

Western Illinois Correctional Center Sustainability

Since 2013, Western Illinois Correctional Center (WICC) and Clayton Work Camp (CWC) have strived in reducing the impact on the environment by incorporating energy costs and waste control methods. The following is a list of steps the facilities has taken to move in a direction of becoming environmentally sustainable.

Recycling



Compactor bailer utilized for cardboard and tin products at Western Illinois Correctional Center

WICC moved its bailing operation from inside the facility to Industries to allow items to be bailed differently, thus increasing profits from cardboard and tin products. Offenders hired by Illinois Correctional Industries (ICI) provide a valuable service by separating trash and recouping cardboard and tin products for bailing. Each month, ICI posts notification that bids are being accepted, thus ensuring the best current recycling rate. By moving the operation to ICI and bailing product differently, WICC has doubled monies received for recycled items.

WICC is in the process of establishing a full Recycle Program in cooperation with ICI by providing workers to sort trash generated within the center. The project will decrease environment impact by recycling, limiting items going to landfill, lowering disposal fees and recouping monies otherwise lost through complicity. All light bulbs, ballasts and used motor oil are collected and picked up by a vendor for recycling.

Lake Land College - Gardening / Compost





Garden, Greenhouse and Worm Farm at Western Illinois Correctional Center

WICC has a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre size garden that has produced more than 665 gallons of vegetables. The vegetables are used to enhance meals for WICC offenders and help increase offender training skills of those enrolled in the Culinary Arts Program. Lake Land College has created a program where various vegetables started in the greenhouse are sent to other facilities without greenhouses to start gardens. The Garden Program has been successful; next year it will extend to CWC where a garden will be established with vegetable plants started at WICC.

The goals of WICC and Lake Land College next year is to grow and provide flowers that can be donated to the community as a beautification project.

WICC and CWC are also in the process of using rain barrels to capture water for various uses throughout the facility to reduce the water consumption cost.

WICC and CWC additionally have created compost piles to fertilize garden and flower beds throughout the facility. In enhancing recycling projects, they are addressing waste products from Dietary and shredding paper to reduce paper goods going into disposal. Along with its compost programs, WICC has enlisted the help of Mother Nature and her worms to assist in breaking down shredded paper. The goal is to eliminate newspapers and shredded paper by composting them for use in the garden, flower beds and sharing with the community.

Cost Savings

WICC and CWC have worked to reduce energy cost by upgrading the lighting from fluorescent to LED lights. Incorporating LED lights should reduce electricity use by a third. WICC and CWC strive to reduce electricity usage by encouraging staff and offenders to turn off electrical items not in use.

WICC and CWC have also partnered with The Crossing Church in Quincy to provide clothing to offenders being released into society. The program will save the facility \$15,000-\$20,000 a year and provide offenders the dignity to reenter society with suitable clothing.

Lake Land College, through its Construction Trades Class, is making furniture by using old dilapidated wood pallets. The program saves in disposal costs and provides needed furniture for use in the facility.



Projects completed by Lake Land College Construction Class

WICC and CWC also have begun to look at overall paper-saving options. Recently, both facilities reduced the number of Directive Manuals to three sets and placed the information on computer for electronic referencing. Inmate Payroll was addressed to change how Offender 360 pays offenders so generated paper is reduced. The center is also working with IT Support to explore ways to copy and save documents from Client Service Applications to reduce generated paper. WICC and CWC have comprised a committee to review suggestions to save monies for overall facility operation.

Community Partnerships

Since the inception of CWC, offenders have assisted with daily maintenance of lawns, trash, shrubbery and tree removal and other projects deemed necessary for Siloam Springs and Weinberg-King state parks. The service helps the state parks to remain functional and provides cost-saving services that would otherwise be contracted out.



State parks serviced by offenders from the Clayton Work Camp work crews

Furthermore, in June 2015, WICC and CWC participated in needed services for surrounding communities when Central Illinois suffered extensive flooding. WICC and CWC provided the necessary sandbags (35,000 sandbags) for surrounding communities. The assistance provided by offenders saved communities several

millions dollars in property damage and work force hours. The surrounding communities were grateful for the assistance and worked alongside the offenders in their efforts to battle the rising flood. The communities' gratitude was shown by ensuring offenders working in the community were provided with water and meals for their efforts.



In July 2015, Quincy was hit with severe wind damage that brought the city to a near standstill. CWC sent out work crews daily to assist the community in dealing with down trees and damaged building. CWC assistance saved the city several million in expenses that otherwise would have come out of its budget. The City of Quincy was also thankful for the help and ensured offenders working in the community were provided with water and meals.