream which becomes a public safety issue when batteries ignite in trash trucks and at waste facilities. These fires lead to increased costs – higher insurance premiums, higher city utility rates, and emergency response costs.

Batteries also contain critical minerals which when recycled supply a growing Oklahoma battery manufacturing sector.

Oklahoma's House Bill 1907 (the Battery Stewardship Act) proposed during the 60th Oklahoma Legislature, would have established a framework for the responsible management and recycling of certain batteries sold in Oklahoma

It would have required producers, defined as manufacturers, importers, or distributors of covered batteries (portable or medium-format batteries used for residential or business purposes, with specific exclusions like batteries in medical devices or lead-acid batteries over 11 pounds), to submit and operate under an approved battery stewardship plan by January 1, 2028.

These plans, valid for up to five years, detailed how producers will collect and recycle covered batteries at no cost to end-users, establish convenient collection points in every county, and include performance goals for collection rates and recycling efficiency.

Producers would be subject to annual fees based on their market share to fund the program's administration by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which would oversee plan approvals, monitor compliance, and inform the public.

In 2026, HB1907 passed out of the Oklahoma House of Representatives as well as the Oklahoma Senate Energy Committee. The bill was not heard on the Senate Floor.

There is a broad stakeholder base supporting the legislative effort and it is expected that new legislation will be filed for the next legislative session.

KEY DATA POINT

Less than 5 percent of lithium-ion household batteries are recycled in the United States.

REGIONAL TAKEAWAY

Recycling more household batteries reduces costs and public safety risks for businesses, local governments, and property owners. More recycled batteries provide materials to a supply chain for a growing battery manufacturing industry in Oklahoma.

CASE STUDY 3: NATURAL GAS REFUSE FLEETS OFFER A REGIONAL ADVANTAGE

Oklahoma is a national leader in the deployment of compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicles and the growing use of renewable natural gas (RNG) as a transportation fuel.

Refuse collection fleets are uniquely suited for alternative fuel adoption because they operate on predictable routes, return to centralized facilities for fueling, and consume large volumes of fuel over their operational lifetimes. As a result, investments in CNG and RNG technologies have created local opportunities to reduce operating costs and improve air quality.

The use of natural gas-powered refuse trucks provides several benefits compared to traditional diesel-powered vehicles. These fleets typically produce lower emissions of particulate matter and nitrogen oxides, reduce engine noise in residential neighborhoods, and can offer long-term fuel price stability.

Local government entities deploying natural gas refuse trucks in their fleet include: City of Midwest City, City of Moore, City of Nichols Hills, City of Norman, City of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Environmental Management Association (OEMA). Private sector companies, Waste Connections and Waste Management also have deployed natural gas refuse trucks.

Oklahoma City based Sparq Renewables develops public-private partnerships that capture biogas from municipal landfills and converts it into pipeline-quality renewable natural gas (RNG), creating new revenue streams for local governments, reducing emissions, and transforming landfill gas from a waste byproduct into a nationally traded commodity.

Renewable natural gas presents an even greater opportunity for emissions reductions. RNG is produced from organic waste streams such as landfill gas, wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural operations, and food waste processing systems. When used as a transportation fuel, RNG can significantly reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions and, in some cases, achieve carbon-negative outcomes by capturing methane that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere. This creates a direct connection between waste management systems and transportation decarbonization efforts, allowing communities to transform waste byproducts into valuable fuel resources.

KEY DATA POINT

The City of Norman saved an estimated $500,000 in fuel costs compared to gasoline and diesel in one year.

REGIONAL TAKEAWAY

As Central Oklahoma continues to evaluate future investments in waste and materials management infrastructure, the region has an opportunity to further integrate waste collection, landfill operations, and alternative fuel strategies. By building upon existing successes with CNG and RNG technologies, Central Oklahoma can continue to position itself as a leader in innovative and environmentally responsible waste management practices.

CASE STUDY 4: CITY OF NORMAN EXPLORES REGIONAL WASTE PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND RECYCLING, YARD WASTE, AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SERVICES

As central Oklahoma communities search for cost-effective ways to improve recycling, organic waste composting and household hazardous waste services (HHW), the City of Norman is interested in purusing regional "hub-and-spoke" approaches that could expand access for smaller surrounding communities. During ACOG regional solid waste planning discussions, City of Norman staff described growing interest from nearby cities—including Newcastle, Purcell, Chickasha, and other rural communities—that currently lack convenient HHW recycling, and organic waste options.

City of Norman officials explained that the city has already begun implementing smaller regional strategies through open electronic waste collection events that welcome residents regardless of city boundaries. The city is also expanding its HHW facility to accept electronics year-round after a lithium battery fire destroyed a sanitation truck, reinforcing the need for safer disposal options. Norman partners with certified recycling vendors, battery recovery companies, Habitat for Humanity, and paint reuse organizations to divert reusable materials whenever possible before disposal.

Regional planners and stakeholders also highlighted Norman's emphasis on transparency and public education. Participants noted that Norman publicly shares recycling information, tracks participation data, and provides residents with clear explanations of where recyclable materials are processed.

KEY DATA POINT

Norman's recycling program currently reports an 88% participation rate among residents, but contamination rates remain stubbornly high, and resident demand for more HHW, recycling, yard waste services is also high.

REGIONAL TAKEAWAY

The discussions demonstrated that regional partnerships could help smaller Oklahoma communities access recycling, organic waste and HHW recycling services without building entirely new facilities. Similar hub-and-spoke systems could support rural municipalities across the ACOG region by sharing infrastructure, reducing illegal dumping, improving public safety, and expanding access to environmentally responsible disposal and recycling programs.

Source Notes: City of Norman Regional Solid Waste Planning Discussion Transcript, March 2026.

CASE STUDY 5: COMMUNITY COMPOSTING PROJECT DIVERTS ORGANIC WASTE, ADDS VALUE

In 2024, ACOG was awarded a $500,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture/National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA) grant to pilot a Community Composting Program. This funding was for communities to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans as part of USDA's broader efforts to support urban agriculture.

The two-year program connected residents to food scrap drop-off sites hosted by community gardens, schools, nonprofits, and other sites. ACOG's primary partner in this effort was Fertile Ground Cooperative, a composting operation in Oklahoma City. Other key partners included: OKC Zoo, OKC Beautiful, OSU Extension, Oklahoma County Conservation District, OKC Food Hub, RestoreOKC, and the City of Norman.

KEY DATA POINTS

- 34 tons (68,335 lbs) of food waste was diverted from the landfill and turned into compost
- 669 people participated in the program at 20 sites in Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties
- About 16 tons (27 cubic yards) of finished compost was donated to community gardens, schools, nonprofits and drop-off participants
- 88.83 tons (177, 671 lbs) of CO2 (carbon dioxide) were mitigated

REGIONAL TAKEAWAY

The pilot tested a working participation network, with residents using the service and host sites serving as both collection points and community partners. It demonstrated that community-scale composting can achieve significant landfill diversion in central Oklahoma when coordination, outreach, and collection logistics are in place.

Source Notes: ACOG and USDA NIFA

REGIONAL MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & PLANS

The models below represent some of the most relevant examples of how other states have structured regional solid waste and materials management, including several with demographics, geography, and policy contexts similar to Oklahoma's

TEXAS

Texas designates all 24 COGs as state planning agencies for municipal solid waste, each responsible for maintaining a current regional solid waste management plan covering regional goals, infrastructure inventory, disposal capacity assessment, and implementation strategies. Funding flows to COGs through TCEQ from a dedicated share of landfill disposal fees; Texas COGs are also eligible recipients of EPA SWIFR funding for regional solid waste planning and infrastructure investment.

TENNESSEE

Tennessee statute designates nine development districts as the entities responsible for preparing and adopting regional solid waste management plans consistent with statewide priorities and criteria, with the state providing assistance in plan preparation and establishing completion timeframes. Districts coordinate with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to conduct solid waste needs assessments every five years and monitor annual progress toward diversion targets

MINNESOTA

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency prepares the Metropolitan Solid Waste Management Policy Plan every six years, establishing a framework for managing waste across the seven-county metro area with goals for source reduction, recycling, and organics recovery. Counties and solid waste management districts outside the metro area are required to prepare and implement their own detailed solid waste management plans every ten years, approved by the MPCA.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania's Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act established a per-ton fee on all waste disposed at municipal landfills, with proceeds funding grants for local collection programs, public education, materials processing, composting facilities, and technical training. Counties are required to develop waste management plans individually or through joint multi-county planning districts, submitted to the Pennsylvania DEP for approval.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas organizes solid waste management through 19 Regional Solid Waste Management Districts, each required to develop regional plans consistent with the Statewide Solid Waste Management Plan and submit them to DEQ for approval. Funding is provided through a per-ton landfill fee, with each district receiving an annual statutory allocation to administer grants for recycling, composting, and waste reduction programs.

MISSOURI

Missouri is divided into 20 solid waste management districts created to foster regional cooperation between cities and counties, each planning and implementing recycling services and administering waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting grants. Funding is provided from tonnage fees paid at Missouri landfills and transfer stations, allocated to districts by the Department of Natural Resources based on a statutory formula.

OHIO

Ohio's 88 counties are organized into 52 solid waste management districts — 37 single-county and 15 multi-county — each required to develop a solid waste management plan and update it every five years for submission to Ohio EPA for approval. Districts provide recycling programs, composting, household hazardous waste collection, and public education across their service areas.

INDIANA

In 1990, the Indiana General Assembly created solid waste management districts requiring each of Indiana's 92 counties to have a district or be part of a multi-county one, with each responsible for developing solid waste management plans with guidance from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Districts, counties, municipalities, schools, and nonprofits are eligible to apply for state Community Recycling Grant Program funding for recycling, waste reduction, organics management, and household hazardous waste programs.

KEY FINDINGS

Over twelve months of community engagement, data collection, research, and regional analysis, this assessment built the first comprehensive picture of solid waste and materials management across Central Oklahoma. The four findings below distill that work into its core results — the conditions that define the region's current state and that Phase II regional planning is designed to address.

- Finding One: Fragmentation and Isolation

  The region's municipalities manage solid waste independently, without a shared regional framework for coordination. Municipalities negotiate separate contracts, develop individual programs, and make infrastructure investments with limited formal coordination across jurisdictional boundaries. Only 24 of the region's 99 municipalities have any kind of collaborative agreement in place, a condition that limits economies of scale, constrains service options, and leaves the region without a common basis for planning, data collection, or shared investment.

- Finding Two: Limited visibility

  Solid waste financial, operational, and service-level data across the region is incomplete, inconsistent, and largely unavailable. The majority of municipalities do not budget or report solid waste as a discrete financial function, making it impossible to benchmark costs, assess fee adequacy, or evaluate the return on diversion investment. Private operator data is often proprietary or unreported. Reporting units vary across programs and jurisdictions, preventing direct comparison. Without a common data foundation, the region cannot measure its own performance or make the case for infrastructure investment.

- Finding Three: Inconsistency + Disparity

  Solid waste management outcomes vary significantly across the region, with access to services, programs, and infrastructure determined largely by geography and local resources rather than regional need. Renters, rural residents, and households in smaller municipalities consistently describe conditions that diverge sharply from those available to single-family homeowners in larger cities. Fifty-nine percent of responding municipalities reported that their communities do not collect recycling. The service gap is not uniformly distributed — it concentrates in the outer-tier counties, unincorporated areas, and multifamily housing — and it has infrastructure gaps that regional planning is positioned to address.

- Finding Four: Increased Population, Increased Demand
  Population is driving disposal demand, and diversion capacity has not kept pace. The eight-county region has grown by 19.3% over the last decade, a net gain of more than 270,000 residents, with the fastest growth concentrated in Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, and McClain Counties — areas with some of the least developed recycling and diversion infrastructure. Resident and Board survey data confirm that demand for expanded services — composting, battery and e-waste recycling, household hazardous waste access, and broader materials acceptance — is present and consistent across geographies. The infrastructure to meet that demand does not yet exist on a regional scale.

CONCLUSION

This assessment is the first comprehensive existing conditions analysis of solid waste and materials management across the eight counties of Central Oklahoma. It establishes a baseline that did not previously exist, and that Phase II can build upon.

Phase II will be a regional planning process that results in a Central Oklahoma Materials Management Plan. DEQ's role will be essential — as funder, as regulatory authority, and as the state partner whose technical assistance and program alignment will determine what a regional framework can realistically accomplish. The municipalities, counties, private sector partners, and nonprofits whose engagement and cooperation the plan will require bring a wide range of interests, constraints, and priorities that a regional approach must reflect and serve.

The conditions this assessment documents are the product of decades of local, independent decision-making in the absence of a shared regional framework. Phase II presents the opportunity to address that directly and collaboratively.

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APPENDIX

Table 3: Regional Private Recycling - Materials Identified on Maps

Material Type	Total Sites in the Region
Electronic Waste (Batteries, Computers, etc.)	111
Automotive Used Oil	87
Secondhand / Reuse	59
Scrap Metal	42
Tires	35
Hazardous Fluids (Antifreeze, Paint, etc.)	25
Mixed Recyclables (Paper, Plastic, Cardboard, etc.)	24
Styrofoam (Packing Peanuts)	18
Construction / Demolition (Asphalt Shingles)	4
Total	**405**

Table 4: Municipal Solid Waste Service Accessibility

Canadian County					
Municipality	**Waste Provider**	**Any Recycling**	**Curbside Recycling**	**Bulk Waste Pickup**	**HHW Access**
Calumet	OEMA	NO	NO	YES	NO
El Reno	OEMA	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mustang	OEMA	YES	YES	YES	YES
Union City	OEMA/Republic	YES	YES	YES	NO
Yukon	Municipal/OEMA	YES	NO	YES	YES
Cleveland County					
Municipality	**Waste Provider**	**Any Recycling**	**Curbside Recycling**	**Bulk Waste Pickup**	**HHW Access**
Lexington	GFL	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Moore	Municipal / Republic	YES	NO	YES	YES
Noble	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	YES	NO
Norman	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Slaughterville	Fragmented	NO	NO	NO	YES
Grady County					
Municipality	**Waste Provider**	**Any Recycling**	**Curbside Recycling**	**Bulk Waste Pickup**	**HHW Access**
Alex	Waste Connections	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Amber	Veteran Waste Solutions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Blanchard	Waste Connections	YES	YES	N/A	NO
Bradley	GFL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Chickasha	Waste Connections	YES	YES	YES	NO
Norge	Waste Connections	N/A	N/A	N/A	NO
Ninnekah	Fragmented	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Minco	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Rush Springs	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Pocasset	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Tuttle	Republic	YES	YES	YES	NO
Verden	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	N/A	NO

Lincoln County

Municipality	Waste Provider	Any Recycling	Curbside Recycling	Bulk Waste Pickup	HHW Access
Agra	Republic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Carney	Eastside Waste	YES	YES	NO	N/A
Chandler	Republic	NO	NO	YES	N/A
Davenport	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fallis	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kendrick	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Meeker	Central Disposal	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Prague	Green Environmental Services	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Stroud	Central Disposal	NO	NO	YES	N/A
Sparks	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tryon	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Warwick	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wellston	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Logan County

Municipality	Waste Provider	Any Recycling	Curbside Recycling	Bulk Waste Pickup	HHW Access
Cashion	Waste Connections	NO	NO	YES	NO
Crescent	Waste Connections	NO	NO	NO	NO
Guthrie	Waste Connections	YES	N/A	YES	N/A
Langston	Republic	NO	NO	NO	N/A
Meridian	Fragmented	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mulhall	Waste Connections	NO	NO	NO	NO
Orlando	Waste Connections	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

McClain County

Municipality	Waste Provider	Any Recycling	Curbside Recycling	Bulk Waste Pickup	HHW Access
Dibble	Fragmented	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Goldsby	Republic	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Newcastle	Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES
Purcell	GFL	NO	NO	YES	NO
Washington	Veteran Waste Solutions	NO	NO	NO	NO
Wayne	GFL	NO	NO	NO	NO

Oklahoma County					
Municipality	**Waste Provider**	**Any Recycling**	**Curbside Recycling**	**Bulk Waste Pickup**	**HHW Access**
Arcadia	Eastside Waste	NO	NO	YES	NO
Bethany	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Choctaw	Waste Connections	YES	YES	YES	YES
Del City	Municipal	YES	NO	YES	YES
Edmond	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Forest Park	Waste Management	YES	YES	YES	YES
Harrah	CARDS (Eco-waste)	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jones	CARDS (Eco-waste)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Luther	Municipal/ Eastside Waste	NO	NO	N/A	NO
Midwest City	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Nichols Hills	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Nicoma Park	Republic	YES	YES	YES	YES
Oklahoma City	Municipal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Spencer	Waste Management	NO	NO	N/A	YES
The Village	Municipal	NO	NO	NO	YES
Warr Acres	Municipal	YES	NO	YES	YES

Pottawatomie County					
Municipality	**Waste Provider**	**Any Recycling**	**Curbside Recycling**	**Bulk Waste Pickup**	**HHW Access**
Asher	GFL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maud	Carl's Sanitation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
McLoud	Eastside Waste	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shawnee	Central Disposal	YES	YES	YES	YES
Tecumseh	GFL	N/A	NO	YES	NO
Wanette	GFL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A