

Dixon Correctional Center Sustainability

The Dixon Correctional Center collects cardboard from various locations within the institution and places it in recycling bins for the vendor to pick up. All fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs are collected and taken to Flourecycle, Inc. in Ingleside, Ill., to be recycled. All brass shell casings of discharged ammunition are sent to the Training Academy in Springfield to be recycled. Electronics are recycled by Secure Recycling in Dixon, Ill. All used motor oil is collected and is picked up by a vendor for recycling.



Dixon Correctional Center's Greenhouse is used to house many varieties of plants and flowers, which have grown from seed. The flowers are used to beautify various locations throughout the institution. Seeds from the Menard Correctional Center Seed Repository have been planted and will be relocated when mature.



Dixon Correctional Center has implemented the use of mesh laundry bags for transporting purchases in the Inmate Commissary and is in the process of eliminating brown paper bag use, saving the facility's commissary \$13,000/year in bag expenses and also significantly reducing the amount of paper waste.

Dixon Correctional Center is working to reduce energy cost by adding a program to the controls of the Health Care Unit's chiller. This program will stop the chiller from short cycling and only turn on the chiller when the outside air temperature reaches the controller's set point. The program will save on electricity and also protect the chiller from unnecessary starting and stopping.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant located at Dixon Correctional Center ensures the waste water delivered to the Rock River is clean; the sludge produced by the treatment plant is used and applied to a state-owned agricultural field that sits adjacent to the facility.



Land application of raw or treated sewage sludge can reduce significantly the sludge disposal cost component of sewage treatment as well as providing a large part of the nitrogen and phosphorus requirements of many crops.

The Dixon Correctional Center continues to search for ways in which waste and expenditures can be reduced by implementing new “green” initiatives. Plastics and metal cans are slated to be recycled as soon as a baler can be acquired by the facility. The facility committee is also considering ways in which to reduce consumption of utilities and to reduce the waste stream that affects the impact the facility has on the environment.