

WASTE REDUCTION, REUSE AND RECYCLING



OG&E's power plant fly ash was repurposed for the construction of Interstate 40 Crosstown Expressway - Oklahoma Department of Transportation

OG&E practices smart waste management in order to minimize environmental impact, encourage renewable resource development and promote sustainability initiatives while providing affordable and reliable electricity to more than 858,000 customers across Oklahoma and Arkansas.

"Reduce, reuse, recycle" is a familiar phrase when it comes to waste management. At OG&E, employees search for innovative ways to do just that. Waste management preserves our natural resources and reduces the amount of waste disposed in landfills. It also reduces costs, which helps OG&E keep electricity rates affordable for customers. While reduction comes first in the line of waste management techniques, if a particular waste cannot be eliminated or reused, then employees look for opportunities to recycle.

REDUCE

OG&E employees look for effective ways to reduce waste, such as changing procedures in order to use small amounts of distribution wire more efficiently.

Slight shifts in work habits and material use add up to help preserve natural resources and minimize costs. One recent example is OG&E's reduced vehicle fuel use and associated emissions. Due to the technology that smart grid offers, such as remote connecting and disconnecting of service and remote meter reading, OG&E trucks avoided driving approximately 15.5 million miles through 2018, which equates to about 11,000 tons of CO₂ emissions.

REUSE

When the creation of waste cannot be prevented, OG&E seeks ways to reuse materials before recycling or disposal. Sometimes, used materials that are in good condition can be repurposed. In addition, some processes create byproducts that can be reused for beneficial purposes. Power plant fly and bottom ash, which is a byproduct of OG&E's coal combustion process, is reused to make cement and in roadbase construction.

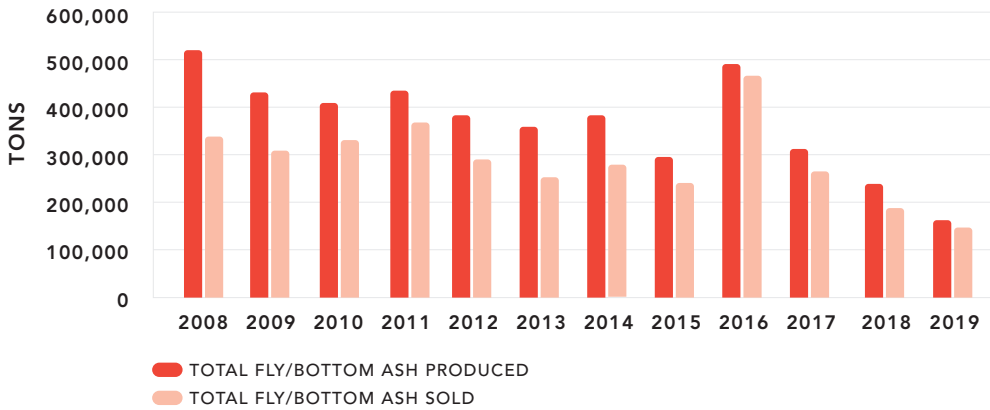
- + OG&E has diverted about 1.3 million tons of power plant ash from landfills in the last five years by making it available for construction projects.
- + From 2007-2019, OG&E recycled nearly 41,100 tons of scrap metal and received more than \$22.9 million for this activity. When establishing customer rates, the income from this activity is a benefit, because it reduces the costs included in the calculation of rates.
- + Teams of employees from different areas of the company have tasked themselves with finding ways to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.



We Energize Life

OG&E makes fly ash, its largest waste stream, available for beneficial use projects such as the Interstate 40 Crosstown Expressway in Oklahoma City.

- + About 89 percent of all ash from OG&E power plants generated over the last five years was recovered and sold to the cement, road construction, and various other industries for beneficial use.
- + OG&E has diverted about 3.5 million tons of ash from landfills (2008-2019).
- + Using fly ash in this way enables aggregate manufacturers to minimize their impact on the environment by avoiding the need to mine and process other natural resources.



RECYCLE

If materials can't be reduced or reused, OG&E then looks for ways to recycle. The company recycles scrap metal, paper, plastic bottles and aluminum cans, and encourages employees to minimize their use of these products when possible.

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Fly ash being used in road construction project.



A team of employees within OG&E's power delivery unit challenged themselves to improve work processes and reduce waste. They found that small changes in their work could create big opportunities for waste reduction. The team developed processes to:

- + Capture and reuse all salvageable parts, rather than discarding them;
- + Reuse cardboard job kit boxes; and,
- + Reuse wooden stakes that mark job sites.

Small changes such as these can result in significant savings and benefits to the environment. It all adds up!



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