

## Sheridan Correctional Center Sustainability

Sheridan Correctional Center is in the process of rebuilding its sustainability efforts. Currently, the center operates an aggressive cardboard project in Commissary where two to three offenders bale cardboard using an electric baler. Starting in September 2016, the center will begin backhauling it to Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) or another state facility. In Dietary, a hand baler is being used that has a carbonless footprint and was on display at the state fairgrounds. The cardboard will be baled by employing four offenders to operate the baler in Dietary. Leisure Time Services, Maintenance and other areas can take cardboard to Dietary to have materials baled as well. Dietary also crushes cans by hand using a crusher made at another facility. All tin cans are crushed and stored outside the facility. The center is currently looking to sell the bales of recyclables to recycling centers or another facility to put money back into the General Revenue Fund.

The center is also pursuing an aggressive approach to water conservation and collection by working with a local group to provide rain barrels and water collection at no cost to the facility.

In 2017, the center will be reviving its garden project. Dietary will coordinate the growing of various vegetables, such as tomatoes, zucchini, cucumbers and peppers, which will reduce produce orders. The center will also be canning and freezing tomatoes for use to make ketchup, tomato paste and sauce. The garden will employ four to six offenders. Home Builders Institute (HBI) will be building a state-of-the-art garden shed for housing garden tools, supplies and seeds as well as making plans to build a greenhouse.