

Graham Correctional Center Sustainability

Garden

Graham Correctional Center operates five garden plots that make up 22 acres within the facilities fences. The garden is manned by a correctional officer supervising a work crew of 15 residents who take care of the garden plots on a daily basis. The produce is used by Dietary to reduce overall costs spent on food. The facility also donates harvested vegetables to local food pantries. Other items, such as pumpkins, are taken to local area schools for carving and decorating. The facility allows the purchase of leftover produce as a way of revenue to operate the garden in a self-reliant manner.

A greenhouse was constructed in the garden area. The structure allows the garden crew to germinate seeds to produce young transplantable plants. In addition, the greenhouse is used to germinate and start annual and perennial plants and flowers to beautify the facility grounds. The facility also sells excess plant and flower starts to staff to help operate the garden in a self-sufficient manner.

A composting site was created to reduce soil and fertilizer costs needed to start plants at the greenhouse. To reduce cost of contracted waste management, the center recycles through the center's garden composting program leftover non-meat food waste, cardboard not taken to be baled and Correctional Industries sawdust.

The gardens and plant beautification areas are fertilized through the composting site and hydrated by the storm sewer retention pond that is equipped with an irrigation pump. The pump can directly irrigate gardens or fill a reservoir tank that is used when direct irrigation cannot be applied.

Recycling

The center recycles cardboard, shredded paper, metal cans, plastic bottles, sawdust, and left over non-meat food waste. Recycling containers are placed throughout the facility. The program is manned by one correctional officer supervising 15 resident workers who gather, separate and store materials collected for recycling.

The center has no recycling baler at this site. However, the center recycles metal cans, plastic bottles, shredded paper and cardboard by storing the items in a semi-trailer until full and then later transported to Vandalia Correction Center to be baled.

To reduce the cost of contracted waste management, the center recycles leftover non-meat food waste, cardboard that is not taken to be baled, and Correctional Industries sawdust through the institutional garden's composting program.

Dietary cooking oils are also recycled through an outside contractor along with the State garage's used motor oil.

The facility recycles through an outside contractor broken electronic equipment and unprepared metals.

Correctional Industries at Graham Correctional Center makes furniture out of older wooden pallets that can no longer be used. The program is manned by one Correctional Industries staff who supervises eight resident workers.

Since first implementing the Recycling Program, the center has reduced its contracted waste management pick-ups from five to three a week to reduce overall waste management costs.

Utilities

To reduce utility costs, the center has made the following changes in lighting fixtures. Through attrition, the center is replacing all T12 lighting fixture components and bulbs with T8 bulbs as well as the components to operate them. The facility has been replacing indirect lighting with fluorescent fixtures. The indirect lighting being replaced is 400 watt fixtures; the replacement lighting fixtures being installed are 64 watts. The center is using less energy to run the new fixtures while achieving a brighter lighted area. The cost to maintain the fluorescent fixtures is also less.

In addition, other high wattage mercury vapor and metal halide fixtures are being replaced, which helps to reduce the utility costs and maintaining the fixtures.

Staff is reminded to turn off lights and computers in office areas at the end of the day when they are not in use.

Office Practices

When possible, staff is encouraged to electronically send reports rather than hard copy to reduce paper product costs.

Dietary

The Dietary Department has nearly eliminated the use of Styrofoam trays.

Grounds

The facility has elected to allow local farmers to bale 4.6 acres of its property outside the fence. This is done to reduce costs that would normally be incurred by the center grounds crew having to maintain the property through fuel, maintenance and wear and tear on the mowing fleet.