

## Bartholomew County SWMD: Utilization of Used Motor Oil



The Bartholomew County Solid Waste Management District (SWMD), with Director Jim Murray and Education Coordinator Heather Siesel, has been very successful in utilizing used motor oil. Since 1992 they have used an oil heating furnace at the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center to heat their facility. This heater was fueled with oil they purchased. During that time, they recycled some motor oil which only generated revenue of \$0-\$0.5/gal. They also paid a company to dispose of the remaining motor oil.



In 2012 the Columbus/Bartholomew Recycling Center purchased an oil filter crusher, which extracts oil. Now the used motor oil brought in by the public is used to heat the facility. Here is how it works, the oil is compressed from filters and used to heat the facility and the scraps from the oil filters are sent to a metal processor, who in turn pays the district. This transition has reduced the amount spent on heating fuel by \$750 per heating season (five months out of the year – October through March). In addition, where previously one (1) 55-gallon drum of used motor oil cost the district \$200, the district now nets \$75 per drum of oil filter scraps. The overall savings/revenue is projected to be \$1,750 in 2013, and the oil filter crusher is estimated to pay for itself in less than one (1) year.

