

**SUSTAINABLE LIVING, SUSTAINABLE LIVES**  
**Proposal for a lecture series on sustainability issues at the CCCC**

Sustainability is a critical part of all living systems. However, many practices carried out by our society are not sustainable, but rather rely on continued outside sources of energy and materials. People are now working to make sustainable practices a part of their work, play, and consciousness. This is particularly important in institutions such as prisons, where resources are limited for administrators, and where behaviors to practice sustainable living can be taught for life after release.

We have carried out preliminary work on The Moss Project at the CCCC, an effort to teach inmates how to grow moss for the horticulture trade as an alternative to unsustainable harvest of mosses from wild forests. We have been impressed by the eagerness of the inmates we encountered to learn more about the natural world and the relationship of humans to it. We are also aware of the initiatives and incentives to make the CCCC and other correctional centers more sustainable.

We propose to initiate a lecture series for inmates and staff that focuses on issues of sustainability of all kinds, with both on the applied aspects and the ecological principles behind the practicality of sustainability. We envision a regular afternoon or evening lecture of 1 hour, with 30 minutes for discussion. Each month, an outside speaker would be escorted to the CCCC, deliver the lecture, and answer questions. He/she would also provide copies of written materials (pamphlets, papers) and handouts that can remain at the CCCC. Just as The Moss Project had a research/practicum component (growing mosses in the greenhouse), so might other lectures lead to research projects following the lecture and contact with the lecturer. Below is a list of potential topics and lecturers.

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*What is sustainability? An exploration of ideas and practices* (Rob Knapp, engineer/physicist, The Evergreen State College)

*The CCCC Moss Project – developing techniques to sustainably grow an economically and environmentally important product* (Nalini Nadkarni, ecologist, The Evergreen State College)

*Gas from grass? Biodiesel fuel production at a local, regional, and international scale* (Mike Cook, transportation specialist)

*In the prison, in the forest: water catchments and the hydrological cycle* (Paul Butler, geologist, The Evergreen State College)

*Sustainable gardening in the Pacific Northwest* (Erica Guttman, horticulturist, Washington Native Plant Society)

Other topics: recycling, global climate change, toxics in our environment; indoor pollution

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