



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2012



Sustainability: The ability to endure...



A letter from the Director

The correctional community has been ever present in my life for nearly four decades and while our most important mission is that of public safety we must always be cognizant of the impacts we have in terms of the resources we consume and the cost of those resources; a cost that's not only measured in dollars but in human capital.

This impact resonates in the Illinois Department of Corrections' sustainability mission statement. Our goals are to lessen our environmental impacts, improve our economic viability, and reduce the human capital costs of prisons by engaging our staff, educating our offenders, partnering with our communities and most importantly working with fellow stakeholders in both the public & private sectors towards achieving these goals.

Building a culture of sustainability in our agency will help to make us better stewards of the resources entrusted to us. We are determined to consume less, become more self sufficient, encourage innovation, and create a ground up effort that will empower our staff to help us in shifting the paradigm when it comes to defining our approach to sustainable practices as it relates to our daily operations.

I am proud to present the Department's first sustainability plan and challenge my fellow Director's, Chiefs, Wardens, correctional counselors, officers, line staff, offenders and the public to come together through the goals set forth to achieve and celebrate in a sustainable correctional environment.

Thank you,



S. A. Godinez
Director
Illinois Department of Corrections

Released on Earth Day, 2012

In accordance with 20 ILCS 3954; The Green Governments Illinois Act

Written by: Kevin Gilson, Jen Aholt, Chris Grissom, Mark Gerdes, Jerry Daly, Julie Kennedy, Tom Zaborac, Mark Pirtle, Brianna Baker-Carvell

**Illinois Department of Corrections
Sustainability Plan
2012**

IDOC's Sustainability Mission Statement

To reduce the environmental, economic, and human capital costs of prisons by engaging our staff, educating our offenders, partnering with local communities and working with fellow stakeholders in both the public & private sectors towards achieving this mission.

VISION STATEMENT

To implement and promote sustainable practices throughout the agency, as well as to create a culture of positive environmental stewardship for both staff and offenders.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Environment: The Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) will reduce the negative impacts of our correctional facility operations by using energy and water more efficiently, and reducing the amount of waste generated.

Economic: The greening of the agency provides a multitude of opportunities to create more efficient, sustainable facilities. This will reduce the financial costs of our facilities through reduced energy and resource consumption. Engaging inmates in sustainability based hands-on work experiences will improve the self sufficiency of our prisons and provide education and training opportunities that will prepare them for jobs in the emerging green economy.

Equity: IDOC will target programs that will increase the possibility of redirecting, or “correcting” the behavior of the individuals whose activities have resulted in their incarceration. This will have benefits for the individual, for their families, and for the communities impacted either positively by successful reentry, or negatively, if the released offender commits another crime.

BROAD GOALS

Sustainable Construction, Operations and Maintenance Projects: The design and construction of new buildings, as well as the operation and maintenance of existing buildings, has a lasting impact on the environment and the local community. Where feasible, the IDOC will implement sustainable practices and policies which will reduce the environmental impact of our facilities, while adhering to sound fiscal practices.

New buildings and facilities shall be designed and constructed using high-performance, human-friendly, long lasting, cost effective, and environmentally sound materials and processes. Existing buildings and facilities shall be operated and maintained using practices designed to lower operating costs while conserving energy and water.

Minimize Solid Waste Production: The Department will continue to take measures to reduce the amount of solid waste generated from its operations. The Department will also continue to expand its internal recycling infrastructure, and pursue a broad range of innovative solutions with the primary intent of decreasing the quantities of materials disposed of in landfills.

Efficient Use and Conservation of Energy, Water, and Other Resources: As one of the largest agencies in the State of Illinois, the IDOC recognizes the need and the importance of conservation efforts and the efficient use of our resources during its every day operation. The Department will minimize the consumption of energy, water and other resources by eliminating wasteful practices, and promoting efficient use.

Reducing Recidivism through Sustainability: The Department will leverage its sustainability initiatives to provide vocational and job training opportunities for incarcerated offenders. Sustainability based training programs can provide real world jobs skills that will allow offenders the opportunity to enter the fast emerging green collar economy upon their release. Additionally, the department will work with fellow stakeholders, in both the public and private sector, to identify employment prospects utilizing the skill sets developed by such training. It is well documented that the occurrence of recidivism is greatly reduced when offenders are released with marketable job skills.

Developing our Baseline Data: The Department will evaluate what our operational impacts are in relation to our environmental impacts. This will be translated into what we use and spend across our Department for each facility, as well as the system as a whole. The baseline metrics will be established to quantify IDOC's efforts going forward when we report against our established metrics.

TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

YEAR 1:

- a. Baseline for energy consumption is established
- b. Alternative and renewable energy sources are identified as provided by current utility providers and within our own means of control.
- c. Baseline for water consumption is established.
- d. Baseline for on site locally grown food utilized in the agency's Dietary Departments is established.
 - Mechanism developed to track procurement of locally grown food in accordance with the Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act
- e. Evaluate ways to use less toxic herbicides, pesticides and other products and substances.
- f. Baseline for solid waste generation is established.
- g. Baseline for paper use and recycled content is established.
- h. Baseline for recycling paper, cans, bottles and other materials is established.
- i. Baseline for number of facility composting programs is established.
- j. Establish a sustainability committee at every facility within the Department.
- k. Establish the paper usage and recycled content baseline for the Department.
- l. Create a sustainability component by the training academy.
- m. Create sustainability centric training materials for both staff and inmates

YEAR 3:

- n. 100 % of the facilities complete a waste audit to help determine solid waste reduction strategies going forward.
- o. Total non-reclaimed water usage is reduced by 5%.
- p. Facilities reduce solid waste by 10%.
- q. Research opportunities related to alternative and renewable energy including but not limited to biomass, turbine, solar and anaerobic digesters to begin implementation of projects.
- r. The sustainability centric training has been attended by 85% of the staff.
- s. The sustainability centric information has been shared with 50% of the inmate population.

YEAR 5:

- t. 15% reduction in total energy consumption from Year 2012 baseline.
- u. Facilities reduce solid waste and food waste by 20%.
- v. Total non-reclaimed water usage is reduced by 10%.
- w. 15% of food served in DOC facilities is either produced locally on site or procured in accordance of the Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act.
- x. Continue to evaluate use of less toxic herbicides, pesticides and other products and substances. Staff and inmates attend awareness training on physical and health hazards and safe use practices.
- y. 10% of renovations and remodels incorporate green building elements.
- z. All paper products purchased are 100% and chlorine free.
- aa. Increase the purchase of the recycled content paper by 10%.
- bb. Reduce paper usage by 15%.
- cc. 100% of our staff will have received sustainability training.

YEAR 10:

- dd. 10% of total energy need is provided from renewable sources.
- ee. Energy reduction from 2012 baseline by 20%.
- ff. Facilities reduce solid waste by 40%.
- gg. 20% of food served in DOC facilities is either produced locally on site or procured in accordance of the Illinois Food, Farms and Jobs Act.
- hh. Total non-reclaimed water usage is reduced by 15%.
- ii. Continue to evaluate use of less toxic herbicides, pesticides and other products and substances.
- jj. Increase the purchase of the recycled content paper by 20%.
- kk. Reduce the purchase of paper by 20%.

STRATEGIES & ACTIONS

Facility Centric Approach: The Department of Corrections has some of the most innovative staff members, who know the unique needs of IDOC's respective facilities. We rely most heavily on the insights of our facility staff when developing strategies that lead to success. We look to each facility sustainability committee to identify what will work for their respective facility, as we know each one is different, and one plan simply cannot work for all of them.

Sharing the Recipe for Success: With this plan, IDOC will build continue to build successful and individualized approaches for each facility, which will solidify IDOC's commitment to sharing information across facilities. Established forums will continue, and the peers at each facility will be able to share their successes across the state. IDOC plans to reuse and retool our successes.

Sustainable Gardening: A back to the basics component of the plan is to expand and/or re-establish produce gardens at local facilities. The Department is committed to becoming more self-sustainable by growing more of its own food.

The harvesting of rain water via low cost "rain barrels" and other systems will be incorporated as part of the garden projects to reduce the use of treated and purchased water.

Composting food waste generated by our dietary departments and using that compost to amend the garden plots will help increase yields as well as reduce the amounts of these materials that are currently disposed of in landfills.

Building a Team of Thousands: The Department literally has a captured audience with our inmate population as well as our dedicated staff. Training our inmates when possible about sustainable practices will create a larger stakeholder group to promote and value such practices. IDOC will develop and distribute sustainability information to all agency staff, and conduct training for target groups to improve our sustainability efforts. Sustainable programming, education, vocation and ICI cohesive coordination offerings will be a component of planning curriculums.

Tame our Energy Hogs: Where possible, replace outdated and inefficient fluorescent lamps and ballasts with CEE approved lamps and ballasts, update boiler performance, and replace, whenever necessary and/or possible, standard efficiency electrical motors with NEMA Premium-Efficiency Motors, approved by the IEEE (institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers). Install, whenever possible, VSDs (Variable Speed Drives) on all applicable motors.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Expand and formalize recycling efforts throughout the Department while working to build greater cohesiveness between each facility's respective recycling programs. Reduce the amount of operational water usage and paper waste in administrative functions.

Develop a Quasi-revolving Fund: In difficult fiscal times finding money for maintenance, investment and upgrades is next to impossible. IDOC could utilize a technique to allow the Department to invest in energy saving projects, and then capture the savings that resulted from the investment, and then reinvest that money in additional energy conservation efforts.

Leveraging Partnerships through Collaboration: All too often in government structures the traditional silos operate as if their missions, impacts, populations, and assets are unrelated. Collaboration with fellow stakeholders in other departments, universities, regulatory authorities and policy setters are inextricably connected and the only chance we have for successful implementation.

Recognizing Success and Innovative: Employee insights are especially valuable when it comes to the innovation process. Recognizing initiative and innovation increases the ability for all of us as a team to be successful in our sustainability efforts.