

Centralia Correctional Center Sustainability

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2012, a Sustainability Committee was formed to effectively collect, process, store and return to industry waste materials produced in the daily operations of Centralia Correctional Center. The committee strived to support green initiatives and sustainable practices through responsible management. Since this time, Centralia Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) has taken on this recycling endeavor in a focused effort to provide valuable skills that can be used by incarcerated inmates toward attaining “Green Collar” jobs upon their release. It is a well noted fact that recidivism rates are substantially lower for offenders released with marketable skills. In addition, Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center strives to hire inmates eligible for Program Sentence Credit (PSC). With a FY2015 annual cost of incarceration at Centralia Correctional Center of \$23,467 per offender, each year of work by a PSC eligible offender can save the State of Illinois \$11,733.

The Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center currently recycles cardboard, paper, plastic, magazines, newspaper, metal cans, bottle caps and vegetable oil. The process is completed in the safest, most efficient manner possible, while constantly striving to improve program effectiveness. Based on FY2016 statistics, the Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center will realize the following savings: Disposal savings for FY2016 (money saved by not paying an outside vendor to dispose of waste), \$5,000; revenue from recycling, \$8,000; and PSC savings of \$70,000 for a total gross savings of \$83,000. Subtract offender pay of \$3,000, and the net savings is approximately \$80,000 for the State of Illinois for FY2016.

Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center partners with Kaskaskia College to dispose of their recyclable paper, cardboard and plastics. The Recycling Center donated more than 2,000 lbs. of bottle caps to Bartelso Grade School and New Hope School, which allowed them to purchase recycled benches for their school.

Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center is also responsible for the garden/composting area. As a result of seeds being donated from IDOC’s central seed repository located at Menard Correctional Center, Centralia has a thriving garden/composting area. The workers assigned to the area generate tomatoes, lettuce, beans, cantaloupe, watermelon and other various fruits and vegetables used to feed the offender population and staff. During FY2016, the garden generated more than 3,200 lbs. of produce. The compost piles are monitored on a weekly basis and will be used in future gardening needs. In FY2017, Centralia Correctional Center ICI Recycling Center increased the garden by approximately 25 percent and added four raised bed gardens. The center also plans on donating to various local food banks.