

# KCB MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2022



## Letter from the KCB Board

Electric vehicles come with significant benefits; the most compelling advantage is not paying at the pump. With gas prices likely to remain high for the foreseeable future, it's not surprising that EVs are gaining interest and market share. When you compare the costs for gasoline vs. electric at a national level, an EV can be three to five times cheaper per mile to drive than a traditional internal combustion engine, especially if the driver is charging their cars at home during off-peak hours. I own an electric vehicle, and I set my car to charge after 12 a.m. and to stop charging by 6 a.m. daily. I am taking advantage of rates during super off-peak hours that are around \$.045 per kilowatt compared to \$.135 during my on-peak rate. So, for me, the decrease in my monthly spending at the pump increases my ability to meet my monthly budgeting goals.

The largest concern for EV drivers is range anxiety, meaning that the driver does not have enough energy to complete their trip. Driving habits and environmental conditions will play a part in your range availability. When drivers of electric vehicles must use their A/C or heat, that driver will need to charge sooner. With more than 45,000 public chargers across the U.S. in parking garages, along the highway, at various retail locations, as well as workplace charging infrastructure, availability is increasing the ability to find a charge when range anxiety strikes. I follow my ABC of charging rule, Always Be Charging! In Cherokee County, there are retail locations that offer free charging on some level 2 charging stations. EV technology, with rapid advances in battery technology, is increasing vehicle ranges to over 200 miles on a single charge.

According to the EPA, driving an EV typically reduces an individual's carbon footprint over its lifetime more than a traditional internal combustion engine vehicle, even after accounting for the electricity used for charging and battery manufacturing. Some other points to consider....

**Fuel Savings** - on average, an EV driver saves between \$800 - \$1,000 on fueling costs alone.

**Maintenance and repair** - most studies show that repairs on an EV are significantly less over the life of the vehicle when compared to an internal combustion engine.

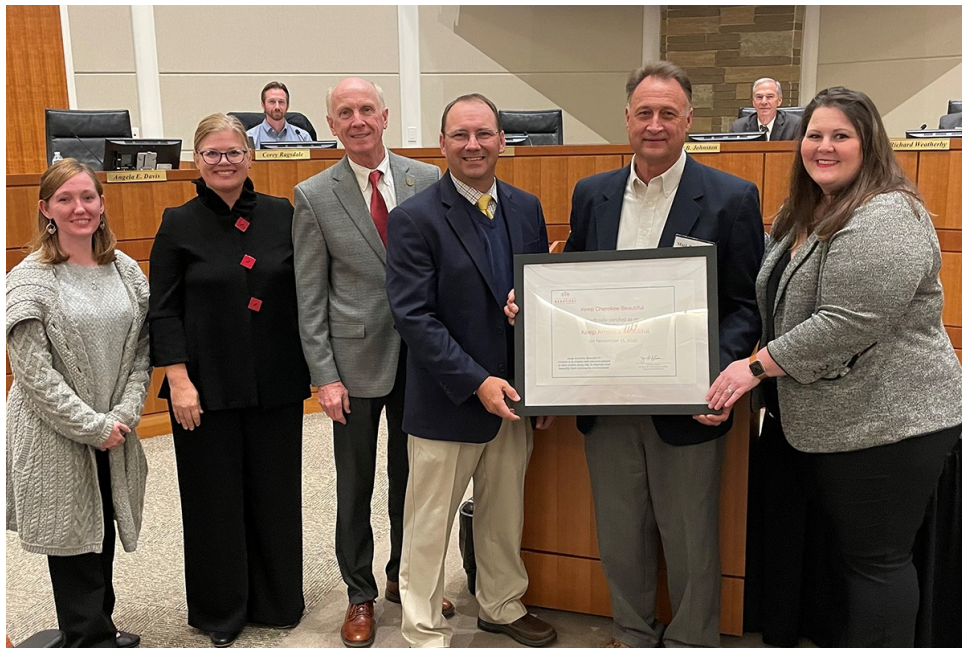
Depreciation - newer EVs are holding their value better than their traditional gasoline-powered vehicles. The class of the EV, its features, and the reputation of the vehicle manufacturer have an impact on the depreciation value.

Andrew Richard  
Board Member  
Keep Cherokee Beautiful

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## Organization Updates

The month of November was a busy time for Keep Cherokee Beautiful. In addition to the numerous Adopt-A-Mile clean-ups, Keep Cherokee Beautiful completed the final steps to be part of Keep Georgia Beautiful and ultimately a Keep America Beautiful recognized affiliate. The certification process has been a one-year-plus endeavor that consisted of training, geographic evaluations, and ensuring all steps have been completed to meet national affiliate standards. Read more about this accomplishment, [here](#).



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## Adopt-A-Mile Reminders

December marks the end of the calendar year and your group's last chance to get in a good roadside cleanup.

As a reminder, each group must complete a minimum of four cleanups per calendar year, prorated based on the number of months left in the year for new groups.

As part of the agreement your group signed with Keep Cherokee Beautiful, Keep Cherokee Beautiful can terminate affiliation with groups that fail to perform in a manner consistent with program rules

and regulations. Currently, we have several groups with only one clean-up this year.

If the year has gotten away from you, please make a resolution to jump back on track for the upcoming year and complete the required cleanups for your adopted roadway. If there is anything we can do to assist, please feel free to reach out. We want you to be successful!

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## 15 Ways to Reduce Holiday Waste

Thanksgiving through Christmas is the busiest time of year here at the Recycling Center. Here are some holiday tips to make the season a bit greener.

**1. Use your own shopping bags.** A big source of waste is all the plastic shopping bags you bring home when you shop. If a regular reusable bag for groceries is not big enough to accommodate your gift purchases, stop by TJ Maxx or Marshall's and pick up a couple of their large reusable bags. They're only 99 cents. They're decorated for the holidays and can hold most of what you'll buy.

**2. Skip wrapping paper.** We used to sit next to our Christmas tree with a special bag for all the wrapping paper we'd throw away after opening presents. That is a total waste! Now, we "wrap" gifts in reusable bags and boxes. The gift bags include shopping bags that can be used all year. We also wrap gifts in scarves and decorative towels, and maybe even tuck something into a pair of socks! According to a Stanford University study, "If every American family wrapped just three presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

**3. Reuse ribbons and bows.** According to a Stanford University study, "If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet."

**4. Use cloth tablecloths and napkins.** Skip throwaway paper products, even if they're made from recycled paper. Over the years, we've accumulated an array of holiday-themed cloth napkins and a couple of tablecloths that we use over and over. They've become part of our holiday decor, and we look forward to getting them out every year.

**5. Opt for reusable cutlery and "china."** We've shopped the sales for dishes and extra cutlery we can use during the holidays. It may mean an extra round or two in the dishwasher, but it really cuts down on trash. I've gotten the best deals on holiday-themed dinnerware in late December and January. Rather than get complete place settings, I opt for dinner plates and salad plates that are particularly good for a buffet.

**7. Discontinue catalogs.** Catalogs start to pile up over the holidays, then will keep coming all year long. The most effective way I've found

to stop the flood of catalogs is to call the customer service number using their 800 number and ask to have your address removed right then and there. If you still want to get coupons and promotions, get them online.

**8. Recycle delivery boxes and wrapping.** Most delivery boxes are made from paper that can easily be recycled. If the boxes contain Styrofoam packing peanuts, put them in a bag and take them to a nearby postal mailing center; they can often use them. If you do have wrapping paper waste, don't trash it. Recycle it, or save it for next year.

**9. Give experiences, not a lot of stuff.** Skip wrapping altogether by giving (and asking for) the gift of experiences or contributions to your favorite charity, rather than more stuff.

**10. Use LED holiday mini-lights.** LED lights use far less energy than regular holiday mini-lights. But just as importantly, they are far more durable. If one breaks, the others in the strand keep on working.

**11. Recycle old holiday lights.** I hate it when I get out the Christmas lights and they don't work. But rather than trash the broken lights, bring them to the Recycling Center for Recycling.

**12. Recycle all electronics.** The Cherokee County Recycling Center now accepts electronics for recycling year-round. With the exception of tube televisions and CRT monitors, all electronics can be brought to the Recycling Center on Blalock Road any time.

**13. Buy less food.** It's easy to get carried away buying all the yummy foods and treats grocery stores showcase during the holidays. But in reality, we often buy more food that we can cook and eat. I've started making less, not more food, during the holidays, though I might increase the variety a bit.

**14. Keep track of leftovers.** Store leftovers in serving-size containers that you label with the contents and the date. It helps to put the most perishable foods in the front of the refrigerator so you can keep an eye on them. Plan to eat leftovers in the same week in which they were cooked. Otherwise, store them in the freezer. Keep a list on your freezer door to remind you what's inside.

**15. Compost what you can't eat.** I automatically put peelings and other kitchen waste in a bowl I keep on my kitchen counter while I'm prepping food and cooking. After a meal, we simply scrape leftovers we can't eat into the same bowl. That makes it easy to take it out to the compost bin after the clean-up is done.

Troy Brazie  
Manager  
Cherokee County Recycling Center

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**Firing Up The Fryer**

It's that time of year again for deep-fried holiday foods! But how do you dispose of the mess left over, specifically fryer oil?

Unlike automotive oil, fryer oil is much easier to dispose of and you have several options.

**1. Re-use it.** If you want to keep used frying oil for another use, you need to strain out any leftover food particles. If you don't remove the food particles, it can cause the oil to become rancid or accumulate mold. Once the oil has cooled, set a coffee filter or wire mesh strainer over a bowl and slowly pour in the used oil.

Once you remove the leftover food particles, keep the oil in an airtight container at room temperature or in the refrigerator. You should only store used oil for up to three or four weeks. The oil absorbs the strong flavors of whatever you are cooking—something to keep in mind if you plan to reuse the cooking oil.

**2. Throw it away.** Unlike automotive oil, cooking oil is perfectly safe to throw in the garbage. Please take precautions to cut down on spills and messes by putting it in a secure container.

**3. Re-purpose it.** Used cooking oil actually has other uses beyond the fryer. You can mix it with your compost but only in small amounts. Make soap with it. Used fryer oil is a great weed killer and mixed with dish detergent and water makes for a great insecticide that can be sprayed directly on plants. Once strained of food particles, fryer oil can be mixed with diesel fuel and run through diesel engines and actually acts as a fuel injector cleaner.

You have options but always remember, **NEVER POUR IT DOWN THE DRAIN OR IN THE TOILET.** Oil down the drain will eventually cause a very nasty and expensive mess.

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