

Pontiac Correctional Center Sustainability

Pontiac Correctional Center's sustainability efforts are robust and stem from its diverse Recycling Program. The facility recycles traditional materials, such as paper and metal, but also items including wooden pallets and vegetable oil.

All steel cans from kitchens are crushed and bailed by the institution's Recycling Program. Cardboard from packaging and general deliveries is collected and bailed. Whole and shredded sheets of used paper, paper envelopes and plain paper are also bailed by the institution's Recycling Program. Plastic containers, such as soda, soap and bleach bottles and other like bottles, as well as eating utensils are collected and recycled. The bails of recyclable commodities are sold to recycling centers and profits from this program are returned to the General Revenue Fund.



The facility has a small fleet of vehicles, which causes an accumulation of items to be appropriately disposed of or recycled through the vehicle's lifecycle. Used motor oil is collected and sent to a local garage to be used as heating oil. Automotive type batteries are retained and sent to the local recycling center and tires from the Automotive Shop are sent to the State Garage to be recycled.

Some of the more unique items the center recycles include florescent bulbs and pallets. Spent florescent light bulbs are collected to be recycled and florescent fixtures that burn out are replaced with T-8 fixture energy-saving lighting. Wooden pallets are returned to shippers as they are requested. Extra and broken pallets are picked up and recycled by outside vendors at no expense to the institution.

Pontiac Correctional Center Print Shop has a print policy for documents and logs that are subject to change at any given time. The center has a print policy for documents to be print double sided to reduce the amount of paper being used. Inter-departmental envelopes are reused multiple times before recycling.

Energy and water savings are addressed in several ways. Incandescent light bulbs are converted to compact florescent bulbs when a replacement is needed. Florescent bulbs are converted to T-8 energy saving florescent bulbs when the fixture is replaced. Vending machines with compressors throughout the institution use \$20 worth of

electricity in a 30-day period. The center has reduced the amount of machines by 50 percent, thus reducing the energy usage for vending by 50 percent.

The center has begun harvesting rain water in barrels to use in the gardens. The Maintenance Department has created water wagons to transport the water to the needed areas. Additionally, automatic flush valves have been placed in some areas to reduce water usage.



The facility has created approximately three acres of gardens in areas inside the wall and at the Medium Security

Unit. The plants are started in the facility greenhouses and then transferred to the gardens. As vegetables have been harvested, they are served during meals. The center has started a relationship with its local school district and food banks to provide fresh produce and donated items to help with programs that feed youth and elderly who are in need. In addition to the sustainable gardening practice of using rain barrels to water plants, the facility has begun composting vegetable-based food scraps and byproducts of the food prep areas. The center has a compost bin for dry food and landscape waste that supports the Trench Composting Program. The facility buries wet food waste in rows alongside current vegetable rows so that next year's vegetables can be planted over the composting rows. The center has added two 5 x 13 foot vermi-composting bins that divert on average 2,800 lbs. of food scraps from the kitchen's normal waste systems per month.

As a part of the Illinois Green Government Initiative, Pontiac Correctional Center planted 25 oak trees on June 8, 2012, which were donated by employees. The trees were planted next to the community bicycle path and walkway that is adjacent to the institution's east lawn.