



# DOERS

# ANNUAL

# REPORT

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025



**CITY OF NORMAN**

**DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY**



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# Introduction

The City of Norman's Division of Environmental Resilience and Sustainability (DoERS) protects our environment, supports public health, and advances community resilience through integrated water, climate, and sustainability efforts. We oversee a diverse set of programs – from household hazardous waste and water quality protection to environmental compliance, community education, and climate initiatives under the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. Guided by a One Water mindset while also addressing energy, waste, land stewardship, and greenhouse gas reduction, DoERS ensures regulatory compliance, protects natural resources, and empowers the community to help build a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable Norman.

Over the past year, DoERS implemented initiatives and strengthened programs that support environmental compliance, pollution prevention, sustainable resource management, and community engagement. These efforts include protecting waterways and natural systems, promoting responsible waste management and recycling opportunities, advancing renewable energy and climate action, and expanding outreach and volunteer involvement across Norman.

This annual report highlights accomplishments, data, and key projects across each program area - including Household Hazardous Waste, Industrial Pretreatment, Fats, Oils & Grease, Stormwater Quality, Environmental and Solar Initiatives, and Community Engagement. Together, these efforts support regulatory requirements, protect public health, and foster a culture of environmental stewardship throughout the Norman community.

Through strong partnerships and public participation, DoERS continues to advance Norman's environmental goals and build a resilient, healthy, and thriving community for all who live, work, and play here.

## One Water at a glance. . .

One Water means managing all water as one connected resource - from rain to river to tap and back again. In Norman, this approach protects Lake Thunderbird and local waterways, supports public health, and strengthens resilience to drought and flooding.

# DoERS Team Members



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# Household Hazardous Waste

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHWF) provides residents with a safe and responsible way to dispose of common household items that pose environmental and public health risks if not disposed of properly. These items include products such as paint, cleaners, automotive fluids, pesticides, and batteries. The HHWF helps prevent these materials from entering landfills or local waterways, supporting the City's commitment to environmental protection and pollution prevention. The HHWF expanded this year to manage the used oil drop-off. The facility collected **260,712 pounds of waste** during FY2025.

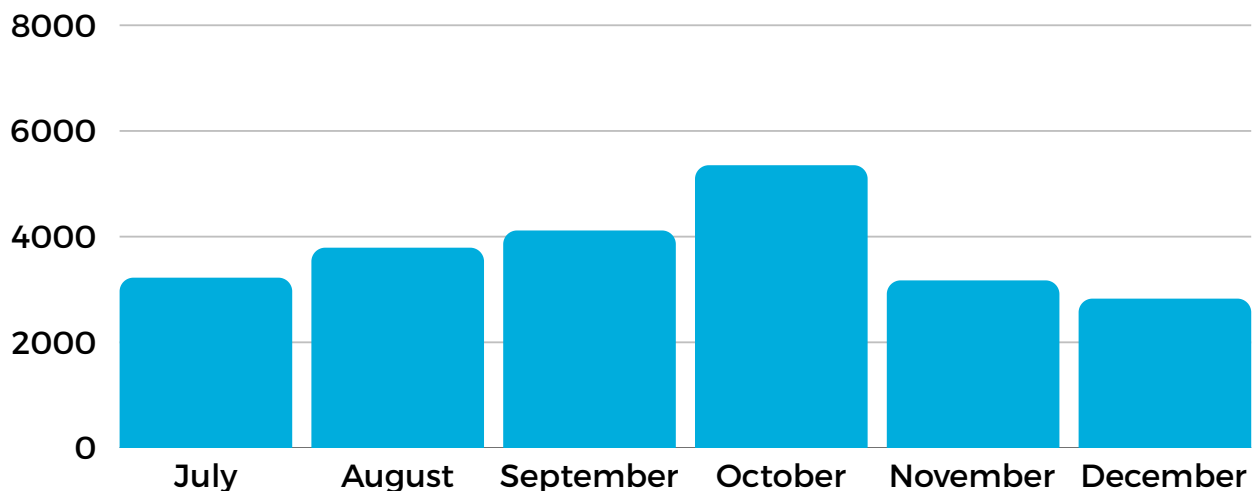
## E-Waste Collection Events

E-Waste collection events, held twice a year in spring and fall, offer residents a convenient and environmentally responsible way to dispose of unwanted electronic devices. Items such as computers, televisions, printers, and other outdated or non-working electronics are collected and properly recycled to prevent harmful materials from entering the waste stream. These events support the City's efforts to reduce landfill waste, conserve valuable resources, and promote sustainable waste management practices within the community.

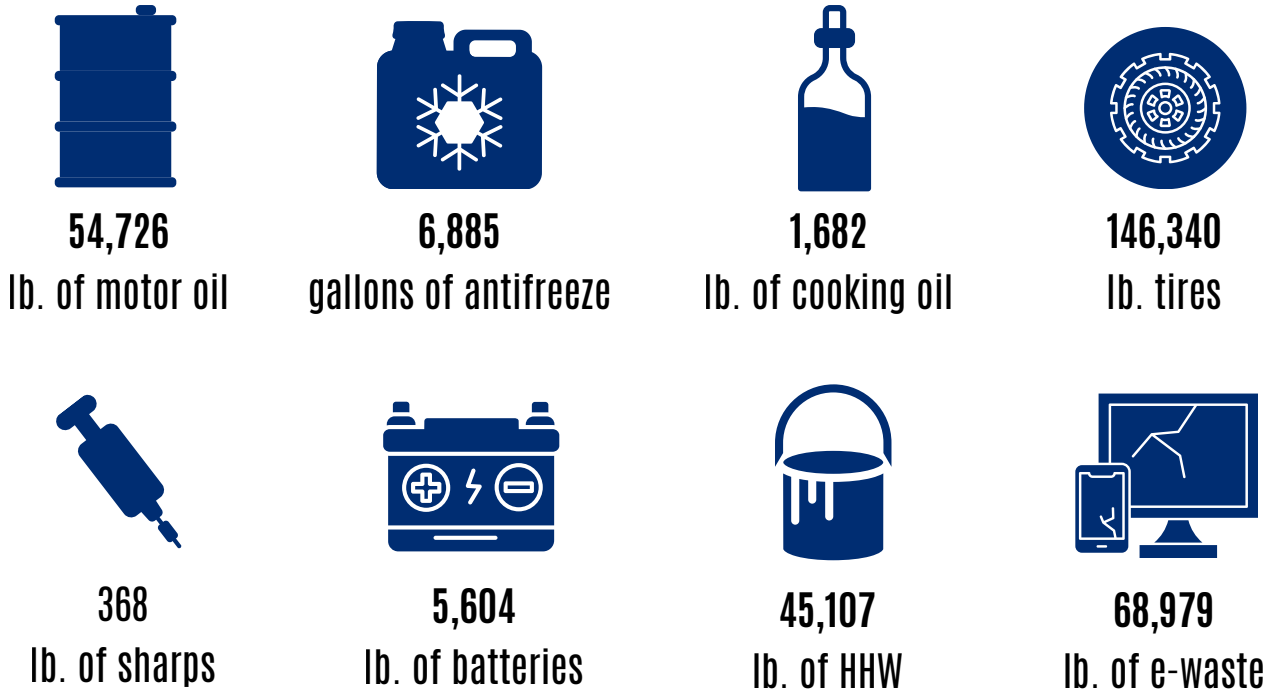
**20,089** lb. collected  
in November  
2024

**48,890** lb. collected  
in May 2025

## Total Pounds of Household Hazardous Waste Collected-2024



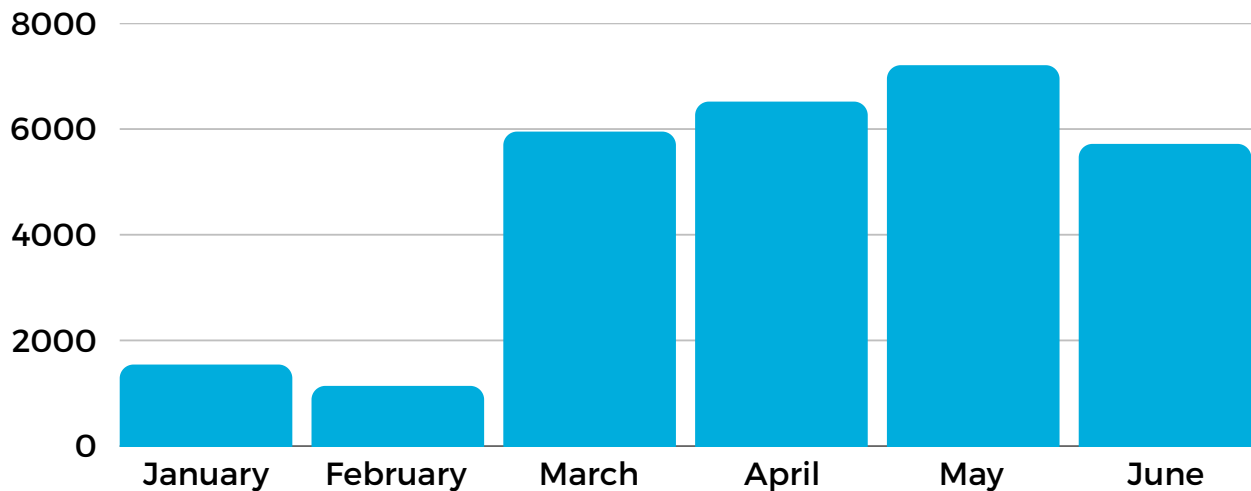
# Total Material Collected By Type



**1,899** total vehicles served in FY2025

**329,691** total lb. collected in FY2025

## Total Pounds of Household Hazardous Waste Collected-2025



# Industrial Pretreatment

Fostering a strong Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP) is essential for safeguarding Norman's water reclamation infrastructure and protecting our local waterways. Pretreatment ensures that industrial and commercial facilities remove harmful pollutants from their wastewater stream before discharging it into the municipal collection system. In FY2025, Norman's program continued its proactive approach by conducting regular inspections, sampling, and enforcing limits to prevent interference at the Water Reclamation Facility. This year, additional monitoring was conducted to monitor PFAS discharges from local industries.

## PFAS Monitoring

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a large group of human-made chemicals valued for their resistance to heat, water, and oil. They have been widely used since the 1940s in industrial processes and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain- and water-resistant fabrics, firefighting foams, and certain manufacturing applications involving plating, coating, and chemical production. PFAS are often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they do not readily



break down in the environment and can accumulate over time in water, soil, and living organisms. The IPP has been working closely with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and local facilities to identify potential PFAS discharges.

A total of **233** wastewater samples were taken from **seven** industrial facilities. These samples were tested for 40 PFAS parameters. Of those samples, **87%** were in compliance with EPA guidelines and only **13** parameters were detected:

PFBA	PFBA	PFOA	PFHxA	PFHxS	PFPeA	PFPeS	PFNA
PFBS	PFBS	PFOS	PFOSA	NMeFOSE	PFNA	PFHpA	

## 87% of PFAS Samples were below EPA Thresholds



Moving forward, the IPP will continue working with DEQ and local industries to identify ways to reduce or treat these discharges in order to protect the City's collection and reclamation systems, downstream waterways, and public health.

# Fats, Oils, and Grease

The Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program protects our collection and reclamation infrastructure and reduces sanitary sewer overflows by requiring food-service establishments and other grease-generating facilities to install and maintain grease traps or interceptors, undergo routine inspections, and properly dispose of grease and used oil waste. Through on-site inspections, the City ensures compliance with best management practices which reduces blockages that can lead to overflows, costly repairs, and environmental contamination. The FOG program is a cornerstone of the City's collection and reclamation protection strategy by keeping infrastructure functioning smoothly, safeguarding public health, and helping maintain clean, healthy waterways for the community.



**362** food service establishments (FSE) are regulated by the program

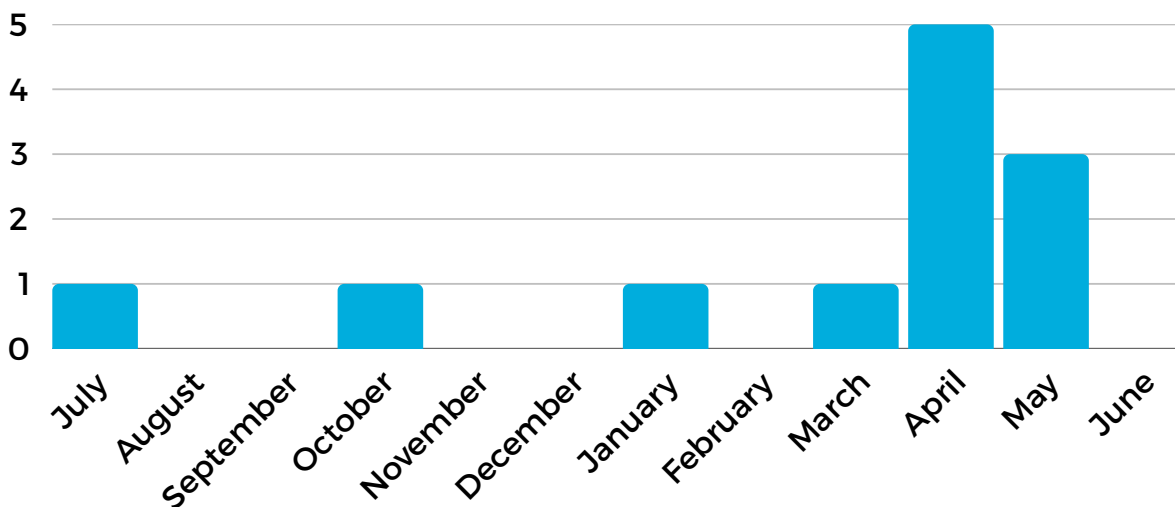


**354,000** gallons of grease has been removed from the wastewater system



**221** inspections were conducted to verify compliance with program requirements

## Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)



**No SSOs occurred due to FOG**

# Stormwater Quality

Ensuring compliance with stormwater regulations and maintaining infrastructure integrity are essential to protecting Norman's waterways as well as the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). In FY 2025, the Environmental Compliance Section undertook a comprehensive and proactive approach to inspection, monitoring, and enforcement across both public and private sectors to protect and improve stormwater quality.

## Construction Site Compliance

A total of **1,034** construction site inspections were conducted to verify compliance with erosion and sediment control requirements. These routine and follow-up inspections help ensure that construction activities do not contribute excess pollutants to the stormwater system. Additionally, **35** Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3s) were reviewed, providing developers and contractors with guidance to minimize runoff impacts from construction zones.



Over **2,700 acres** of construction area were inspected each month

## Dry Weather Field Screening



Staff performed **63** dry weather field screenings throughout the city, checking stormwater outfalls when it had not rained to detect and stop illicit discharges. This work is key to identifying non-stormwater flows that may indicate illegal dumping, cross-connections, or infrastructure issues, while also protecting the watershed by preventing pollutants from entering our waterways.

**No illicit discharges were detected during these screenings**

## Municipal Facility Inspections

To lead by example, the Environmental Compliance section inspected **24** municipal facilities to ensure compliance with stormwater pollution prevention practices. These internal evaluations focus on spill prevention, minimizing exposure, and good housekeeping procedures to minimize the risk of pollutants entering the MS4, and our waterways, from city operations.



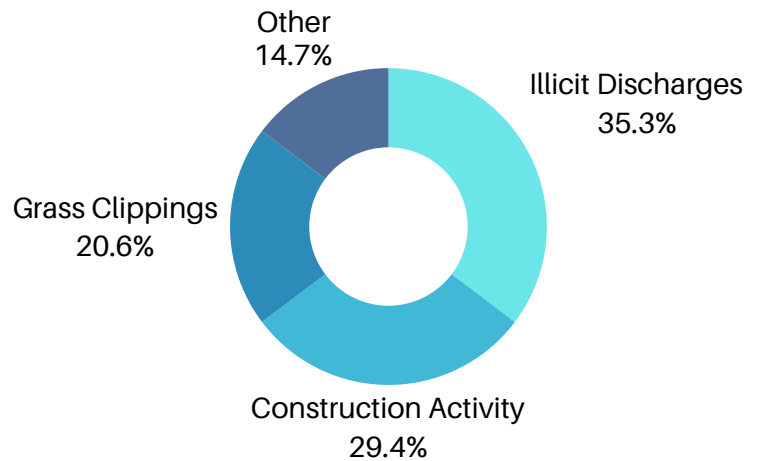
# Post-Construction Stormwater Controls



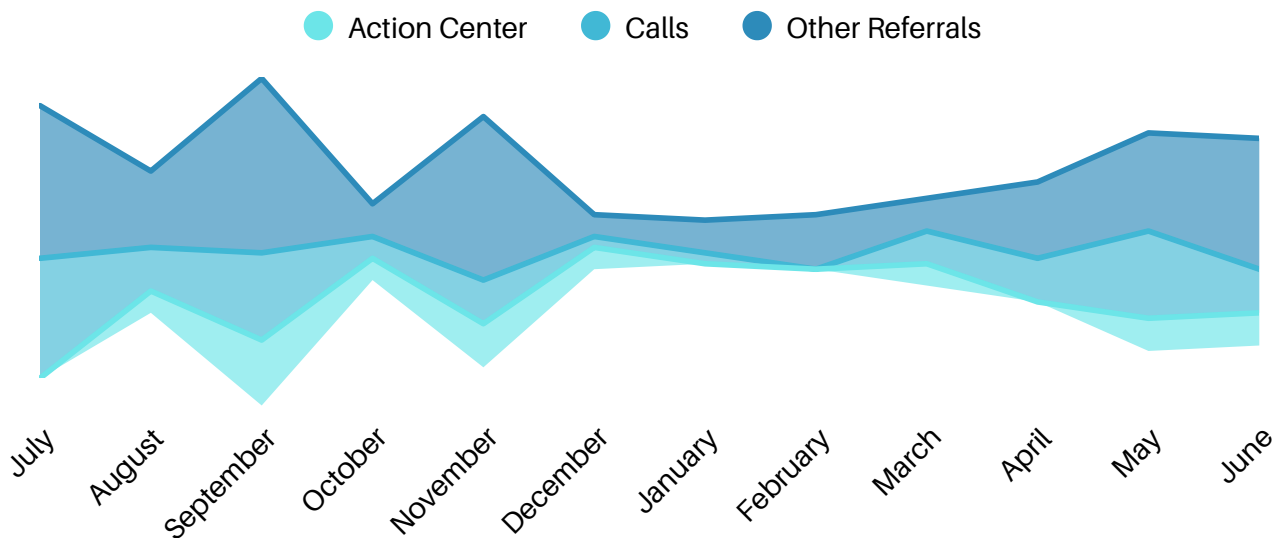
Staff conducted **121** inspections of privately-owned, and **6** publicly-owned, post-construction stormwater structures such as detention and retention ponds, rain gardens, and bioswales. These inspections ensure that permanent stormwater controls are properly maintained and functioning as designed.

## Public Reporting & Complaint Response

Community involvement plays a crucial role in environmental protection. The Environmental Compliance section received **170** reports from residents via the Action Center, calls, and other referrals regarding potential stormwater violations or concerns. Each report was investigated by staff, often prompting follow-up inspections, public education, or coordination with other departments to resolve issues efficiently.



### 170 citizen complaints were investigated



Average staff response time was **10 hours and 49 minutes**

# Environmental Initiatives

## Bishop Creek Watershed Base Plan

In April 2023, the City of Norman finalized the Bishop Creek Watershed Based Plan, a strategic roadmap spanning a **14-square-mile watershed**. Developed through a collaborative effort with community stakeholders and state agencies, the plan identifies watershed goals and outlines targeted best management practices (BMPs) to reduce urban runoff and enhance ecosystem health. It emphasizes actions such as protecting riparian areas, providing public education, removing trash and litter, and conducting long-term monitoring. By integrating data-driven priorities and community input, this plan charts an actionable path forward for preserving the water quality in, and the environment around, Bishop Creek.



**1,480 lb.** of trash was removed from the watershed



**172** volunteers participated in **13** clean-up events



**14** homes were certified through the Yard x Yard Program



**706** native plants were planted in **2** new rain gardens



**124 lb.** of trash collected by the litter boom (May-June)



**139** rain barrel were distributed to residents and **21** installations were funded

## Annual Rain Barrel Sale

The City hosts an annual rain barrel sale providing residents with an affordable way to harvest and reuse rainwater. This year, residents living within the Lake Thunderbird watershed were eligible for **free** rain barrel installation to encourage participation and support local water quality goals. Rain barrels are a simple and effective tool for protecting water quality and promoting sustainable practices at home.

# A Better Way: Opportunity Knocks

The City launched the “A Better Way: Opportunity Knocks” (ABWOK) initiative in May, with services beginning in **June 2025**, teaming up with the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma to support individuals experiencing homelessness. Every two weeks, eight participants receive paid work cleaning public spaces while also being offered daily meals, case management, and access to health and employment services. This program delivers tangible community benefits, improving city cleanliness and beautification, while helping participants build job skills and navigate pathways to stable housing and employment. ABWOK is funded through opioid settlement funding and the Sanitation Fund and draws on a proven model from Tulsa, where 67 participants gained permanent jobs and 14 moved into housing in 2024.



**4.31 tons** of trash collected



**17** individuals served



**11** individuals accepted case management services

## Partnership with OU Big Event and Little Event

Partnering with the University of Oklahoma’s Big Event and Little Event provides a valuable opportunity to connect with student volunteers and complete large-scale projects that would not be possible without their support. These days of service bring hundreds of student volunteers into the community, helping with tasks such as litter clean-up, landscaping, and storm drain marking. Their contributions not only enhance public spaces and environmental quality but also foster a culture of civic engagement and environmental stewardship among future leaders.

### Little Event: September 26, 2024

In partnership with Red Dirt Collective, Little Event volunteers enhanced the community garden at Colonial Commons Park by installing steel edging to delineate edible garden beds and creating a new pollinator garden with **79** native plants and mulch. The project supports local food access and biodiversity while promoting community involvement in sustainability.

### Big Event: April 5, 2025

Big Event volunteers transformed the grounds of the Household Hazardous Waste Facility by establishing **2 new rain gardens**. The project included planting **706** native plants, adding mulch, and improving stormwater management on-site. This effort provided pollinator habitat, enhanced water quality, and gave students a meaningful opportunity to contribute to local environmental initiatives.

# Community Engagement

Fostering community engagement and education is vital to promoting environmental stewardship and protecting Norman's natural resources. In FY 2025, DoERS expanded outreach efforts through public events, workshops, and educational materials designed to engage residents of all ages. These initiatives aimed to increase awareness of local water resources, encourage pollution prevention practices, and empower the community to take an active role in protecting the watershed.

## Clean-Up Events & Keeping Norman Neat

Involving residents directly in watershed protection fosters greater awareness of stormwater issues and encourages long-term stewardship of local water resources. As a result of these efforts, over **3,000** pounds of trash and debris was removed from our watersheds. These events not only help reduce pollution and improve water quality, but also serve as valuable opportunities to educate and engage the community.



**28** clean-up events  
were held with over  
**439** volunteers

## Love Your Lake's Habitat and All That - July 27, 2024



Approximately **50**  
visitors attended the  
workshop

The **first annual** Love Your Lake's Habitat and All That workshop was held in celebration of Lakes Appreciation Month and featured a morning of interactive activities and educational booths focused on local wildlife and water stewardship. Participants created seed bombs and made rain chains while learning about native landscaping and local wildlife. The event encouraged community engagement and raised awareness about protecting our lakes and watersheds through fun, hands-on learning.

## Monarchs in the Park - October 5, 2024

The **fourth annual Monarchs in the Park Festival** is a family-friendly event held each fall at Andrews Park to celebrate monarch butterflies and pollinators. The festival features educational booths, native plant sales, crafts, food trucks, and a colorful pollinator parade. The event promotes habitat conservation and community engagement while highlighting the importance of protecting pollinators in our local ecosystem.



Approximately **853**  
visitors attended the  
festival with an average  
stay of **83 minutes**

# Earth Day Festival - April 27, 2025

Despite record-setting rains and localized flooding, DoERS moved forward with hosting the **25th annual Earth Day Festival**, resulting in a highly successful and well-attended event. Community members of all ages came out to enjoy live music, educational booths, hands-on activities, and environmentally focused exhibits. The festival highlighted the community's strong commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, even in the face of challenging weather conditions.



Approximately **1.9K** visitors attended the festival with an average stay of **69 minutes**



**13** workshops and outreach events were conducted with community partners

## Workshops & Outreach Events

Outreach and education efforts are important methods to raise awareness about water quality and resilient environmental practices. Through school activities, public events, utility bill inserts, and printed materials, the City provides residents with the tools and information they need to make informed decisions. These efforts are essential for building community support, encouraging behavior change, and promoting long-term protection of Norman's environmental resources.

### 5 Outreach Events

- August 27, 2024: EnviroScape demonstration for Eisenhower Elementary
- February 8, 2025: EnviroScape demonstration at Sam Noble Museum's Curiosiday
- February 25, 2025: Stormwater, recycling, and waste management 101 with Whittier Elementary
- March 31, 2025: Stormwater and climate change 101 with Le Monde School
- May 21, 2025: Water Limbo demonstration as part of Public Works Week at Cleveland Elementary

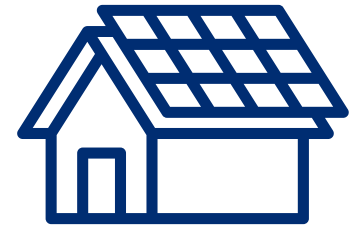
### 8 Workshops

- November 10 & 17, 2024: Foraging Workshop
- December 14, 2024: Vermicompost Workshop in partnership with Choctaw Nation
- March 22, 2025: Sustainable Native Landscape Workshop at the Vernon Campbell Water Treatment Plant
- April 26 and May 4, 2025: Hugelkultur Workshop
- May 18, 2025: Bee Keeping 101 Workshop
- June 26, 2025: Bee Hotel Workshop in partnership with Sierra Club Red Earth Group

# Solar Initiatives

## Norman Solar Initiative

Norman partnered with EightTwenty to launch the Norman Solar Initiative, a group-buying and educational campaign that expanded access to renewable energy through direct outreach and community engagement. The effort generated 357 proposal requests and 236 system designs, resulting in 45 completed projects representing **882.4 kW** of new solar capacity and 204 kW of paired battery storage across 42 residential, 2 commercial, and 1 nonprofit installations. Collectively, these systems will offset hundreds of thousands of pounds of carbon emissions each year while lowering energy costs for participants. The initiative also identified future opportunities for large-scale adoption at City facilities, including a proposed 570 kW system at the Young Family Athletic Center projected to save \$3.8 million over 30 years and an 88 kW system at the Line Maintenance Building expected to deliver nearly \$720,000 in long-term savings, demonstrating how focused efforts can provide immediate results while laying the groundwork for transformative clean energy projects.



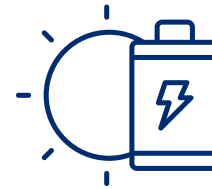
**357** Normanites signed up for free estimates



**882.4 kW** of new solar capacity

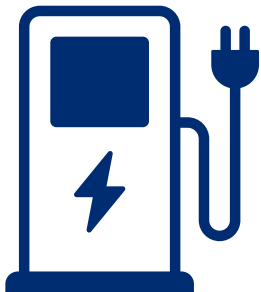


**45** completed projects



**204 kW** of paired battery storage

## Off-Grid Solar Charging Stations



Through the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments' (ACOG) Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Public Fleet Clean Air Grant Funding, the City of Norman was able to install **three** BEAM solar-powered, off-grid level two charging stations: two are located at Ruby Grant Park and one at City Hall. Along with providing the ability for plug-in electric vehicle users to charge their vehicles, these units can also act as power sources for other purposes, as needed, such as in the case of a large event or for emergency purposes. Because the power generated is freely sourced from the sun, and since the stations were primarily funded through grant monies, electric vehicle users may charge their vehicles for **free!**

# DoERS Team in Action



# DoERS Team in Action



From diverting tens of thousands of pounds of hazardous materials and electronics from the landfill to expanding outreach through festivals, workshops, and educational programs to ensuring environmental compliance at more than one hundred facilities, our work continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact on Norman's environment and quality of life.

As we reflect on a year of growth in environmental protection, community engagement, and sustainable practice, we remain committed to building on this momentum in the year ahead. A key priority for Fiscal Year 2026 will be launching and implementing a new Backflow Prevention/Cross-Connection Program, which will play a vital role in safeguarding public health and protecting our drinking water system from potential contamination.

Through continued collaboration, innovation, and strong community partnerships, the Division of Environmental Resilience and Sustainability looks forward to advancing Norman's environmental goals and further enhancing the health, safety, and quality of life for all who live, work, and visit our community.



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**Environmental and Sustainability Manager, DOERS**



