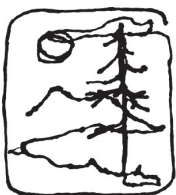


Sustainability in Prisons Project Fiscal Year 2017 Annual Report



This year focused on growing and enriching programs on *many* fronts. We offered innovations such as: a day-long summit for beekeepers held inside a prison, climate change seminars in the turtle programs, donating reference libraries, educational posters and slides, and taking high-quality photos of every prison in the state. In this photo, for the first time prairie nursery partners were able to visit sites where they could see the plants they work with in full bloom. Photo by Ricky Osborne.



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Executive Summary: Sustainability in Prisons Project, FY17

Fiscal year 2017 (FY17, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017) was another productive year for the [Sustainability in Prisons Project \(SPP\)](#) in Washington State (WA). The full SPP annual report aims to represent all science and sustainability programs in WA prisons. Programs may be initiated and operated by SPP founding partners ([WA Department of Corrections](#) and [The Evergreen State College](#)) or allied organizations. This year the SPP collaboration included **186 programs** and **117 partner** organizations statewide. Our executive summary highlights select new changes, programs, partnerships, and expected developments for fiscal year 18 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

SPP Organization Changes: SPP Co-Director, [Steve Sinclair](#) was appointed Secretary for WA Department of Corrections (WA Corrections). Despite new responsibilities, Steve maintained his position as SPP Co-Director.

Emergent vegetation mats (EVM): The EVM program at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) expanded to increase production, and received a grant from [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) (USFWS) for research on the program's innovative restoration technique.

Beekeeping Summit: A statewide Beekeeping Summit was held at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW). More than 125 corrections staff, incarcerated students, and beekeeping experts discussed best practices and program planning. Since the summit, the number of beekeeping programs in WA prisons jumped from 4 to 14.

Composting Specialist Certification: We partnered with [Tilth Alliance](#), corrections staff, and incarcerated technicians at Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC) to develop a composting program certificate. New educational components include reading assignments, workshops, and quizzes.

Piloting New Curricula: We offered [OR Food Bank's Seed to Supper](#) gardening and nutrition curriculum at SCCC. Within various conservation programs, we provided readings and facilitated discussions, some using [Northwest Earth Institute](#) discussion course books on topics such as climate change.

NASA Astrobiology Lectures: We formalized a new collaboration with [NASA](#) and [University of Utah](#) to offer astrobiology lectures in prisons. Workshops are planned for prisons in WA, UT, and OH in FY18.

Focus on Social Justice Topics: SPP staff and [Roots of Success'](#) director wrote a chapter and presented at the launch of [EarthEd: Rethinking Education on a Changing Planet, State of the World \(2017\)](#). SPP [summer newsletter](#) was dedicated to Just Sustainability, featuring articles by incarcerated students.

Workshop Series Analysis: Workshop Series Coordinator Liliana Caughman analyzed participant data from 2009-2016. Findings provided evidence for improved environmental attitudes and content knowledge over time and helped identify workshop format and protocols changes.

College Course on SPP: SPP Education and Outreach Manager [Joslyn Rose Trivett](#) taught "Learning Across Differences: Collaborations in Conservation and Sustainability in Prisons" for Evergreen's [Master of Environmental Studies](#) program. SPP was as an effective case study for graduate-level study.

Educational Prairie Site Visit: Incarcerated technicians participating in the [Conservation Nursery program at WCCW](#) traveled off-site to Violet Prairie and [Wolf Haven International](#) to learn from partners about how the plants they produce are used in Salish lowland prairie restoration.

Community Contributions: Prisons made significant contributions to communities and sustainable food production including 14,601 donated items and more than 491,991 lbs. of produce grown for food banks and prison kitchens.

Energy Project Funding: WA Corrections, [Department of Enterprise Services](#), and [Department of Commerce](#) hosted a National Governors' Association workgroup. They discussed project financing needs to meet energy efficiency demands of a low-carbon future; new strategies and collaborations resulted.

Sustainable Purchasing: To further reduce reliance on single-use plastics, prisons replaced plastic bottles from vending machines with recyclable aluminum cans and disposable plastic cutlery with durable sporks or paper spoons.

Photographed 10 Prisons: Evergreen student and professional photographer Ricky Osborne photographed SPP programs in 10 WA prisons. These high quality images help convey program activities and experiences. Photos were only taken with permission of incarcerated participants and staff.

Anticipated Programs Highlights, FY18

SPP has plans for several exciting new programs and partnerships in FY18. Highlights are below.

Program/Project	Partners and facility	Planned outcomes
Domestic sheep	WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife, sheep experts & WA State University at WA State Penitentiary (WSP)	Sheep arrived at WSP in Sept. 2017. Partners will formalize program protocols, roles, and education and training components.
Certifications and academic credit	All facilities and academic partners	One or more partnerships will serve to review and award academic credit for participation in select SPP certification programs.
Woodpecker nest predation research	U.S. Forest Service at Mission Creek (MCCCW) and Cedar Creek Corrections Centers (CCCC)	Program equipment has been purchased and protocol developed. Education and training will occur at CCCC late fall/early winter.
Taylor's checkerspot butterfly program expansion	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife, & OR Zoo at MCCCW	Partners received a grant to double capacity of the butterfly captive rearing program. Infrastructure is scheduled to be completed June 2018.
PBS Nature media piece	PBS Nature and WA Dept. Fish & Wildlife	Piece will air to national audience, highlighting the great work taking place in the butterfly program
SPP Strategic Planning	SPP, Advisory Panel, and Evergreen leadership	Functional strategic plan to guide organization development
SPP Service Center at Evergreen	SPP and The Evergreen State College	Increased integration with Evergreen campus activities and programs

Conclusion

We are proud of the shared accomplishments of SPP in FY17. The number of new programs, partnerships, and participants in SPP programs continues to increase and reporting continues to improve. Our collaborative success is thanks to the efforts and expertise of many organizations and individuals working across differences toward shared goals.

Our fruitful collaborations yield successes and challenges. In addition to our shared accomplishments, we have faced challenges such as delays to launching new programs, changing availability of funding, and staffing restrictions. We will continue to maximize productivity by leveraging resources, cultivating partnerships, creating adaptability and resilience, and prioritizing initiatives best aligned with SPP goals. For FY18, we look forward to organizational planning and further program enhancement and development. Together we are creating positive change for people and the environment.

Full Annual Report available: <http://sustainabilityinprisons.org/resources/spp-publications/>

SPP's Year in Photos



The emergent wetland vegetation mat (EVM) program at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) expanded to increase native plant production. The highly-collaborative program was awarded a grant from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to help fund research on this innovative restoration technique. In this photo, partners look at the roots of emergent plants that have grown through to the underside of a mat. Photo by SPP staff.



In collaboration with partners, SPP wrote a beekeeping guide to support establishment of more programs in Washington prisons. Following completion of the guide, we held a statewide Beekeeping Summit at Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW). About 125 participants spent the day sharing best practices. In the six months since the Summit, beekeeping programs have increased from 4 to 14 facilities statewide. Photo by Ricky Osborne.



We partnered with [Tilth Alliance](#), corrections staff, and incarcerated people at Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC) to develop a certificate for composting program participants. New program components included supporting literature, fact sheets, workshops, and quizzes. Photo of Vermiculture technician showing the program to visitors by Sadie Gilliom.



Prisons made significant contributions to communities and sustainable food production including 14,601 donated items made from repurposed materials and more than 491,991 lbs. of produce grown for food banks and prison kitchens. Photo of gardeners at AHCC by Lieutenant Mayfield.



SPP Co-Director Steve Sinclair was appointed by the Governor as Secretary for WA Department of Corrections. We are thrilled Steve maintained his SPP directorship even as he took on greater responsibilities with the Department. Photo of Steve at the Beekeeping Summit by Ricky Osborne.

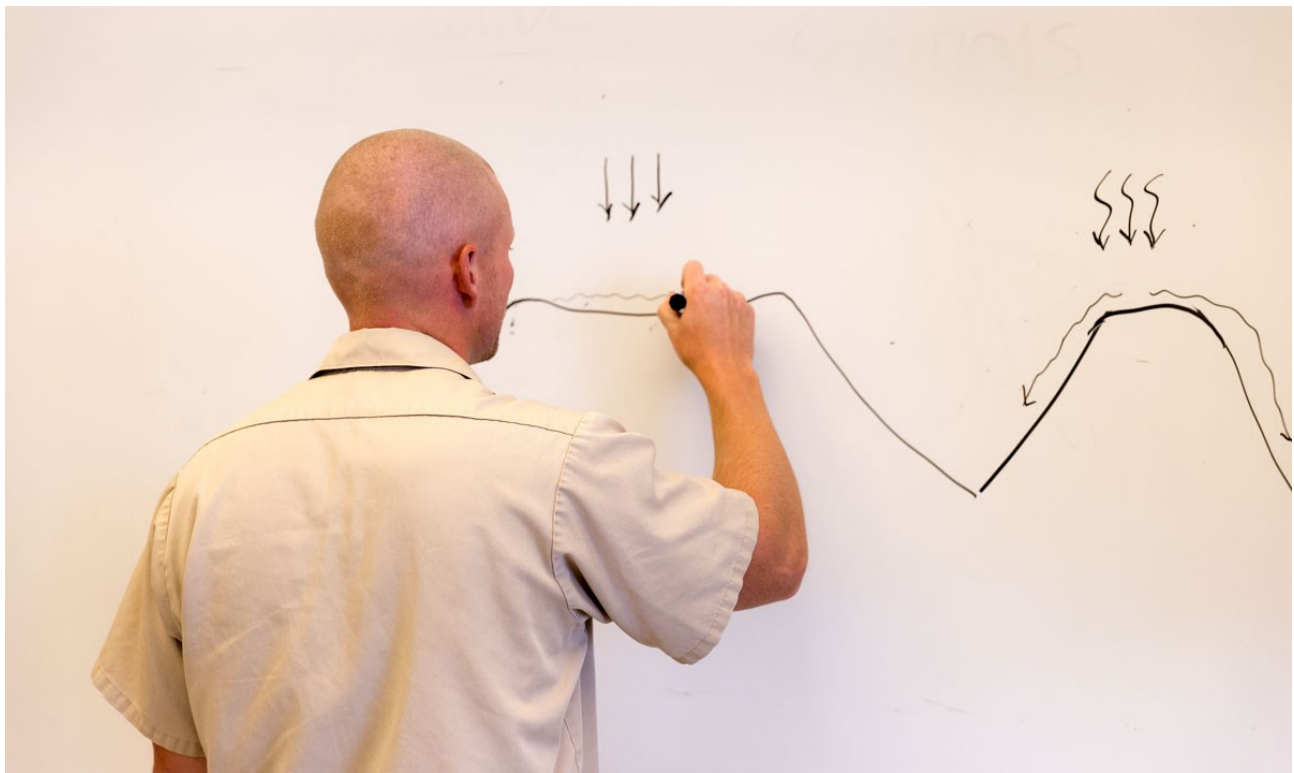
EarthEd Symposium and Live Webcast



SPP and Roots of Success staff wrote a chapter and participated in Worldwatch Institute's launch of EarthEd: Rethinking Education on a Changing Planet, State of the World (2017). We dedicated an issue of our bi-annual newsletter to the topic of Just Sustainability. Screen capture of Joslyn Rose Trivett presenting at State of the World 2017 launch.



SPP Workshop Series Coordinator and Evergreen graduate student Liliana Caughman analyzed workshop student surveys from 2009-2016. Findings showed environmental attitudes and content knowledge have improved over time. Results also helped managers identify changes for the series. Photo of Liliana Caughman presenting program results at WCCW by Joslyn Rose Trivett.



We offered OR Food Bank's Seed to Supper gardening and nutrition curriculum in the Conservation Nursery program at Stafford Creek Corrections Center. We also provided readings and facilitated discussions on topics such as climate change using guides from NW Earth Institute. Photo of a student in the Seeds to Supper class by Ricky Osborne.



Ricky Osborne photographed SPP programs in 10 prisons statewide, and at Evergreen. These quality images help us convey program experience and many are included in this report. Photos were only taken with subjects' permission. Photo of Sadie Gilliom giving their thesis presentation by Ricky Osborne.



SPP Education and Outreach Manager, Joslyn Rose Trivett, taught a course on SPP in Evergreen's Master of Environmental Studies program, "**Learning Across Differences: Collaborations in Conservation and Sustainability in Prisons.**" Photo of students and a guest expert by Joslyn Rose Trivett.



To further reduce reliance on single-use plastics, prisons replaced plastic bottles from vending machines with recyclable aluminum cans and disposable plastic cutlery with durable sporks or paper spoons. Photo of smashed aluminum cans in a prison recycling program by Benj Drummond and Sara Joy Steele.



From 2009 to the end of FY17, 37 Evergreen students have worked for SPP programs, most of them as program coordinators. Here, outgoing and incoming Green Track Coordinators Emily Passerelli and Bethany Shepler pose with the honeybee hives at WCC. Photo by Ricky Osborne.