

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office Sustainable Jail Project



The Multnomah County Sustainable Jail Project paves the way towards truly sustainable jails. From energy retrofits to composting waste to local purchasing, the Sustainable Jail Project provides a roadmap for cost effective jail operations that are greener and support our local economy. In 2011, the Sustainable Jail Project saved \$400,000 and those cost savings are expected to grow significantly.

These successes are the result of Sheriff's Office leadership and hard work on the part of employees who find innovative solutions to improve our jails and public safety efforts. The Sustainable Jail Project is a partnership between the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and the Office of Sustainability.

For more information visit: www.sustainablejails.com

Sustainable Jail Highlights

Sustainable Jail Kitchen

Every year the kitchen prepares over 1.5 million meals. Many of those meals are prepared by the inmates themselves as part of the work program. In addition, recycling and composting programs have increased the amount of waste that is diverted from the landfill. Recycling and composting waste is 60% less expensive than sending it to the landfill. Highlights include:

- Food handler certification cards and training opportunities are provided to inmate crews in the kitchen
- \$140,000 was spent on local food last year which has a 1.75 economic multiplier effect
- 110,000 pounds of food waste diverted from the landfill annually



Sustainable Jail Project Highlights



Sustainable Jail Laundry

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office washes over a million pounds of laundry every year. The laundry was identified as the highest user of utilities on a per-a-square-foot basis in the entire county. Some ways that the Laundry has become more sustainable include:

- The laundry was upgraded to recycle water from the washers - water efficiency was improved by 80%, energy efficiency increased by 50% for a savings of \$60,000 per year
- Switched from plastic wrap to twine for binding laundry, eliminating 72 miles of plastic wrap and saving over \$9,000 per year
- The laundry washed 13,800 pounds of blankets for warming centers in the last two years
- 1,000 pounds of discarded blankets donated to animal shelters annually – the blankets are put to use as bedding for orphaned dog and cats

Sustainable Jail Purchasing

Multnomah County jails house and feed an average of 1,200 inmates every day and small changes can result in dramatic cost savings and reductions in resource consumption. Some examples include:

- Buying disinfectant cleaner in bulk and reusing containers saves over \$250,000 per a year and keeps 16,960 jugs out of the landfill
- \$28,000 saved annually by discontinuing the use of 1.5 million freely supplied golf-pencils per year, and switching to one-per-inmate flex pens
- Went from using 800,000 Styrofoam cups per year to reusable flexi-cups for a savings of \$9,120 annually
- Replaced freely supplied paper with an issued notepad for an annual savings of over \$7,000 per year
- Switching to paperless reports reduced paper use by 6%
- Replaced 8,000 pairs of sandals destined for the landfill each year with sturdier recyclable alternative that has a longer reuse life

