Annotated Bibliography

Green Corrections: Resources for Criminal Justice Professionals and Community Partners
Green Corrections: Resources for Criminal Justice Professionals and Community Partners
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Introduction

This annotated bibliography by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) includes resources for people interested in developing new green programs or improving the maintenance of existing ones. You’ll find resources suitable for all areas of corrections as well as for their partners in education and social service fields. We are confident you will be able to obtain all the resources listed in this document through the Internet, from the NIC Information Center, from the authors directly, or by ordering them.

This document has been divided into five sections: Education, Facility Management, Operations, Training and Programs, and General Green Corrections. Within each section, you will find resources related specifically to that topic area. You will note there are many case studies, but as interest in green corrections grows, it is our expectation that more examples of scholarly research will become available.

In a sense, the study of green corrections has been around for some time. For as long as people have been inventing ways to save money by reducing waste and energy, there has been green corrections. Yet, as a discipline, the topic is rather new. We are only now beginning to formalize our use of green practices into topics worthy of advanced discussion. As such, we stand to learn a great deal from related fields, such as environmental psychology, sociology, and behavioral economics, that have been addressing the nuances of physical environments and its effects on human behavior and outcomes. These disciplines, while new in their own fields, have decades of research that we can begin to apply to the unique security, operations, and management needs of the nation’s correctional system.

Green Corrections: Resources for Criminal Justice Professionals and Community Partners is what we hope is only the beginning of a long endeavor into the study of green corrections. We invite contributions to this list, as well as additions, such as articles and training resources, submitted to the NIC Library.

For information about what NIC is doing in this topic area, visit www.nicic.gov/greencorrections.
Resources

Education


The author argues in favor of teaching sustainability to college students interested in entering the corrections industry, suggesting that little research exists on the subject of sustainability in criminal justice administration and corrections. Topics include seminars, sustainability in government, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, and the prison industry executive Tommy Norris. (Publisher abstract)


The Sustainable Prisons Project (SPP), a collaboration between the Evergreen State College and the Washington State Department of Corrections, brings extensive community partners together to offer science and sustainability education to incarcerated women and men (offenders) in four correctional facilities in Washington State. Using interviews and surveys of offenders and staff, this exploratory study drew upon a mixed methods analysis to evaluate the effects of the suite of SPP activities on participating offenders. This paper focuses on the qualitative findings from interviews. Rehabilitation programs that are aimed at reducing crime once offenders are released are a major correctional strategy and a part of social sustainability. I examined the extent to which the SPP programs share characteristics with the most effective programs for reducing recidivism and assessed the significance of science and sustainability education in the rehabilitative potential of the SPP. Results suggest that SPP projects share characteristics with successful rehabilitation programs. Science and sustainability education appears to foster an environmental stewardship ethic and influences emotional health, improving the quality of offenders' lives while they are incarcerated and contributing to rehabilitative outcomes. (Author abstract).


'We connect prisons with nature.' This website should be an essential resource when one is devising strategies for greening efforts in one's jurisdiction. Access is provided to: what the program does; about the program's mission, vision, history, and staff; blog; stories and experiences; resources; press room; and contact information. Just an aside, it is interesting to note that this facility plays a critical part in the survival of the endangered Oregon Spotted Frog.

Information about the Sustainable Prisons Project whose aim is to help prisons “save money while rehabilitating” inmates is available at this website. Points of access are: about us; what we do -- pilot activities; media room -- scientific and popular press; and contact information.

**Facility Management**


The article describes the operations of the Illinois Correctional Industries prison employment organization at Menard Correctional Center (MCC) in Chester, Illinois, focusing on the development and implementation of a recycling program. Topics include MCC’s relationship with Chester Hospital, the financing and purchase of equipment, baling tin, processing cardboard, and inmate reentry. (Publisher abstract)


Information is provided about the greening of the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) in San Leandro, California. Sections of this article are: designing a green justice facility, renewable energy, energy efficiency, water efficiency, and green cleaning; and other notable features. JJC has achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.


The solar power services agreement (SPSA) between SunEdison (North America’s biggest solar energy services provider) and Ironwood State Prison is explained. The result of this partnership is a 1.18 megawatt (MW) ground-mounted photovoltaic solar system which SunEdison financed, built, and operates. The SPSA guarantees stable energy prices and no greenhouse gases, no noise, and no water usage.


This webpage article talks about both the Danville Correctional Center’s ongoing recycling efforts and newer sustainability project on composting.


These presentation overheads explain how one agency reduced its reliance on energy. Topics discussed include: major technologies for reduction; tune-ups, mechanical,
plumbing, heating, and structural; strategies to succeed; and examples from the Michigan Department of Correction.


The article presents a profile of Scott Frakes, superintendent of Monroe Correctional Complex, and previously of the Coyote Ridge Correctional Complex, which he helped to design. Both are located in Washington State. Coyote Ridge is the first prison campus to receive consideration for a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. Frakes’ experience as a corrections officer is also noted. (Publisher abstract)


The article presents a profile of Jerry Elmblad, assistant manager of the Michigan Department of Corrections physical plant. It focuses on his efforts to reduce energy waste and make the operations of the Michigan Department of Corrections greener. Examples of his initiatives include photovoltaic systems, steam-powered turbines, and no-flush urinals. (Publisher abstract)


The article focuses on the reduction of operating costs of the correctional facilities in the U.S. by using alternative technology such as green technology, Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires and jail cells. It states that recent necessity for green technology is conservation of water, reduction of waste and increasing the energy efficiency. It mentions the adoption of a policy on clean and green practices by American Correctional Association (ACA) in the year 2010 and 2011. (Publisher abstract)

Greening the Big House: Sustainability in Corrections, 2008.

Articles included in the ‘Green Scene’ section of this issue are: ‘Transylvania Commissioners Sink Teeth into Green Jail Plan’; ‘Offner: Do Everything You Can to Build and Live Green’ by Gregory J. Offner; ‘Green Design Elements Distinguish Durrant’s New.


The article discusses several sustainable measures adopted by some corrections agencies in the U.S. It notes that corrections aim to achieve maximum efficiency amid factors such as operation costs, prison population and aging infrastructure. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has signed a deal with solar utility SunEdison for the supply of solar-generated power to five facilities. Another measure adopted by corrections is the use of ozone in the laundry cycle. (Publisher abstract)

The strength of this article is in its discussion of an often forgotten part of greening a facility, the use of environmentally safe cleaning products and practices. The Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center in San Leandro, California is the green facility that has achieved LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

http://newdemo.openrepository.com/newdemo/handle/2384/295035

Sustainability practices in design development are a common goal in urban settings, especially in an environment such as the arid Southwest U.S. where resources are limited. Here, sunshine and heat are abundant where water resources are low. So, how can we use these circumstances and constraints to our advantage in future designs or in potential retrofits? Institutional establishments with long-term residents, such as prisons, which use a significant amount of resources, can reduce their energy, food and water costs by using sustainable practices. These practices can help reduce the costs of prisoner housing and eventually lower costs to tax payers. This project focuses on a hypothetical retrofit of the Wilmot Department of Corrections (Wilmot D.O.C.) prison facility in Tucson, AZ.

http://community.nicic.gov/blogs/national_jail_exchange/archive/2012/03/07/justice-goes-green.aspx

This article highlights key information presented in the white paper, Sustainable Justice 2030: Green Guide to Justice, published by the Sustainable Justice Committee of the Academy of Architecture for Justice, American Institute of Architects. The aim of that project was to “articulate a vision for how green justice buildings can serve a green and sustainable justice system as a foundational element of a sustainable society.”


“The federal correctional institution in Butner, N.C., became the first federal prison project to earn LEED certification.” Information about this building project can be found in this article.


The article discusses the use of recycled materials at correctional facilities in the U.S. to make them more sustainable and environment friendly. The New Beginnings Youth Development Center in Washington, D.C. acquired Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-New Construction (LEED-NC) certification for use of regional materials, recycled content and green power. Sustainable design features at the Wake County Detention Center in North Carolina are described, including its R-30 roofing systems and R-19 wall systems. (Publisher abstract)

The article discusses the Public Correctional Policy on Environmentally Responsible and Sustainability-Oriented Practices that was adopted by the American Correctional Association in 2011, focusing on correctional facility policy implementation recommendations and resources. Topics include heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, program financing, waste reduction, recycling, water efficiency, and energy conservation. (Publisher abstract)


Deputy Court Administrator James E. Dare saw an opportunity to not only increase and improve space for staff, but also to provide space that would be environmentally friendly and energy-efficient. Since the project was undertaken during difficult financial times for the county, cost was also a major consideration. A final goal was to celebrate the history of downtown Dayton through the use of historical photographs and materials, incorporating the American Probation and Parole Association motto, "A Force for Positive Change," Architect, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Accredited Professional and Project Manager Lamees Mubaslat envisioned a finished product that would take the visitors on a journey of change and transformation through the use of contrasting finishes and materials; dark and unfinished paired with bright and new. Thirty-three percent of the furnishings were taken from other county offices, with a total replacement value of $100,951. Since these items were already county property, the only cost associated with them was labor (moving and installation). (Publisher abstract)


This article is for those interested in how the Federal Bureau of prisons is trying to save energy. Some of their strategies can be applied to other correctional agencies. Some energy saving measures include: requirement of energy savings performance contracts; use of methane gas to provide electricity and hot water; wind power production; biodiesel operations; self-sustaining facilities; and utilization of emerging technologies.


Information about the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) can be found at this website. Points of entry include: an introduction to LEED; LEED Version 3; LEED rating systems; project certification; professional accreditation; and LEED resources.
As local governments advance climate action plans and determine how to meet their goals, they are discovering that improving the efficiency of their buildings is one of the most effective ways to protect our climate and recharge our economy. That is why the Sierra Club’s Cool Cities Program and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) have teamed up to advocate for cost-effective, local green building policies. This guide provides our organizations’ joint recommendations for advancing green buildings in your community. In the following pages, you’ll find a step-by-step approach to best practices that address the diverse context and needs of communities big and small, from coast to coast’ (p. 3).

A large amount of information regarding the sustainability efforts of the Washington State Department of Corrections can be found at this website. Access is provided to: Sustainability Reports; the Sustainability Prison Project; energy and fuel; water; toxic materials; facilities; waste; commitment and awareness; resources; and capital programs.

“A look at the past, present, and future of the Sustainability in Prisons Project in Washington state commemorating the 5th anniversary of the project’s inception. The project is a partnership between the Washington State Department of Corrections and the Evergreen State College.”

The article discusses the aspects of environmental prison reform in the U.S. It states that prison officials and lawmakers need to consider at the greatest potentialities that environmentally friendly prisons can help to lessen the cost to inmates and facilities maintenance. Furthermore, the facility can attain cost reductions to the correction system and render environmental and social benefits. (Publisher abstract)

For a brief overview of environmental initiatives in corrections, this article is the one. It discusses environmental awareness, green strategies, green-collar jobs, and the NIC Green Corrections Project.
This report is a great description of the three-phase Green Corrections project, sponsored by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC). The following sections comprise this publication: overview of the project; “The Greening of Corrections: Creating a Sustainable System”—the publication and its dissemination; developing a community of practice and providing technical assistance to states; application process; Maryland, Minnesota, and Washington addressing a different technical assistance need for their strategic action plan session; green procurement; and sustainability meeting.

What are viable strategies for cutting costs while protecting the public’s safety? Corrections can achieve some substantial cost savings in sustainability or greening strategies. This publication ‘provides correctional professionals with a framework to gain a general understanding of sustainability practices and principles and to identify examples of operations, programs, and management strategies for self-sustaining facilities’ (p. ii). Sections of this publication include: introduction; greening of correctional facilities; completing the sustainable model, preparing and training inmates; correctional industries, creating sustainable products/services and a green workforce; green reentry programs; recommendations for greening prisons and jails; and conclusion, the sustainable correctional/detention facility of the future.

‘Your Source for News and Information on Environmentally Responsible Products and Services in the Corrections Industry.’ Points of access include: green facility; green news links; conferences; webinars; green programs; and resources.

This article discusses two major barriers to gaining sustainability: 1) the definition and understanding of the term sustainability and 2) realizing that sustainability requires moving from “what to do” to “how you do it” type of practices.

This blog provides examples of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction green programs.
This paper can help individuals 'in their work to overcome systemic barriers and fundamentally transform the opportunities of people with criminal records in society and build healthy communities of opportunity for all' (p.1). Sections of this publication are the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)--building an inclusive Green economy; breaking down the barriers to employment of people with criminal records; the basic protections regulating criminal background checks for employment (i.e., federal civil rights law, federal consumer protections laws, ‘negligent hiring’ liability, federal bonding program, and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit); and conclusion.

This broadcast held on July 14, 2010, seeks to increase environmental awareness among corrections professionals and focus attention on the need to make correctional facilities more energy and resource efficient. The broadcast will also explore the feasibility of introducing green collar job readiness training programs, assess correctional industries capability to adopt ‘green’ practices, and identify strategies to assess cost saving options for correctional agencies to operate ‘self-sustaining’ facilities and programs.

“This white paper describes the issues facing corrections policy and leadership as the impacts of climate change and its related consequences confront departments, agencies, and facilities in coming years. Not only will corrections have to manage the effects of more extreme weather and temperatures than in the past. Corrections will also have to develop and improve its flexibility and resiliency in its operations to weather the multiple coming changes while maintaining its core functions of protecting the public, corrections staffs, and offenders” (p. 1). This publication will explain how you can deal with these challenges. Sections of this document include: introduction to climate change and corrections; the potential impact; the role of leadership; resilience-oriented leadership; and concluding observations.

This report provides a summary of the Symposium agenda and activities. Photos are included from the Symposium and a one-day tour of the Putnamville Correctional Facility.
Individuals wanting to get up to speed on the application of greening practices to corrections should look at this article. The panelists, Gene Atherton, Jerry Elmblad, Todd Gundlach, and John Armstrong, of the ACA Greening of Corrections panel discuss the challenges facing correctional facilities as they put sustainability measures into place. Topics covered include: the stimulation for sustainability; energy conservation; procurement; funding and budgeting; other factors influencing greening initiatives; and the steps for initiating green measures.


‘The guidebook provides correctional administrators with a brief, yet comprehensive and informative, view of sustainability-oriented green technologies’ (p. 6). Seven chapters follow an executive summary and introduction: integrating technology and people; lighting; HVAC systems; plug-in appliances (including pumps and motors); materials flow (including recycling and toxics); water; and energy (including transportation). Appendixes provide information about financing mechanisms and a case study regarding waterless urinals.

**Operations**


The utilization of a web-based Reusable Case Management System (RCMS) by the New York City Department of Probation to send judges offender reports prior to sentencing hearings is described. Not only are considerable amounts of paper, ink, energy, etc. being saved, but the rate of on-time delivery of reports is at 100%.


Both these institutes foster networking relationships; provide participants with information about a variety of technologies being used in, or developed for correctional settings; and give NIJ the opportunity to enhance its technology development programs based on participant experience and comments. [...] during the Technology Institute for Corrections held this past fall, one speaker provided an overview of new “green” technology in probation case management, introducing the Reusable Case Management System, which has greatly reduced cost and paper use in the New York City Department of Probation. (Publisher abstract)

Oregon Department of Corrections. “Oregon: Sustainability 2013”.
This report covers the Oregon Department of Corrections’ sustainability projects and results for 2013. Highlighted project areas include: reducing energy consumption, enhancing recycling efforts, and investing in gardening and composting.

**Training and Programs**

http://nicic.gov/library/024449

“As inmates learn to care for a garden while in prison, they have more nutritious food to eat themselves, extra to share, and a valuable skill set for when they are released” (p.1). What is particularly nice about this article is its links to projects across the U.S. and the world.


“Everyone has heard the hype about green jobs, but what is a green job? Do they really exist? And could an ex-offender ever get one? During this session, we will define green jobs, describe desirable knowledge and skills for green jobs, and provide strategies to prepare exiting offenders and ex-offenders for these jobs. The presentation will place a particular focus on how to understand local labor market demands and identify pathways to green jobs in the local economy. The presentation will also address low-cost ways to incorporate green principles and practices into existing training and education programs.”

http://archives.evergreen.edu/masterstheses/Accession86-10MES/Gallagher_B2013.pdf

This paper examines the effects of participating in prison-based science and sustainability programs on inmates. Washington’s Sustainability in Prisons Project (SPP) hosts environmental and conservation work programs that incorporate elements shown by previous research to inspire positive changes in inmate attitudes. Many of these changes are associated with reductions in recidivism, including educational and vocational training, therapeutic benefits, and opportunities to contribute to the outside community. Participants in a statewide survey of inmates (n=293) included those with nine sustainability-related job types and a control group with non-sustainability-related jobs. Dunlap et al.’s (2000) New Ecological Paradigm Scale was used to assess environmental attitudes. An original “Life & Work” questionnaire assessed attitudes on pursuing education, work satisfaction, skill development, interpersonal relationships, outlook for the future, and health. Results from the Washington Department of Corrections (WDOC) Offender Needs Assessment were also examined for changes over time by participant job type. Questionnaire results show that offenders, whose jobs involved more education/training, work with living things, and opportunities to contribute to the community tended to score higher on the NEP, indicating that these elements are associated with more pro-environmental attitudes. As pro-
environmental attitudes are correlated with pro-social attitudes (Bamberg & Möser 2007; Hines et al. 1987), SPP and WDOC might consider incorporating more of these elements into other work programs.


‘This paper considers the unique opportunities that the green economy and green re-entry programs “can offer this chronically underserved population [formerly incarcerated individuals] to find gainful employment necessary to escape a cycle of poverty, crime and recidivism. Jobs in the burgeoning green economy, we argue, hold the promise of not just employment prospects but greater accessibility to career jobs that pay sustainable wages’ (p. 4). This publication is divided into seven parts: introduction; why green; green jobs, opportunities for formerly incarcerated people; best practices in green re-entry, training opportunities during incarceration, transitional jobs, wrap-around support services, soft skills development, industry certifications, pre-apprenticeship programs, foster relationships with employers, and retention services; policy and advocacy, policies that enhance labor supply and those that create labor demand; conclusion; and additional resources.

Insight Garden Program (San Quentin, CA), ed. Insight Garden Program, 2010.  
http://nicic.gov/library/024447

Sustainability does not always need to involve a grandiose setting. It can also be on a smaller scale, one inmate at a time. The Insight Garden Program (IGP) at San Quentin ‘provides rehabilitation to self-selected prisoners through the process of organic gardening.’ IGP teaches participants about landscaping and gardening, providing skills they can use on release from prison.

http://nicic.gov/library/027592

“Understanding what helps justice-involved American Indian (AI) youth to make positive changes in their lives and end or reduce their involvement in the tribal juvenile justice system is important for developing effective supports. This report presents perspectives on personal change among justice-involved AI youth who participated in the Tribal Juvenile Detention and Reentry Green Demonstration (‘Green Reentry’) programs in three tribes.”

“Maryland Forest Brigade Exceeds Tree Goal — Governor O’Malley Plants One Millionth Tree with Inmates.” Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services, May 4, 2011.  

This news post covers the inmate work program helping with tree planting in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

The article discusses prison-based green job training programs which train inmates for clean-energy and other environmentally friendly jobs post-release. The article mentions the Ohio Green Prison Project and Washington state’s Sustainable Prisons Project, which encourage composting, teach inmates about solar energy panel installation, and grow organic vegetables. The article offers tips on how to bring the green economy to individual prisons' operations and reentry planning. (Publisher abstract)


The article discusses gardening as a prison labor activity in Oregon prisons as of February 2013, focusing on the Lettuce Grow organization that provides gardening, sustainability, and horticulture classes for inmates. Topics include the Oregon Department of Corrections, food bank donations resulting from prison gardens, and the corrections project manager Paul Stanley. (Publisher abstract)


The article discusses the strategies of correctional institutions in the U.S. to reduce the cost of their operations. It examines how former Navy engineer Jerry Elmblad incorporated technology products to reduce the utility cost of a prison in Michigan by 47.5 million dollars. It explores the installation of a geothermal system for the cooling and heating needs of the Level II Joint Regional Correctional Facility in Kansas and savings on space from the use of bunk beds in Arizona. (Publisher abstract)


The article focuses on the green training projects for prisoners offered by correctional institutions in the U.S. to help them prepare for a life outside prison after serving their sentences. The Southeast Correctional Institution (SCI) in Lancaster, Ohio provides trainees with green training projects using green technology. The Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) in Aberdeen, Washington offers Sustainable Prison Project involving ecology lesson, plant restoration, and recycling. (Publisher abstract)


This is the article to read if you are interested in setting up a greening program that not only benefits society but also trains offenders for employment in the green fields on release. The
Sustainability Prison Project, a partnership between the Washington State Department of Corrections and Evergreen State College, is highlighted. The success of the project's reduction of moss poaching for florists by growing the moss in greenhouses has supported the expanse of the program as a scientific research project. The present project is raising endangered frogs at rates much higher than other programs at Washington state zoos.

Shaw, Kate. "Inmates Raise Frogs in Successful Prison Project." Corrections Today 74, no. 5 (October 2012): 12. Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost (accessed April 23, 2014). The article discusses the Sustainability in Prisons initiative in Washington State, in which inmates raise endangered species such as Oregon spotted frogs in order to help them build job skills for reentry, learn about biology, sustainability, and water conservation. (Publisher abstract)