

## Decatur Correctional Center Sustainability

The Decatur Correctional Center formerly recycled materials with the help from Macon County for many years. The center had recycled all plastics, cans, cardboard, light bulbs, ballasts and batteries through the city's solid waste management department. Due to budget cuts in Macon County, the center no longer utilizes this opportunity. The center has found a private vendor for its plastics and utilizes the state master contract for condemned appliances and scrap metal.



The center's greenhouse is in operation and houses many seedling plants that are ready to be planted in its gardens. The center propagates the seeds each year so it does not need to order seeds. The facility saves seeds from year to year; when it has extras, it donates them to whoever may need them. Some of the staples produced in the garden are cucumbers, green peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, cantaloupe, onions, radishes, banana peppers, jalapenos, carrots with expansion to sweet potatoes and winder red potatoes.



Some residents with longer sentences participate in Plant a Row for the Hungry where they have a plot dedicated to items grown and harvested just for the community. They also have a facility farmer's market with bedding plants and some garden produce for staff purchase to help raise money for the Employee Benefit Fund and Inmate Benefit Fund to assist in purchasing necessary supplies for future gardens.

The facility and Sustainability Team are working diligently to expand the Rain Barrel Pilot Project. Currently, the center uses a 65-gallon water tank, which sits in the bed of a ground crew vehicle. The center can fill it, providing it rains, from a downspout of the warehouse dock. The expansion includes incorporating three



laundry soap barrels into the downspouts in this area to store rainwater; the facility carpenter is building a platform for the barrels to sit on. The center can then easily drain the laundry barrels into the 65-gallon tank.