



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) 2020, 2021 and 2022 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/2enht59j>



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):

Rim Size (Tire Dealers*)	Fee
≤ 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:

Rim Size (Tire Dealers*)	Fee
≤ 19 ½ inches and < 30 inches total diameter	\$2.90
> 19 ½ inches and < 30 inches total diameter	\$5.50
Total Diameter	
> 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):

Rim Size	Fee
≤ 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: 260

Where Do Oklahoma Tires Come From?



Tire Dumps



Before Cleanup

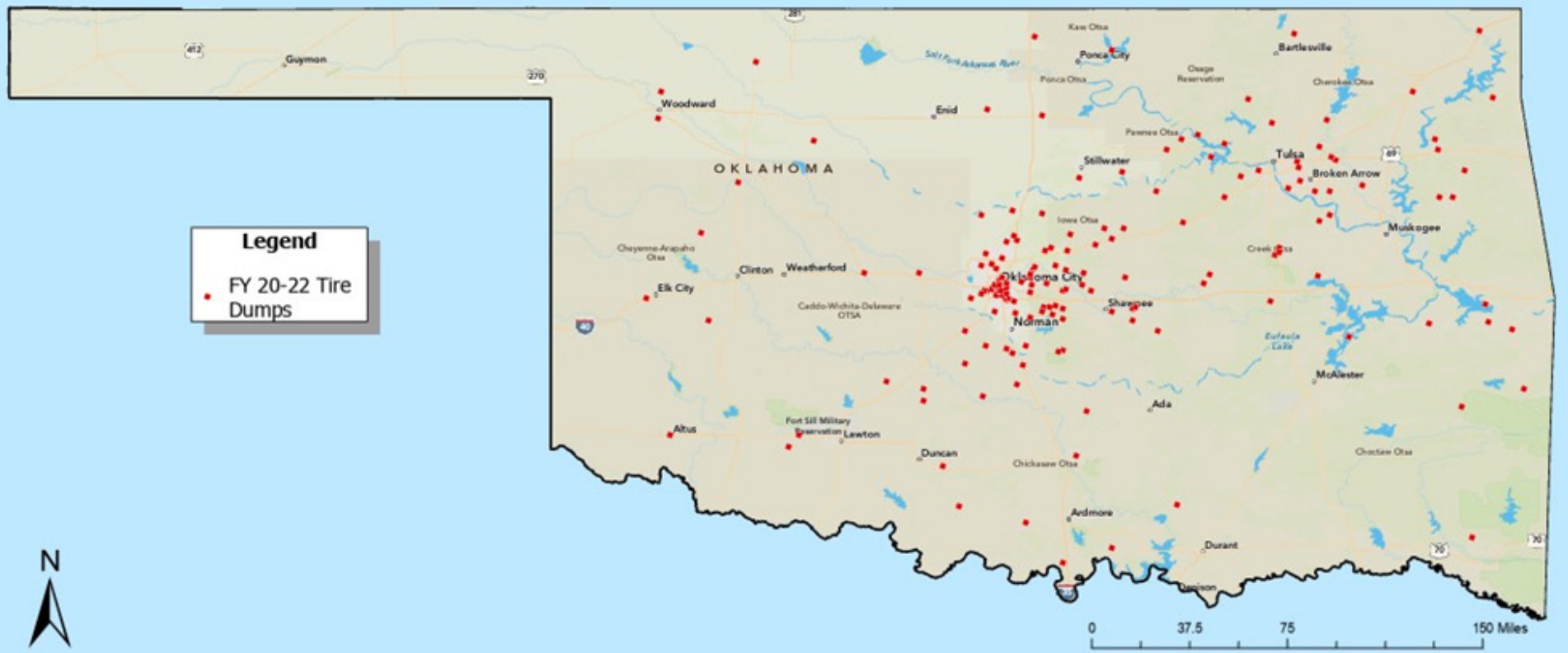
After Cleanup



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, 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.

FY 20 - 22 Tire Dumps Cleaned Up

Oklahoma Tire Dumps Cleaned Up FY 20-22



FY 20 - 22 Tire Dump Actions



178,864
Tires Removed



3 Program
Funded Cleanups



127 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.



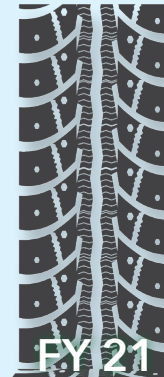
Tires Collected from Community-Wide Events

255,148



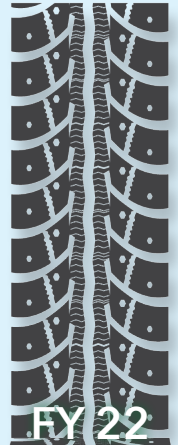
FY 20

240,491



FY 21

242,296



FY 22

Where to Next?



Market Development

To promote more tire markets, DEQ is developing a reimbursement grant program for market development projects. Funding for projects are available at the start of the upcoming fiscal year in July. Applications will begin being accepted in January of 2023.



Agricultural Tire Compliance

Fees on agricultural tires were increased on July 1, 2019, as shown by table 4. 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, DEQ 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 20 - FY 22, the number of DEQ funded difficult cleanups decreased from the previous reporting period due to insufficient funding. With the recent fee increase, the amount of funds available for these cleanups has been increased and the agency has already started work on cleaning up several difficult dumps. 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.



FY20 - 22 Tire Program Directions

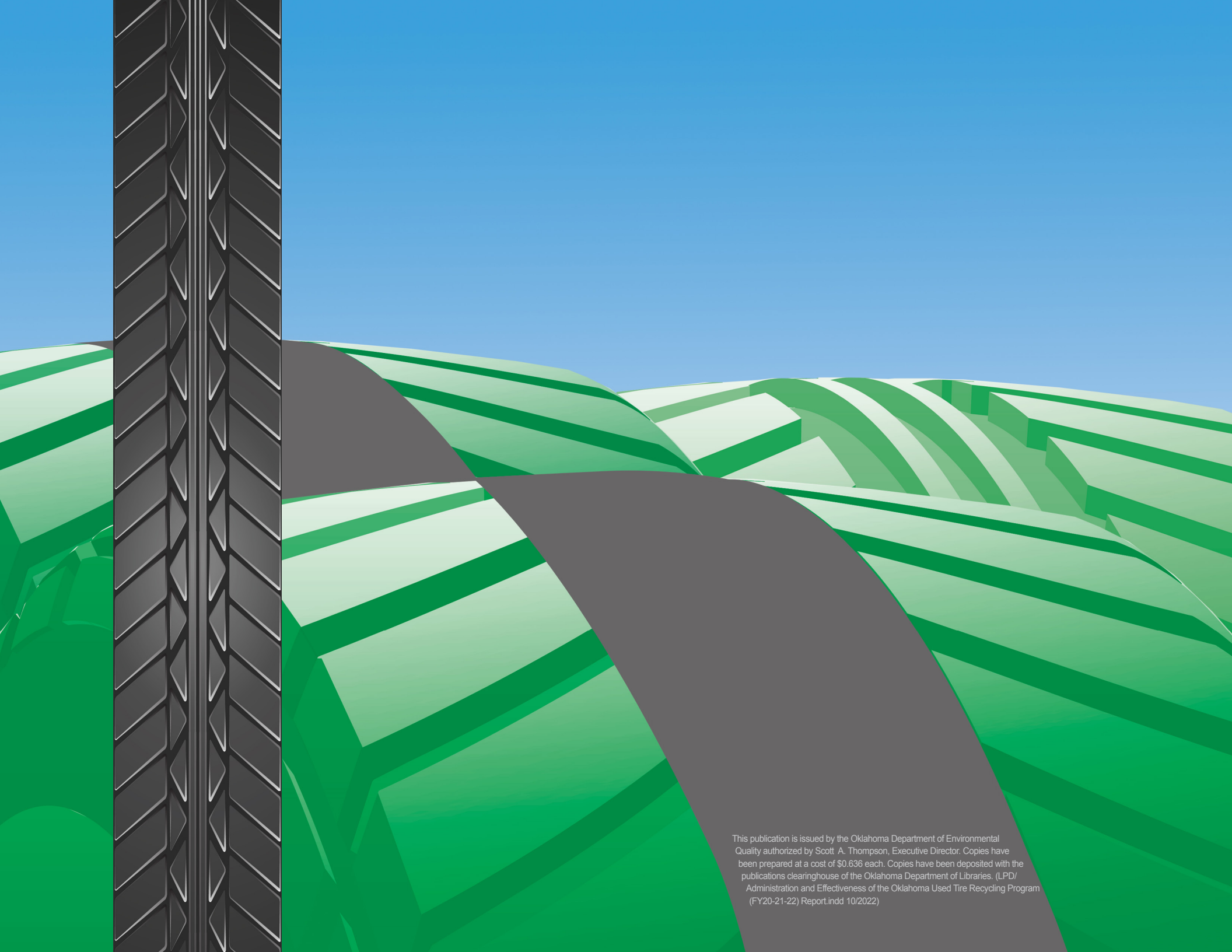
**Tire Program
FY 20 - 22**

**Dumps Cleaned
127**

**Community-Wide Tire
Collection Events 367**

**Tire Dealer
Inspections 260**

**Fees Collected
\$39.8 million**



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