

Vienna Correctional Center Sustainability

Vienna Correctional Center, in conjunction with its Dixon Springs Impact Incarceration Program (IIP), facilitates sustainability in a variety of modes. The onsite programs consist of gardening, composting, water filter and sewer plant, and boiler house. The goal of their sustainability efforts is to uphold the sustainability mantra of: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Gardening

The center provides organically grown food that is used in staff and offender dining. Gardens have yielded a variety of tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupes, lettuce, spinach, carrots, onions, radishes and sweet corn.

Supplementary, the center cultivates an herb garden with a variety of unique and everyday herbs that benefit staff and offenders alike. The gardens also monetarily help the Employee Benefit Fund and Inmate Benefit Fund by offering a plant and herb sale to staff.

The center additionally assists the community by providing pumpkins to the local school.

Currently, recycled water is used to water the gardens by means of rain barrels and the run-off from the green house.





Dixon Springs IIP produces a 5-acre garden at the facility, allowing the facility to provide fresh vegetables to several schools and community organizations in the neighboring communities. During FY2015, Dixon Springs IIP donated more than 12,500 lbs. of produce to local non-profit groups and organizations. The fruits of the labor from this garden have vast outreaching effects, providing fresh produce to Dixon Springs IIP as well as food pantries, soup kitchens, schools and summer lunch programs, local senior centers and the Veterans Home at Anna. The produced raised also serves as a learning tool for cadets to develop valuable job skills in gardening and sustainability practices upon graduation and to grow and provide fresh produce for their families. For the third year in a row, recycled paper provided by Correctional Industries was used in development and care of the garden project; the “no out-of-pocket expense” method provides weed control and keeps soil hydrated during times of less rainfall. The workers mix shredded paper with water creating a paste and apply it to the ground surface at the base of plants to serve as mulch.





Composting

To form rewarding soil, Vienna Correctional Center has implemented composting. For this project, the center uses waste paper, grass clippings and food scraps. In 2016, the center implemented vermicomposting, which utilizes worms to break down fertilizer and repurpose soil. Traditional composting often takes a long time to effectively break down all components of waste products; however, worms have the ability to eat through a massive amount of waste in less time. The processed waste leaves behind nitrogen-rich, organic compost.



Water Filter and Sewer Plant

The filter plant provides approximately 800,000 gallons per day to be used by offenders and staff at Vienna and Shawnee correctional centers.

Wastewater treatment contains and removes potential disease-causing contaminants

through a filtering system that blocks their path and further treatment that kills harmful organisms. The process keeps potential diseases and bacteria from entering other water sources and the ground and harming people, plants and animals. Clean water is critical to plants and animals that live in water. Perhaps one of the greatest benefits is the reduction in cost which is as follows: lower charges for water consumption and smaller volume of effluent water discharged and lower energy cost due to recovery of heat in recycled waste water.



Boiler Room

The Boiler Room has continued to assist Vienna Correctional Center with sustainability and economics by drastically reducing the cost to heat and air-condition a large facility.



Additional Efforts

Vienna Correctional Center currently partners with Shawnee Correctional Center to reduce waste and subsequently reduce waste removal costs. The center would like to continue and expand this effort to ensure recycling efforts maximize its cost-effectiveness. Vienna Correctional Center and Dixons Springs IIP will execute recycling activities in the safest, most cost effective manner possible.

Additional Sustainability Initiatives

Vienna Correctional Center is bountiful with acreage that could help facilitate more sustainability efforts. The center continues to examine how it produces and consumes and the ways in which it defines and measures value and progress. It is the center's goal to pursue programs and initiatives that permit more sustainability by reducing, reusing and recycling.