

Sustainability in Prisons Project Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report



2017-2018 was a year of centering SPP's incarcerated and previously incarcerated partners by providing new educational programs and partnerships. Inside SPP programs, partners increased and formalized educational content and activities for several programs. We offered first-ever special events such as Astrobiology lectures and a day-long Climate Symposium (pictured above). Outside of prison, both SPP-Evergreen and WA Corrections took part in building coalitions and collaborations to bring more benefits to justice involved individuals. Photo by Ricky Osborne.



the
evergreen
state college



Executive Summary: Sustainability in Prisons Project, FY18

Fiscal year 2018 (FY18, July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) was another successful year for the [Sustainability in Prisons Project \(SPP\)](#). The SPP partnership was founded by [Washington Department of Corrections](#) (WA Corrections) and [The Evergreen State College](#) (Evergreen) in 2003, and has grown to include many collaborators. The full SPP annual report aims to acknowledge all contributing partners and describe all science, environmental education, and sustainability programs in WA prisons. This year, SPP partners reported **191 programs** and **158 partner organizations** statewide. Our executive summary highlights select FY18 programs, partnerships, and developments and goals for FY19 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019).

SPP Mission and Vision Statements: Partners from Evergreen and WA Corrections engaged in several productive conversations, culminating in updates to [SPP's mission and vision statements](#). In addition, we set the stage for strategic planning with shared sessions on SPP branding, values, and program model.

College Credit for SPP Certificated Internships: Building on several years' work, we solidified a proposal to award college credit for SPP-certificated internships during incarceration. WA Corrections partners have offered strong support. We are working with Evergreen to identify a viable process for credit awards. In the interim, certificates will be reviewed for pre-determined credit awards post-release.

Renewable power contracting: WA Corrections contracted with [Avista's Solar Select](#) program to purchase 1.2 million kilowatt hours of green power annually to be produced by the state's largest solar installation project. WA Corrections is pleased to support development of clean, renewable energy.

Coalition Building: SPP-Evergreen staff have been investing in and building relationships among reentry experts, justice-involved students, corrections-involved programs, faculty, and administrators to bolster support for education and employment post-release.

Gardening for Communities: [Washington Corrections Center for Women](#) (WCCW), [Stafford Creek Corrections Center](#) (SCCC), [Washington Corrections Center](#) (WCC), and [Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women](#) (MCCCW) have new partnerships that increase their capacity to grow food for area food banks: [Kitsap Conservation District's](#) GRACE Project, [Mother Earth Farm](#), and [Harvest Now](#) give access to garden plots and vegetable seeds so that prisons can do more for their communities.

SPP-Evergreen as College Service Center: July 2017, the Evergreen Board of Trustees approved a proposal to change SPP's designation from a faculty project to a staff-led [Service Center](#). This designation recognizes SPP's service-based model and well-established partnerships.

Partnership with WA Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT): SPP initiated a promising partnership with [WSDOT Environmental Services](#); the shared goals are to provide education and training during incarceration and to reduce employment barriers for WSDOT career pathways post-release.

Statewide Beekeeping: The number of beekeeping programs and partnerships established to support them has increased significantly in a short period of time; there are now [13 healthy programs](#) supported by incarcerated beekeepers, corrections staff, and partners.

Executive Order 18-01 State Efficiency and Environmental Performance: WA Corrections helped develop, and is implementing the [Governor's Executive Order](#) for reduction of carbon emissions and toxic pollution produced by state government. Multiple WA Corrections staff serve on work teams to identify effective waste, emissions, and pollution reduction strategies.

Astrobiology for the Incarcerated: In partnership with [NASA](#) and [University of Utah](#), SPP offered astrobiology workshops in multiple prisons in Washington, Ohio, and Utah. Five special events were held in Washington prisons reaching over 450 incarcerated students and 52 corrections staff.

Sheep Husbandry: WA [Dept. of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW), corrections staff, SPP-Evergreen, and partners launched a new Sheep Husbandry program at [Washington State Penitentiary](#) (WSP). The program aims to raise domestic sheep free of a pathogen that is lethal to wild bighorn sheep.

Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly: It was an [outstanding year](#) for the program at MCCCW. Incarcerated technicians set a new record, yielding 8,000 butterfly eggs in one season. Also, they hosted many high-level visitors and toured [WDFW prairie sites](#).

Anticipated Programs Highlights, FY19

Program/Project	Partners and facility	Planned outcomes
Enhanced curricula	MCC, SCCC, Oregon Food Bank, incarcerated students	New gardening curricula based on Seed to Supper; draft compost curricula for statewide programs; new resources for existing conservation programs
SPP certifications sheep, gardening, & composting	WSP, MCC, SCCC, WDFW, sheep husbandry experts, incarcerated students, Sustainability Fellow	New certifications with pre-determined college credit value for participants in sheep, gardening, and composting programs
Increased operations alignment	All facilities	Shared policies and protocols adopted by WA Corrections, SPP-Evergreen, and respective program partners for increased operations efficiency
WSDOT education, training & employment pilot projects	WSDOT, SCCC, Cedar Creek Corrections Center	New education and training, identified environmental career pathways, and increased outreach to potential participants
Publication in Princeton book	Incarcerated participants at most WA facilities	Draft essays for inclusion in national publication on science in prisons
Certifications and academic credit	All facilities and academic partners	One or more partnerships review and award academic credit for participation in select SPP certification programs
SPP Strategic Planning	SPP Advisory Panel and Evergreen leadership	Functional strategic plan to guide organization development

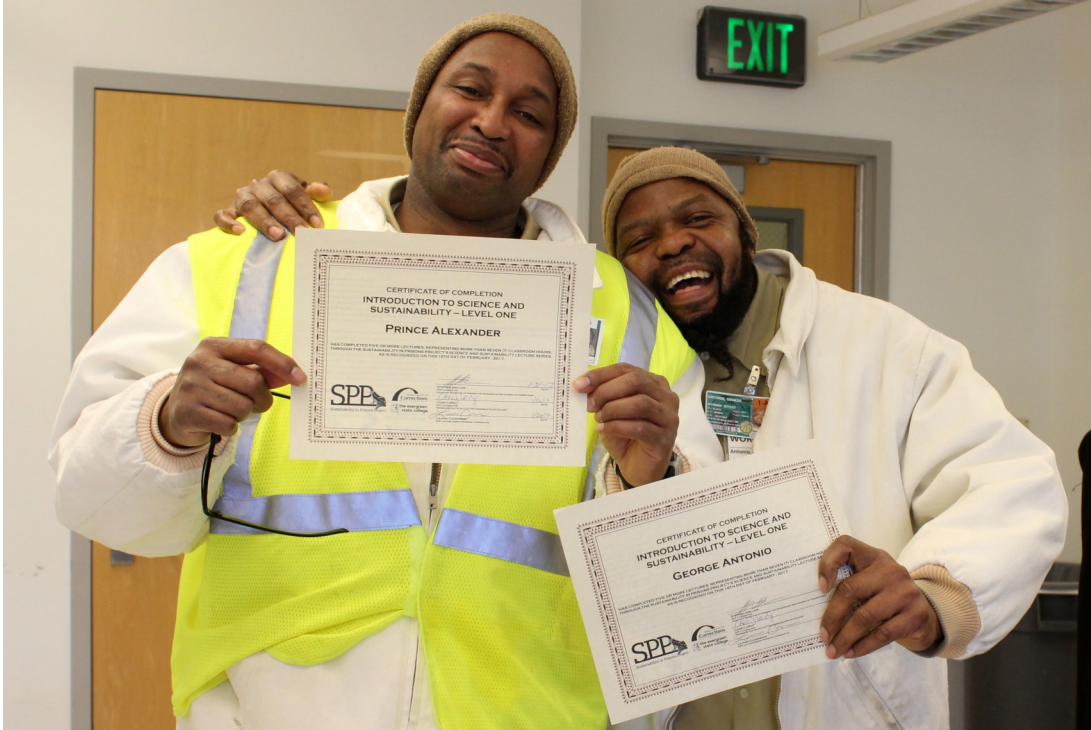
Conclusion

Our collective accomplishments in FY18 are thanks to the contributions and expertise of many different organizations and individuals. Programs including diverse partnerships among incarcerated people, corrections staff, scientists, students, and program partners are having meaningful, positive impacts on complex environmental and social issues.

As we celebrate our successes, we are also mindful of challenges and the need for continual improvement. Partnerships require diligent attention to ensure all contributors feel valued and to recognize every partner's limitations. We remain committed to addressing all stakeholders' needs, fostering a culture of mutual respect, leveraging resources, and prioritizing initiatives best aligned with SPP goals. 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, 2017-2018



Above, two students of SPP's longstanding workshop series at Stafford Creek Corrections Center (SCCC) show off their program certificates following an award ceremony. Photo by Liliana Caughman.

This year, partners gave new focus to SPP's certificate programs. Building on several years' work, SPP-Evergreen solidified a proposal to award college credit for SPP certificated-internships during incarceration; the next step is to find a viable process for these awards. We also launched two new certificate programs with awards for composting technicians at Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC; pictured below preparing an award ceremony speech; photo by Kelli Bush), and to Roots of Success Instructors who have taught the 50 hour curriculum three or more times.





In a new partnership with the US Forest Service, partners started a woodpecker video monitoring program at Cedar Creek Corrections Center (CCCC). Biologists trained technicians to observe and record data from video footage, for a study on woodpecker nest predation. Previously, only graduate students have contributed to the project, but CCCC's technicians have effectively embraced the program and partners are planning expansion to a second prison. Photo by Jessica Brown



Late in 2016, SPP-Evergreen and University of Utah joined NASA to found a national program called Astrobiology for the Incarcerated. This year, Evergreen staff joined program sessions in Utah and Ohio, and facilitated five sessions in WA prisons. In this photo, Dr Drew Gorman-Lewis of University of Washington describes his research to students at Airway Heights Corrections Center. Photo by Kelli Bush.



Over the last few years, Washington State Penitentiary (WSP)'s Electrical Department has replaced many conventional light fixtures with more efficient LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes). These retrofits require time and money up front, but the expected payoff is substantial. Energy savings from each project should pay off installation cost in one to six years and savings will continue beyond the initial pay back period. Photo courtesy of Jim Atteberry.



This past year, SPP's Advisory Panel expanded to 14 members, representing formerly incarcerated partners, corrections, conservation, and education. Pictured here, Reed Schuler, Senior Policy Advisor for Climate and Sustainability for the Governors' Office, talks about SPP values with a prison superintendent, three members of SPP-Evergreen staff, and a member of Evergreen's faculty. Photo by Joslyn Rose Trivett.



WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, corrections staff, SPP-Evergreen, and sheep experts launched a new Sheep Husbandry program at WSP in the fall of 2017. The program aims to raise domestic sheep free of a pathogen that can be transmitted to—and is lethal for—wild bighorn sheep. The program required a few years of planning, and a successful inaugural season bodes well for 2019. Photo by Kelli Bush.



Following the statewide beekeeping summit in 2017, bee programs are booming! Eleven of WA's 12 prisons host programs. MCC hosts two, and incarcerated bee technicians from CCCC tend bees at the prison and at a new program on McNeil Island, pictured above. Enthusiasm for these programs can hardly be overstated. Photo by Bethany Shepler.



Two community service crewmembers from Mission Creek Corrections Center (MCCCW) work in the GRACE Project garden. The GRACE Project is a new initiative of the Kitsap Conservation District and stands for Gardening for Restoration and Conservation Education. In the first year of the program, MCCCW has been able to help grow ~11,000 lbs. of produce for area food banks. Photo by Keegan Curry.



It was an outstanding year for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly program hosted by MCCCW. Incarcerated technicians set a new record, yielding 8,000 butterfly eggs in one season. They also hosted many high-level visitors and toured WDFW prairie sites. In this photo, Biologist Mary Linders shows the technicians which areas of the prairie are currently occupied by reintroduced butterflies. Photo by Keegan Curry.



This past year, a group of formerly incarcerated students currently attending The Evergreen State College formed a leadership group for justice involved students. Their work has catalyzed coalition building among justice-involved organizations and individuals, on Evergreen’s campus and beyond. For SPP-Evergreen staff, their efforts and input have been invaluable. Photo by Keegan Curry.



In the wetland conservation nursery at SCCC, technician Brian Bedilion tells partners from WA Dept. of Transportation (WSDOT) and Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) about his experiences in the program. SPP has initiated a promising partnership with WSDOT Environmental Services to provide education and training during incarceration and to reduce employment barriers for WSDOT career pathways post-release. Photo by Ricky Osborne.