American Correctional Association

PUBLIC CORRECTIONAL POLICY ON ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABILITY-ORIENTED PRACTICES

2011-1

Introduction:

Adult and juvenile facilities and programs have the responsibility to deliver short- and long-term cost-effective performance through the implementation of environmentally responsible and sustainability-oriented measures, such as composting, energy conservation, recycling, water conservation, pollution reduction and the utilization of renewable energy alternatives.

Policy Statement:

The American Correctional Association fully supports appropriate short- and long-term cost-effective facilities and materials management strategies that are resource efficient and environmentally responsible. Therefore, public and private agencies at the federal, state and local levels should:

A. Promote and engage in recycling and composting programs efforts that may be determined by the surrounding community resources regarding markets and services for such materials. However, each facility and program should pursue all reasonable alternatives that have the effect of an overall reduction in both the waste stream and waste sent to landfills;

B. Conserve energy through periodic energy-use audits and cost-effective efficiency improvements in areas such as lighting, heating, cooling, transportation and building construction. Agencies should pursue preventive maintenance schedules that demonstrate effective maintenance of heating and cooling equipment. Agencies should demonstrate analysis of the cost of transportation vehicle use and related fuel consumption. Agencies should require LEED standards in all remodeling and new construction;

C. Conserve water through the use of cost-effective, efficient water use technologies. Agencies should seek alternatives to unlimited water use in the form of efficient plumbing fixtures such as reduced flow shower heads, waterless urinals, time-controlled fixtures for offenders, development of drought-resistant landscaping, recycling of rainwater runoff, and similar strategies;

D. Reduce pollution through the use of nontoxic, non-caustic chemicals, liquids and powders;

E. Utilize cost-effective, renewable energy alternatives. Agency staff should be able to demonstrate that they have researched and sought methods of obtaining and implementing cost-effective,
renewable energy strategies.

F. Provide appropriate training to staff and offenders regarding environmental responsibility and cost-effective, sustainability-oriented practices. For offenders, training may include both general environmental literacy as well as preparation for future jobs in building retrofit industries or in alternative energy industries such as solar, wind, or geothermal installation, operation and maintenance. Programming may also include work with natural environments, including gardens and animal care, where appropriate. For staff, facilities should seek ways to share information on the importance of energy, water and resource conservation, to aid in the efficient and cost-effective operation of their workplace. Training should facilitate staff and offenders working together as stakeholders in key facility sustainability initiatives, resulting in a more cooperative work and living environment.

G. Provide for organizational strategies that allow time and opportunity for staff to focus on environmental and resource efficiency issues.

H. Utilize a system to monitor water, electric, natural gas, and fuel usage and cost data, as well as waste stream volumes, disposal costs, and revenue generation.

This policy was unanimously ratified by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly at the 141st Congress of Correction. It was reviewed and reaffirmed at the 2016 Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA.