

Vandalia Correctional Center Sustainability



In April 2012, the Vandalia Correctional Center (VCC) sustainability plan was born. The plan consisted of developing a committee with the goal of establishing ways to reduce costs while creating, implementing and sustaining jobs for the offender population. VCC is committed to promoting sustainable practices as well as creating a culture of positive environmental stewardship. The Vandalia "Go Green" Committee exhibited its commitment by implementing and promoting sustainable practices and cost-saving measures.

A Recycling Program was implemented to effectively collect, process, store and return to industry waste materials produced during the daily operations of the facility. The materials include cardboard, paper, plastic, used ink cartridges and metal cans. Illinois Correctional Industries processes, stores and makes arrangements for the delivery of the recycled bales.

In addition, all 17 offender dormitories are equipped with three recycle barrels affixed to the walls and in the common areas.



Larger gardens are being created to be used by Dietary staff, which will reduce food costs and provide healthy meals for both staff and offenders. Other plans for the garden include donating food to various food depositories in communities and utilizing the food in the statewide master menu. Thus far, there are 15 acres of vegetables planted; 86 different varieties of produce. VCC has already produced 3,600 lbs. of produce that has been implemented into the menu during this growing season.



According to last year's tonnage versus this year's tonnage, refuse savings is approximately 12 tons per month, saving VCC approximately \$550 monthly.

VCC also has been utilizing a Vermiculture Program. The center's garden house includes an 8 ft. x 20 ft. worm bed. Unused produce and scraps from Dietary are placed in the worm bed, disposing of approximately 600-800 lbs. of scraps a month. The castings are then used as added fertilizer for gardens and mixed with potting soil for plants in the greenhouse.

The VCC Sustaining through Greening Efforts Committee is constantly looking into additional programs and ideas that will be both efficient and cost effective.