

Robinson Correctional Center Sustainability

Robinson Correctional Center has participated in various recycling efforts since the facility was built in 1991. What began with range brass and batteries, the center's sustainability plan now includes the recycling of cardboard, tin cans from Dietary, shredded paper, electronics, plastic bottles and bottle caps. Cardboard from throughout the facility is sent to the Warehouse where it is bundled. Once 40 are bundled, they are picked up by Community Resource Incorporated. Proceeds from recycled cardboard are sent to Illinois Central Management Services (CMS)-Fiscal and Accounting. The tin cans from Dietary are sent to Maintenance where they are bundled and sold to a local scrap yard; proceeds are sent to CMS-Fiscal and Accounting. Shredded paper from the facility is collected in Maintenance until 12 to 15 bags are on hand; the bags are then donated to the local Humane Shelter. Electronics, such as TVs, hot pots and radios, and plastic bottles are collected twice a month and delivered to the Crawford County Recycling Center. There are no proceeds from electronics or plastics. Bottle caps are collected in the Employee Commissary, Visiting Room, Housing Unit 5 and several offices throughout the facility. Bottle caps are donated to Moulton Middle School, who turns them over to a manufacturer to make benches, which are donated to organizations in need, such as Veterans Affairs and city parks.

Robinson Correctional Center has two institutional gardens planted in the southwest corner of the facility. The two plots together make up an area of 278 ft. x 150 ft. Offenders plant and maintain the gardens. The offenders are comprised of Horticulture students and inside grounds workers and supervised by security staff and Lake Land College staff. The offenders earn lab hour credits for a Horticulture Production Class and gain valuable hands-on experience raising a garden from start to finish. Offenders in the Food Services Program also benefit by learning how to freeze and prepare fresh vegetables for later use. Offenders plant a wide variety of vegetables to be harvested and used for the staff and offender dietary menu. The garden is planted with a variety of tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, zucchini, sweet peppers, onions, lettuce, dill, basil and sunflowers.



Produce is also used in the Culinary Arts Classroom for offenders. The fresh produce affords offenders the ability to use a food processor. Offenders are taught how to bag and freeze for later use in a stir fry for the offender population.

Robinson Correctional Center also uses a wood chipper to grind up sticks and fallen branches from the center's grounds to provide mulch for its landscape and flower beds. The chipper is used by offenders assigned as outside workers and are supervised by a corrections maintenance craftsman.