



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Oregon DOC receives two awards for outstanding sustainability efforts

The Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) was recently presented with two awards for its commitment to sustainability practices: a Portland Business Journal Innovation in Sustainability Award, and the Governor's Sustainability Award from Business Oregon.

On November 18, the Portland Business Journal presented DOC with a 2014 Innovation in Sustainability Award in the "waste" category for its commitment to recycling. Part of DOC's efforts in this area is the development of a fully-operational recycling center that collects all recyclables from the department's 14 prisons. The center recycles everything from ballistic vests to metals to shoes.

On December 10, Secretary of State Kate Brown presented DOC with the Governor's Sustainability Award at the Northwest Environmental Conference, hosted by the Oregon Sustainability Board and Business Oregon. DOC was one of only two recipients honored with the Governor's Award, which promotes and advances the use of sustainable practices in government and the private sector. DOC was specifically recognized for:

- Completing energy audits at five of its facilities and creating site-specific plans for operational improvements, capital projects, and behavioral activities;
- Using integrated and natural pest management practices;
- Implementing green chemistry initiatives at its facilities;
- Leasing land to food banks at no charge to grow produce for food banks;
- Developing gardens at all 14 prisons (yielding more than 210,000 pounds of produce in 2013); and
- Starting significant wildlife and habitat conservation activities, including restoration work at a Savanna Haven and providing habitat for the Oregon Silverspot butterfly and sage grouse.

"DOC is a large organization, spanning across the state, with over five million square feet of facilities," said DOC Director Colette S. Peters. "We take seriously our responsibility to mitigate the carbon footprint in Oregon. We are honored and humbled to receive these awards, which celebrate our commitment to achieving long-term sustainability goals."

DOC employs 4,500 staff members at 14 institutions, two community corrections offices, and several centralized support facilities throughout the state. The agency is responsible for the care and custody

The mission of the Oregon Department of Corrections is to promote public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions and reducing the risk of future criminal behavior.

of over 14,600 adults sentenced to more than 12 months of incarceration, and direct or indirect supervision of 31,000 offenders on felony supervision in the community. DOC is recognized nationally among correctional agencies for providing adults in custody with the cognitive, education, and job skills needed to become productive citizens when they transition back to their communities. The agency is continually looking at new and innovative approaches to energy conservation and sustainability.

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