



## THE SPP NETWORK – BACKGROUND

Our vision is that new SPP teams will join the SPP Network to synchronize programming, evaluation, and dissemination of results. The SPP Network will build a set of science, conservation, and sustainability research projects that increase the possibility of large-scale restoration and coordinated funding. Although each state and corrections institution is unique, our experiences with the SPP approach point to Five Essential Components for new SPP teams. The priority and order of installation may differ in each state, county, or type of institution.

# SUSTAINABILITY IN PRISONS PROJECT ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

## 1. PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH MULTIPLE BENEFITS

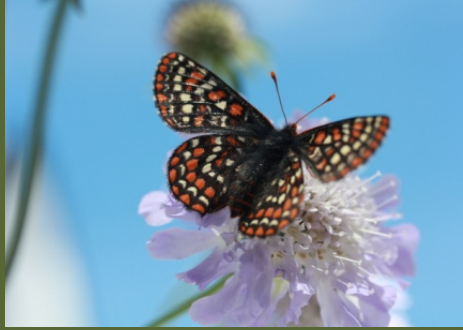
Seek out partnerships adapted to the needs of your region. Establish a truly collaborative approach in which each contributor plays an important role. See partnerships as central to accomplishing program objectives. Involve and benefit:

- Incarcerated individuals
- Students and/or education organizations
- Conservation, sustainability, and/or science organizations or initiatives
- Correction centers and corrections center staff
- Local communities and ecosystems

## 2. BRINGING NATURE “INSIDE”

Create opportunities to work with living things through lectures, workshops, conservation programs, and other programming. Also create opportunities to contribute (OTC) to outside communities and ecosystems. Examples are:

- Endangered species and/or ecological restoration programs in partnership with relevant conservation organizations and regulators
- Conservation lectures and workshops
- Canine and feline rescue programs
- Beekeeping
- Horticulture programs which contribute food to facility operations or charities



### 3. ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Offer science and sustainability education to underserved audiences involving and benefitting incarcerated students, college students, Department of Corrections staff, scientists, and the broader community. Provide green job training and skills development for a variety of employment options. Examples are:

- Sustainable operations and conservation programs that include education regarding how and why programs are implemented
- Incorporation of job skills and certification programs
- Emphasis on the importance of tasks and OTCs– i.e., how involvement influences and contributes to the broader community and/or restoration efforts

### 4. SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

Reduce, reuse, repurpose, and recycle materials whenever possible. Increase prison safety by providing programs that reduce offender idleness and engage offenders in pro-social activities. Example initiatives include:

- Rainwater catchment, effluent reuse systems, or other water conservation projects
- Energy Service Company (ESCO) projects, alternative energy, and other energy mitigation strategies
- Green purchasing and procurement
- Zero waste garbage sorting centers, on-site composting, and vermiculture systems

### 5. EVALUATION, DISSEMINATION, AND TRACKING

Provide for tracking, evaluation, and a plan for sharing program progress and results as a component of all program implementation. Specifics should include:

- Provision of a comprehensive evaluation program (with approved Human Subjects Review)
- Information dissemination regarding SPP programs to other SPPs, the public, DOCs and other SPP partners, funding sources, media, etc.
- Data systems to record baselines and track progress on targeted goals such as energy use, waste reduction, water conservation, etc.

### BENEFITS OF JOINING THE SPP NETWORK

The SPP Network will support and encourage open dialogue, sharing of ideas, and the advancement of these model-concepts. In addition, protocols, best practices, media materials, media-guidance, site visits, collaborations, funding opportunities, and breakthroughs will be shared with and among SPP Network members.

### CONTACT US

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