



06 MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES

*By Lida Poole
Marketing Manager
Maryland Correctional Enterprises*

Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) has implemented many key programs to help raise awareness and educate consumers on the sustainability of utilizing environmentally "green" initiatives, all which will contribute to a healthier and environmentally sound Maryland.

The first initiative is the growing of bay shoreline grasses that provide a filter and an anchor to offer protection and prevent erosion. This program will encompass several hundred acres of shoreline in strategically designated areas of Maryland's cherished Chesapeake Bay. The shoreline grass project was developed to start from seed collection through the growing process and culminate with crop planting. MCE's first greenhouse was constructed for germination and seed growth of a variety of plant species.

Secondly, MCE will grow and plant trees for reforestation of disturbed land. Maryland is in the process of constructing an Inter County Connector (a state highway expansion to connect Howard Co. to Montgomery Co.), resulting in the installation of new roadways which will ultimately result in the displacement of vegetation. To help mitigate this damage, MCE will assist with the growing and planting of trees on reclaimed areas. Hundreds of acres will be planted with new ground covers and forests.

Thirdly, we have expanded our agriculture program to now include thirty-five acres of field crops along with our existing apple tree orchard. These fruit and vegetable harvests will be supplied to many local correctional institutions throughout Western Maryland. These programs allow offender employees to experience the growing phase of plants through their full life cycle. This valued opportunity of nurturing living things has proved to be very beneficial in developing healthy perspectives in lives.

Another MCE initiative is to improve quality of life by providing our customers with products that have been tested and certified by GREENGUARD Environmental Institute. The purpose for participating in this program is to promote products which reduce the off-gassing of hazardous toxic materials and create cleaner indoor air. This certification program was formed to rate the chemical emissions performance for low emitting products for interior environments. MCE can proudly offer a variety of proven certified products including seating, systems furniture, tables and accessories that promote a healthy and environmental friendly place to work and live.

Last of all, we have initiated a Surplus Removal/ Disposal service to show our dedication by helping to protect our natural resources. MCE offers our customers the option to recycle any unwanted furniture. We pick up and sort furniture items which will be refurbished or recycled into raw materials that



GOING GREEN AND CLEAN!

07

would otherwise end up in Maryland landfills. The combination of these correctional industry programs and services contribute toward instilling offender transferable job skill training, which result in lower recidivism rates.

MCE looks forward to continuing our ultimate mission to interconnect with our community where we live and work and to the environment by offering more responsible choices for today and for the future.

Together, with our program partners, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Anne Arundel Community College (AACC), State Highway Administration (SHA), the Providence Center (a sheltered workshop), and GREENGUARD Environmental Institute (GEI), who have contributed by way of their experience and knowledge, we will continue to strive to develop many more valuable green projects.

Helping manufacturers produce results.

“With the Implementation of the Global Shop system, Iowa Prison Industries has averaged 98.7% on-time deliveries over the past 3 years! Sales, customer satisfaction and profits have also increased during the same time frame.”

Roger L. Baysden
Deputy Director, Iowa Prison Industries

For a **FREE** copy of “Get ERP Right The First Time™” call 1-800-364-5958 or visit www.globalshopsolutions.com/offer.htm and enter code **433340**.

