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Berks County Correctional Facility Approach to Sustainability

The County of Berks will meet the community's needs by planning and building a correctional facility that is secure, safe, sustainable and allows for compassionate confinement. Our intent is to promote and encourage the use of sustainable practices that support a high-performance building and cost-efficient operations along with prioritizing the health and well-being of those employed and detained inside the new facility.

As we set out to design, construct and operate the new Berks County Correctional Facility, we will view sustainability through the "3 E's":

- Environment reducing the building's carbon footprint, pollution and waste stream.
- Economic reducing costs over the lifetime of the building.
- Equity targeting programs that will increase the possibility of redirecting the behavior of the individuals whose activities have resulted in their confinement.

We encourage the use of international standards and principles in sustainable design and operations for the new correctional facility – not only to improve the environment, but also to prioritize the health and security of those detained, employed and visiting in the facility. We believe by following these standards, the new facility will operate more efficiently, ultimately saving on operational costs and taxpayer money.

During the planning stages of the project the County of Berks will determine any level of certification the design and construction professionals will be required to meet.

CGL's Approach to Sustainability

Detention and correctional facilities are unique related to sustainability as certification standards are not specifically designed and written for this facility type. However, the principles behind these standards can largely be met through careful planning and design. At the outset of the Berks County Correctional Facility process, our aim is to create a more efficient, resilient and sustainable correctional facility. Our comprehensive approach involves all team members, including our planners, operations experts, architects, interior designers, engineers and maintenance experts. Further, our vast experience in sustainable design will help guide the project in international sustainable design and operations standards, whether or not the project achieves recognized certification.

Our approach to environmentally sustainable design starts with designing an efficient and well insulated exterior envelope; meeting or exceeding industry requirements for energy use, water use and natural light; carefully selecting and specifying sustainable materials with high recycled content and environmental certifications; and ensuring that all systems are installed and performing as designed through a comprehensive commissioning process at the project conclusion.

CGL has completed nearly 40 judicial system projects that have achieved LEED Certification at all levels, including the Cheltenham Youth Facility (LEED Silver); San Diego County Las Colinas Women's Facility Development (LEED Gold); Middlesex County Jail Expansion (LEED Silver); Wake County Hammond Road Jail Program (LEED Silver); Denver Detention Center (LEED Silver); and Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center (LEED Gold).

BERKS COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY