

Learning Conservation in Prison

NOVEMBER 8, 2017 BY [SHANNA EDBERG](#) — [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)



The [Sustainability in Prisons Project](#) is partnering with inmates to develop and advance conservation efforts in prisons in the United States. Some of the conservation programs include zero-waste centers, cultivation of native plants to restore local habitats, and breeding threatened pollinator species. These programs engage prisoners and give them opportunities to learn more about conservation, the scientific process, and even to author papers. Through their work, the prisoners also forge greater ties with the local community. As one graduate of the program said, "I walked in a prisoner and out a scientist."

Climate Protection: Reduces or sequesters greenhouse gases, depending on the program

Jobs & Assets: Teaches job skills; improves prospects after release

Health, Well-Being, & Safety: Increases mental engagement and well-being

Connection: Educates inmates; provides an opportunity for meaningful work