Recycling Department
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **July 25, 2013**

CONTACT: Mary Anne Phillips, Recycling Coordinator
SUBJECT: Cooking Oil Now Accepted at Recycling Center

The Joplin Recycling Center is now accepting household cooking oil for recycling. A container has been placed at the center and will be available during regular operational hours on an on-going basis. Mary Anne Phillips, Joplin's Recycling Coordinator announced, "The aim of the new fats, oils and grease collection program is to help residents dispose of their cooking oil in an environmentally safe and effective way."

The Recycling Center is located at 1310 West A Street, and is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Disposing of household oil or grease correctly is essential to ensure that the plumbing in residential houses and the City of Joplin sewer lines do not get clogged. Pouring cooking oil or grease down the drain or toilet is considered a "prohibited discharge" by City code because it may cause a blockage or interference with sewer lines. As grease cools, it hardens, which leads to "blockages" in your plumbing and sewer lines. This blockage can occur regardless of the water temperature used to rinse cookware.

Let grease or oil cool down before collecting for proper disposal. For very small amounts of oil, wipe up with a paper towel and place in your trash can. For sufficient amounts of oil that can be saved for recycling, strain out food scraps and dispose of the scraps in the trash, then pour the used oil in the container it came in (if possible,) or a clean, non-breakable container with a properly fitting lid. When container is full, bring the used cooking oil to the recycling center, or set out with your regular trash service. Please remember, soapsuds, hazardous waste materials, or motor oil cannot be recycled with the cooking oil. Used motor oil *can be* recycled at area automotive supply stores and *contaminated* motor oil can be recycled at the Joplin Recycling Center.

Lynden Lawson, Joplin's Public Works Operation Manager added, "This grease recycling program is the first step in educating households and commercial cooking establishments about the **F**ats, **O**ils and **G**rease (FOG) Disposal Awareness Program." Look for in-depth information in future *Citizen Newsletters* and on the city's website.

For more information contact Mary Anne Phillips at the City of Joplin, 624-0820 Ext. 501, or MPhillip@joplinmo.org.

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