Sustainable Prisons Project

The Evergreen State College
Washington State Department of Corrections
• HISTORY
• COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES
• EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION
• VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE
MISSION

…bring sustainability, nature, and science into prisons

1) Reduce economic, environmental, and human costs of prisons;

2) Involve offenders in research and conserving biodiversity;

3) Provide science education and green job training
Sustainability research and practices in enforced residential institutions: collaborations of ecologists and prisoners

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Abstract Enforced institutional settings such as penitentiaries provide environments to raise awareness, carry out research, and implement and assess practices for sustainable living. Institutions where residence is enforced due to health, recreational, military, or legal reasons (e.g., assisted living centers, summer camps, army bases, prisons) house people who may lack scientific training but have time and need for intellectual stimulation that can be filled by supervised research. These institutions have stable populations, structured
• HISTORY
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• VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Sustainable Operations

Education & Training

Scientific Research and Conservation
Sustainable Operations

Garbage Sorting
Reduce Solid Waste

Average Pounds of Waste Produced Per Day Per Offender

- 2004: 2.9 pounds
- 2007: 2.6 pounds
- 2008: 2.4 pounds
- 2009: 1.9 pounds
Reduce Fuel Consumption

- Diesel consumption down 25%
- Gasoline consumption down 34%
- COOKING OIL BIODIESEL
- MEETINGS ONLINE
- SLOWED FERRIES
Rainwater Catchment
LEED-certified Buildings
Reduce Energy Consumption

Energy consumption per square foot

- Use Natural Light
- Energy Audits

Kilowatt hours per square foot

2005: 4.1
2008: 3.8
2009: 3.7
Organic Gardening
Composting
Bee-keeping
ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Goal setting for sustainability
- Alternative energy
BIOLOGY OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- Bat Conservation
- Western Bluebird Conservation
- Salmon in the Pacific Northwest
- Shorebirds and restoration
RESTORATION AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Nearshore Restoration
- Habitat Restoration for Fish and Birds
- Wildlife-related job opportunities
ECOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

- Bee Science
- Pollution in the environment and our bodies
HUMAN HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY

- Yoga and Sustainability
- Poetry of nature
- Ethnobotany
WORKSHOPS
Bird and bat house construction

200+ BOXES
Oregon Spotted Frog
*Rana pretiosa*
Frog release
October 2009
Ft Lewis Army Base
www.sustainableprisons.org
• HISTORY
• COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES
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• VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE
EVALUATION

- Offenders
- Corrections Officers
- Prison administrators
- Scientists
- Conservationists

Sustainable Operations

Education & Training

Scientific Research and Conservation
Science
CNN News - Anderson Cooper
Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution
Conservation in Practice
Orion
Discover Magazine
New York Times
The Olympian
Russian Newsweek
Mother Jones
NPR Radio
PBS television
GRANTS AND AWARDS

2009 and 2010
Oregon Zoo Foundation
Future for Wildlife Grants Program

2010 Innovations Award
The Council of Western State Governments
PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Washington State Department of Corrections

Evergreen State College

Oregon Zoo

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Nature Conservancy

U.S. Army
Sharing Success
• HISTORY
• COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES
• EVALUATION AND INTERPRETATION
• VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE
Green Collar Job Training
RARE BUTTERFLIES
Washington State Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Scientific Research and Conservation
Sustainable Operations
Education & Training
Exemplar
Transferability
Sustainable Prisons Project

- Higher Education
- Corrections
- Conservation Groups
- State Government
- Military Bases
"The whole idea of compassion is based on the keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings which are all part of one another and all involved in one another..."

-- Thomas Merton