

Taylorville Correctional Center Sustainability

The Taylorville Correctional Center's Sustainability Program began its Recycling Program in 2010 with the purpose of reducing waste costs. It is quickly growing into a successful, goal-orientated program with significant potential. At this time, the Taylorville Correctional Center's Recycling Program consists of the following:

Cardboard Recycling – The center uses Midwest Salvage as its vendor, who stages a semi-trailer on site to store the cardboard. The center average 35,000 lbs. of cardboard per year, resulting in a substantial reduction of waste going to the landfill.



Paper/Plastics Recycling – The center started collecting and recycling paper/plastic in September 2011; the project is deemed quite successful. Midwest Salvage gave the center enough recycling receptacles to place four in each housing unit. Assigned offenders take the paper/plastic twice a day from the housing units to the sallyport where the offender in charge of recycling will take it to the semi-trailer and store it in gaylord boxes.



Metal Cans – The center started collecting and recycling metal cans from Dietary at the same time as paper/plastics. The facility recently received a semi-trailer from Ley Metals per state contract for the collection of metal cans.



Date	Office Waste	Newspaper	Cardboard	Tin Cans	Plastic
5/20/16			12640		
5/4/16	300	490	380	4990	410
3/29/16	376	416		4800	295
3/23/16			14840		
2/10/16	450	310		4200	390
12/30/15	480	120		3400	140
11/25/15	287	325		3910	256
10/28/15	70	88		780	70
10/1/15	135	164		2175	188
9/9/15	353	378	3100		367
9/5/15	14850				
8/8/15	2197	671		3126	266
7/15/15	420	3885			250
Totals (lbs.) As of 6/1/16	19,918	3,387	34,845	37,381	2,632

Electronics/ink and toner cartridges – In accordance with recent legislation, all electronic items are being collected and recycled. Also, all ink/toner cartridges are being collected and recycled.

Gardens - The Taylorville Correctional Center has a total of nine gardens throughout the facility that provide locally grown fruits and vegetables to staff, offenders and the local community. One garden is outside the fence for sweet corn, melons and squash. Seven gardens are located inside the fence for tomatoes, peppers, melons, strawberries and various other produce items. The final garden was established by the Taylorville Correctional Center Veterans Group and all the produce harvested was

donated to local surrounding food pantries. The Veterans Garden harvest for 2016 included approximately 700 lbs. of fresh vegetables delivered.

As of July 2016, the remaining gardens have provided more than 2,400 lbs. of produce that has helped reduce food costs and provided a healthier meal choice.

Greenhouse/Horticulture – A large part of the center’s recycling and sustainability efforts happen in the facility’s Horticulture Department. More than 350 recycled pallets have been used to raise gardens that had previously been subject to flooding and lost crop. To sustain the yearly production, offenders harvest their own seed, which are stored in recycled plastic containers from Dietary. Egg and milk cartons are reused for starting new plants in the greenhouse. Horticulture has more than 250 square feet devoted to composting. The compost includes grass clippings, newspapers, cardboard, food scrapes, egg shells and coffee grounds. The compost provides a weed bearer and limits the amount of fertilizer purchased. The Laundry Department provides used laundry soap barrels that are used to collect rain water, soil recycling and collection of compost material. In addition, the Horticulture Class utilizes “bottom watering,” which captures any excess water from watering the flowers. In 2017, they hope to expand their gardens and provide more fruits and vegetables to Dietary.