



OKLAHOMA  
Environmental  
Quality

# Administration and Effectiveness of the



# REPORT

# Road to Recycling

## Background

The Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling Act (Act) has been successful in recycling old tires since its inception in 1989. Before the Act, Oklahoma had millions of tires in illegal dumps across the state. Traditional means of tire disposal were no longer effective or legal resulting in few outlets for old tires. As a result of the Clean Air Act and Solid Waste Disposal Act, open burning was no longer allowed in the State. Additionally, landfills refused to accept tires because they would float to the surface. The Act provided a solution to this growing problem by providing a legal way to dispose of tires. The intent of the Act is to clean up existing dumps, prevent new dumps and provide incentives for recycling tires so they may be used as feedstock for various products and energy production.

The Act requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to file a report with the Legislature and the Governor detailing the administration of the Act and its effectiveness in implementing the cleanup of existing tire dumps and in preventing the development of new dumps. The report is to be filed every three years [27A O.S. §2-11-401.6(B)(5)]. This report contains information on legislation, administration, and activities related to the Act. Activities for fiscal years (FY) 2023, 2024 and 2025 demonstrate the Used Tire Recycling Program benefits Oklahomans by facilitating proper recycling of tires.

For a more detailed version of this report, click the following link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ejyt6waf>





# Oklahoma Used Tire Recycling Fees

Fees are collected for each tire sold and on newly registered vehicles in Oklahoma. These fees help pay permitted recyclers (Recyclers) for the collection, transportation, and processing of tires, program administration, and for the cleanup of tire dumps. Recyclers are reimbursed from the used tire recycling fees (fees) submitted to the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC) and maintained in the Used Tire Recycling Indemnity Fund (Fund).

## Oklahoma Tire Recycling Fees (FY 20 – 22):

<b>Rim Size (Tire Dealers*)</b>	<b>Fee</b>
≤ 19 ½ inches or Automobile* Tires	\$2.90
> 19 ½ inches and Tread Width ≤ 12 inches (example: semi tire)	\$5.50
> 19 ½ inches and Tread Width > 12 inches (example: super singles)	\$10.00
Motorcycles/Motorized Bicycles	\$1.00

## Agricultural Tires:

<b>Rim Size (Tire Dealers*)</b>	<b>Fee</b>
≤ 19 ½ inches and < 30 inches total diameter	\$2.90
> 19 ½ inches and < 30 inches total diameter	\$5.50
<b>Total Diameter</b>	
> 30 inches and ≤ 44 inches total diameter	\$8.00
> 44 inches and ≤ 72 inches total diameter and not more than 30 inches wide	\$16.00

## Tag Agents (First Time Registrations in Oklahoma):

<b>Rim Size</b>	<b>Fee</b>
≤ 19 ½ inches (Automobile* and Trailer Tires)	\$2.90
> 19 ½ inches (Other than Automobile)	\$5.50
Semi Trucks First Registered in Oklahoma 47 O.S. § 1120	\$7.00
Trailers First Registered in Oklahoma 47 O.S. § 1133	\$5.00
Motorcycles/Motorized Bicycles	\$1.00

# Inspections

Compliance inspections help prevent roadblocks and keep the program rolling. DEQ inspects Recyclers, complaints, tire dump sites, and tire dealers. The majority of inspections are conducted at tire dealers to verify appropriate fees are collected and submitted to the OTC.



Inspections: 364

# Where Do Oklahoma Tires Come From?





# Tire Dumps

# DEQ Funded Cleanup Site in Madill

Tires Being Staged

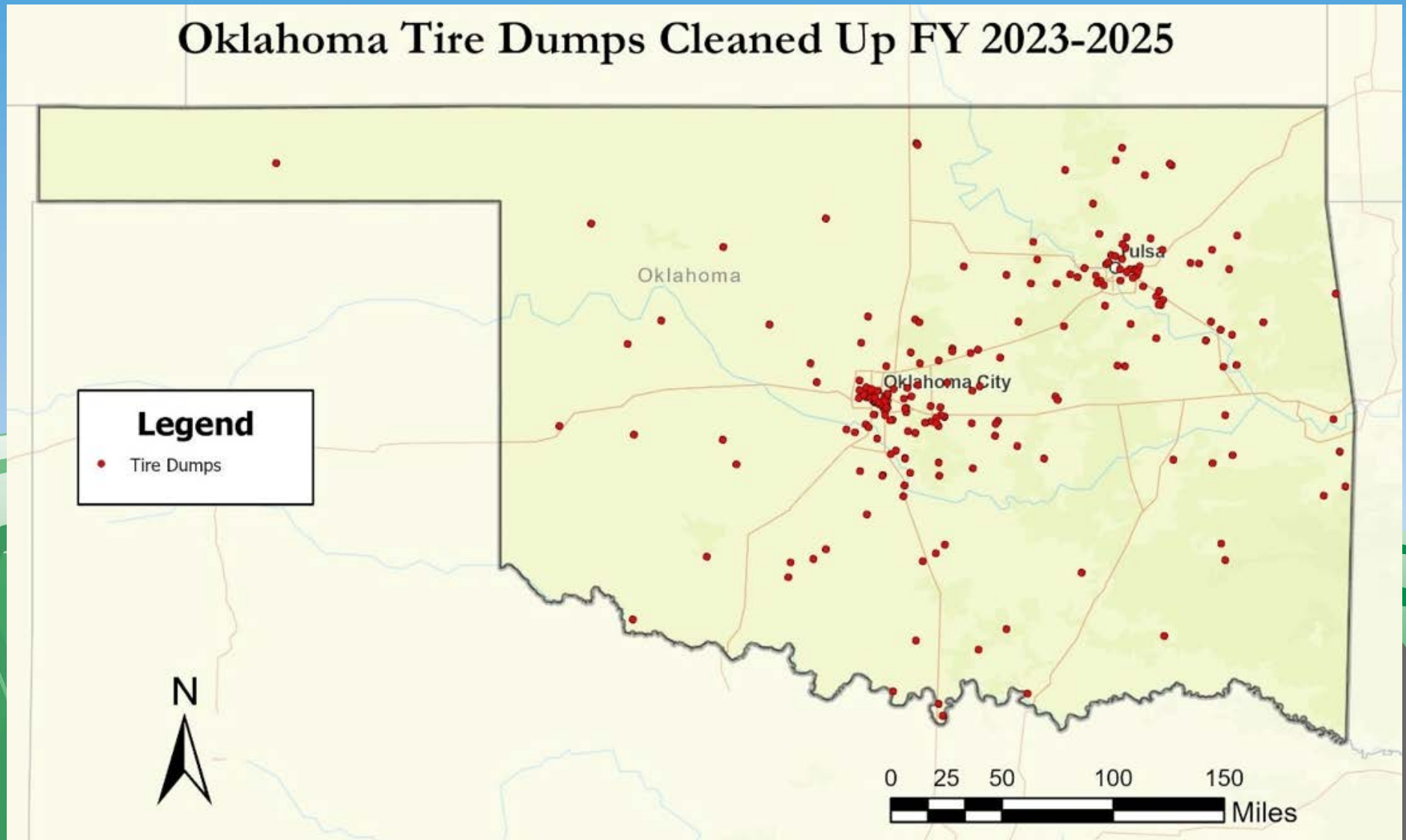


Tire dumps are an ongoing problem in Oklahoma. They are unsightly and have negative impacts on humans and environmental health. While some individuals might find this deflating, the tire program works hard to steer Oklahomans in a new direction by helping victims of illegal dumping get tires removed from their property. Occasionally, tire dumps cannot be cleaned up easily. In such cases like the site pictured, DEQ works with Recyclers to clean up the site and reimburses them for their efforts. Cleaning up tire dumps assists individuals and communities that might be unable to pay for the removal and proper disposal of tire dumps.

Tires in Ravine



# FY 23 – 25 Tire Dumps Cleaned Up





# FY 23 – 25 Tire Dump Actions



291,214  
Tires Removed



5 Program-Funded  
Difficult Cleanups



219 Tire Dumps  
Cleaned Up

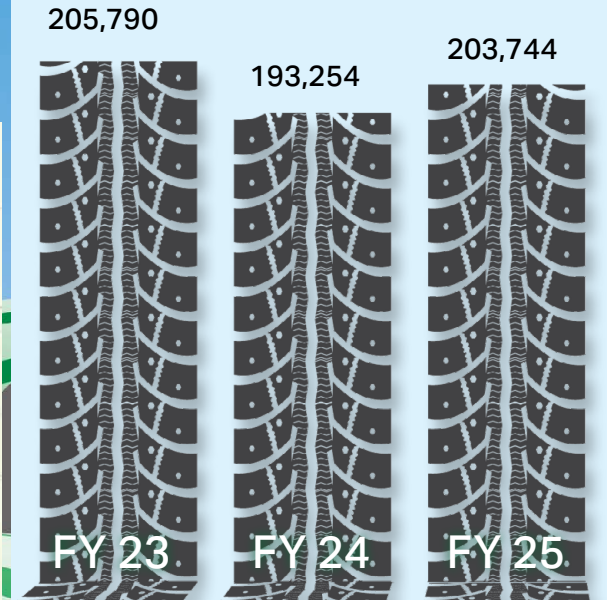


# Community-Wide Events

Community-wide events relieve some of the pressure on communities to clean up tires by recycling collected tires free of charge. These events are held statewide and have a major impact on preventing illegal dumping.



## Tires Collected from Community-Wide Events



# Where to Next?



## Market Development

To promote more tire markets, the Program has developed evaluation criteria and eligibility requirements for market development projects. At the end of FY 25 DEQ received an application for a rubber modified asphalt project on a county road. This project shows potential to create a new market for used tires in Oklahoma while increasing the life expectancy of roads and in turn reducing costs to the County and citizens of Oklahoma.



## Agricultural Tire Compliance

Fees on agricultural tires were increased on July 1, 2019. There is a discrepancy in the fees paid for agricultural tires and the number of agricultural tires picked up in the state. To remedy this discrepancy, the Program will focus on compliance assistance visits for tire dealers that sell agricultural tires to help educate them on accurate fee collection and reporting.

## DEQ Funded Cleanups

In FY 23-FY 25, the DEQ performed a total of 5 funded cleanups. The DEQ plans to continue funding difficult cleanups when funding is available. These additional funds and the corresponding increase in DEQ funded cleanups will help expand support to individuals and communities that are the victims of illegal tire dumps.





# FY23 - 25 Tire Program Directions

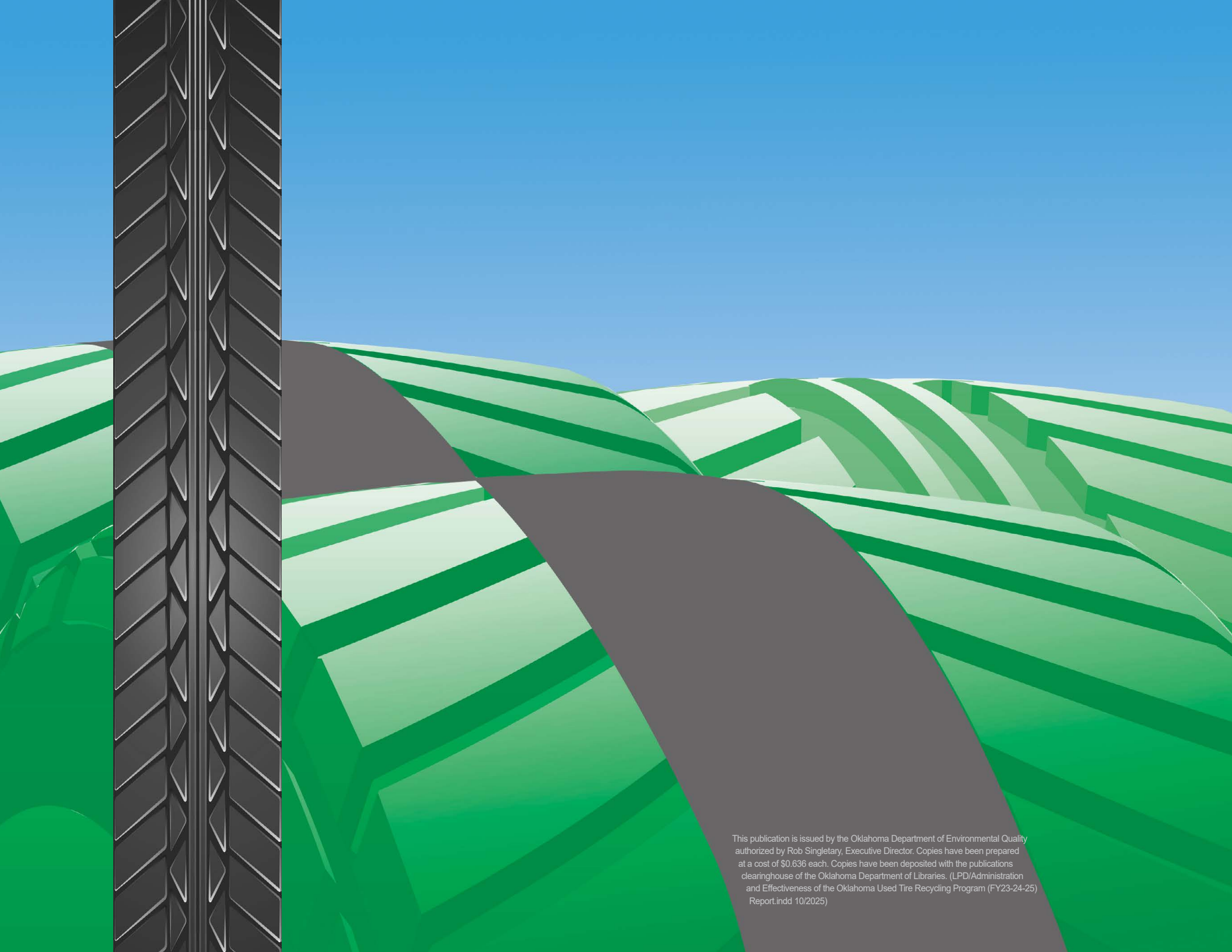
**Tire Program  
FY 23 – 25**

**Dumps Cleaned  
219**

**Community-Wide Tire  
Collection Events 118**

**Tire Dealer  
Inspections 364**

**Fees Collected  
\$54.4 million**



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