

# Corrections Directions

ASSOCIATION OF STATE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

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## OTHER NEWS

*Continued*

tuberculosis. Untreated former prisoners carry those diseases into communities on the outside and spread those infections.

### 'Sustainability in Prisons' Network Goes National

With the completion of its second national symposium, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the Sustainability in Prisons Project Network has officially gone national.

The first symposium was held at The Evergreen State College, led by faculty member Carri LeRoy, Ph.D. and Washington Department of Corrections' Dan Pacholke, to introduce participants to the multi-faceted activities going on in Washington State prisons.

The second symposium, held March 20-22 at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, convened with corrections representatives from six states, along with academic experts, scientists, and national authorities on sustainability in corrections, to share resources, ideas, and action plans for implementing sustainability-oriented practices and science-based education and research programs in corrections facilities nationwide.

The Utah Symposium provided an opportunity to continue and extend the work begun at last September's first Symposium at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington.

Thirty-six participants represented teams from California's Los Angeles County and Santa Clara County, Oregon's Multnomah County, the State Departments of Corrections of Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, California, Utah, and Washington. Science faculty from The Evergreen State College, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, University of Utah, and three national resource representatives also participated.

The group convened to present action plans to implement science research, conservation biology, and science/sustainability education as well as cost-savings and revenue-generating programs in detention centers and incarceration facilities nationwide.

The event began with a poster session and included team presentations, panel discussions, and group visioning work. By the end of the workshop, the teams developed a vision for creating a National and International Sustainability in Prisons Project Network.

Each regional group in the emerging Network has proposed sustainability-oriented projects, all of which are based on science and technology, job training, safety, and security.

Science programs often feature propagation and reintroduction of endangered species, such as butterflies, frogs, and native prairie plants.

One of the interesting programs under development by the Ohio Department of Corrections is the proposal to evaluate the feasibility and benefits of breeding and reintroducing the "Eastern Hellbender" in Ohio's rivers and streams. Led by a team of corrections professionals, scientists, the Columbus Zoo, The Wilds, and The Vera Institute of Justice, Ohio, SPP-OH has chosen this endangered species as the focus for science education, skills training, and ecological restoration.

Other facilities, such as Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Pitchess Detention Center and Santa Clara County's Elmwood Complex, are pursuing local, organic gardens for job training and reduced food costs, as well as restoration of local creeks and streams bordering or flowing through the residential facilities.

Oregon's SPP has made huge strides. All of the State of Oregon Prisons are involved and offer a wide range of programming. They offer science lectures, growing Kincaid's lupine and golden paintbrush as nectar sources for native butterflies, multiple produce gardens, nature imagery projections in a segregated housing unit, and ongoing and increasingly efficient and environmentally-friendly operations. Plans for the future include butterfly rearing and expansion in all areas of programming.

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has implemented many sustainability programs in its facilities to build green infrastructure, reduce waste, care for animals, bring nature inside the walls, and promote green corrections. Already the CDCR has seen substantial energy savings and waste reductions. The state of California has discussed additional programming with the Center for Natural Lands Management, Mills College/Saint Quentin, and other potential academic and conservation partners.

The Maryland Green Prisons Initiative is a collaboration between the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), scientists at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), and Baltimore Ecosystem Study LTER researchers. Current programs include sustainable operations, tree planting, restoration of the American chestnut, Master Gardener certifications, and growing oysters to replenish populations of Chesapeake Bay. Complementing these sustainability programs, faculty and graduate students are planning research programs examining biodiversity patterns in the urban environment.

For more information on the Sustainability in Prisons project, visit <http://www.sustainabilityinprisons.org>.

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<http://www.asca.net/system/assets/attachments/5811/May2013CorrectionsDirections.pdf?1369229500>