

Detention Center Recycling Project

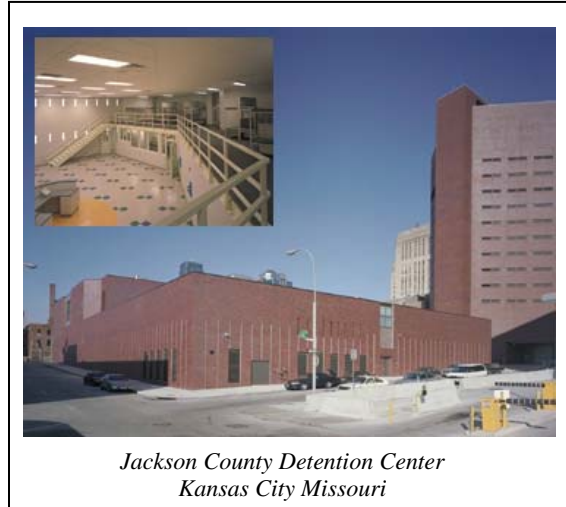
Project Summary

When the Jackson County Detention Center, in Kansas City Missouri, was challenged by County Executive, Katheryn Shields, to recycle at least 40% of their waste, they didn't panic. In fact, Graham Morris, the Center's Director, faced that challenge head-on.

The Detention Center houses an average of 765 inmates, and generated a lot of waste...over 500 tons annually, according to a 2001 Tellus Insistute waste audit. They were already doing the obvious recycling of paper waste, which has been ongoing in the County since 1996, so Morris had to get creative to reach that 40% goal, and started by making small changes to their daily operations.

One of the first things they did? They issued inmates reusable cups, which eliminated the use of over 1 million Styrofoam cups a year. Then they started looking into other areas where waste could be recycled, and were surprised at how many recyclable items were used every day—like grease, toner cartridges, and even inmate shoes (5 tons of shoes are currently recycled each year!).

In late 2005, an organic recycling program was started, in which all food waste and paper products from the food trays were collected for composting. It has been estimated that over 84.5 tons of compost will be diverted each year.



Date Implemented: 2002-2005

Time Required to Implement:
Phased over 3 Years

Start-Up Costs: \$15,000

Staff Required: 1 FTE

Agencies Involved: Private Hauling, Consultant

Contact Info:

Graham Morris – Director of Corrections
816-881-4233 • gmorris@jacksongov.org
Chris Bussen – Resource Conservation Manager
816-795-1246 • cbussen@jacksongov.org

Benefits

- Reduced waste hauling fees by **93%**
- Over **\$150,000** saved in waste hauling costs over 9 years
- Over **170 tons** of waste diverted each year
- 260 trash pulls a year reduced to only 17.3 pulls a year!
- Over 40,000 lbs of paper recycled
- 2,000 lbs of plastic recycled
- 53,000 lbs of cardboard recycled
- 1,600 lbs of electronics recycled
- 44,000 lbs of grease recycled
- 20,000 lbs of pallets re-used/sold
- 700 lbs of toner cartridges re-used
- 18,000 lbs of tin recycled
- 10,000 lbs of shoes recycled into Nike Grind