MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Breaking Ground: Sustainable Reform & Economic Savings

Missouri Leadership Academy Capstone, September 2026

Our Team

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The Problem

The Department of Corrections will expend approximately $1.7 million in Fiscal Year 2026 on waste removal services.

Problem Statement

High cost for waste removal services provided to 24-hour facilities that operate within the Department of Corrections could be reduced over the course of 12-24 months by the integration of food waste composting programs.

Composting Benefits

The benefits of composting as a general practice

- Waste reduction
- Cost reduction
- Vocational opportunities
- Restorative justice
- Community partnerships

Ozark Correctional Center

What went well?

- Residents enjoyed working the program
- Waste removal cost reduction ($10,000 annually in 2014)
- Community partnership

What prevented it from moving forward?

- Funding & resources
- Succession & process planning
- Leadership support

Pilot Recommendations & Goal

Pilot recommendation: Implement Composting

Goal:

- Test the concept with low-cost implementation
- Use insights to scale

Considerations:

- Facility economics & cost-benefit framework
  - Per collections
  - Per tonnage
  - Combination

Pilot Site – Ozark Correctional Center

Why?

- History of success with composting program
- Resources & infrastructure

What is needed for success at a site?

- Supplies, resources & funding
- Commitment to the project at a facility level
- Succession & process planning

Baseline Assumptions – Ozark Correctional Center

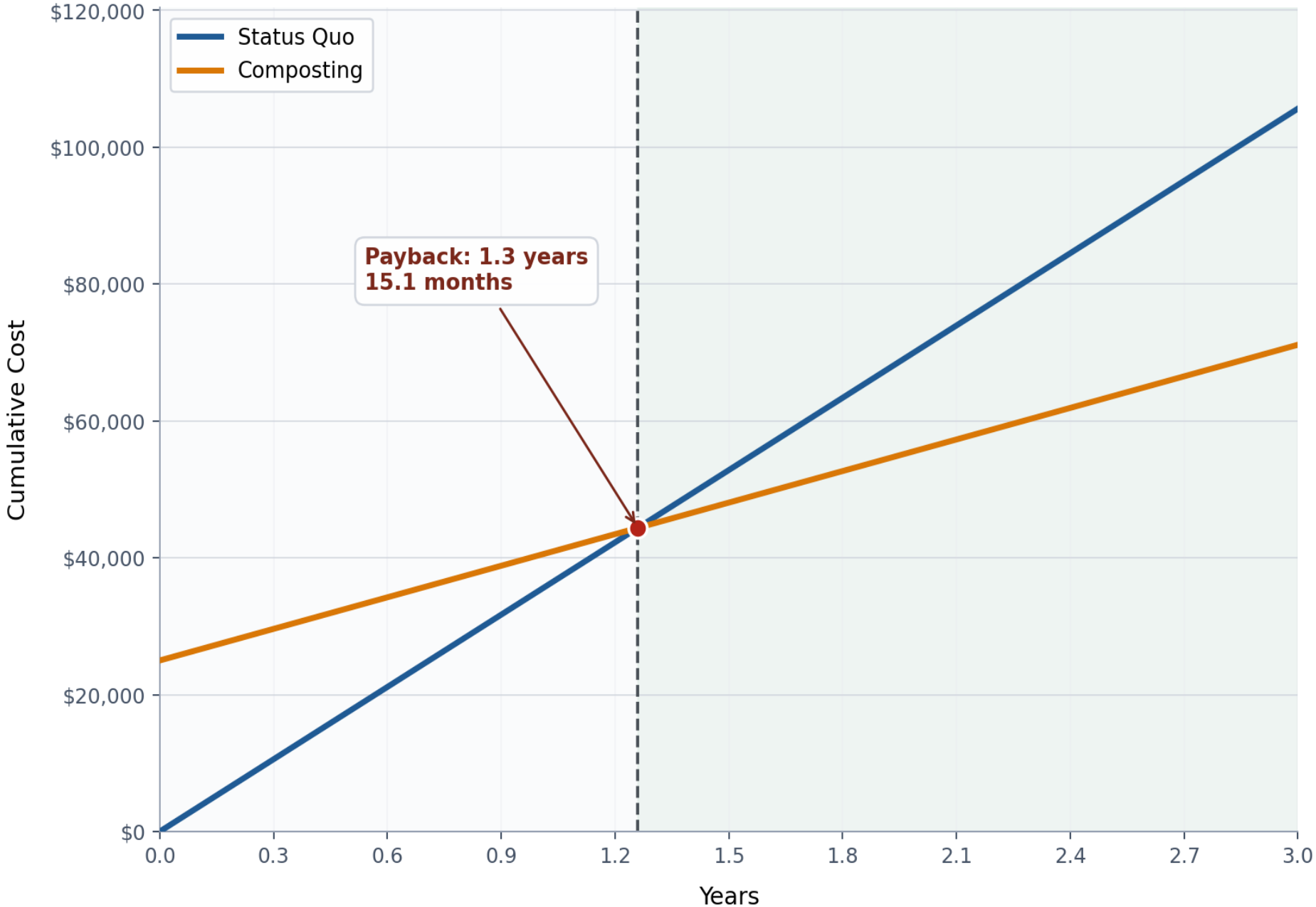
OCC Background

- Yearly cost: $35,212
- Yearly food waste: ~113,000lbs
- Baseline number of days between pickup: 11 days
- Current cost per pickup: $1,181

Composting at OCC

- Assumed diversion percentage: 85%*
  - ~96,400lbs, annually
- Setup cost: $25,000 (high estimate)
- Annual maintenance cost: $5,000
- Post composting number of days between pickup: 30 days (estimate)

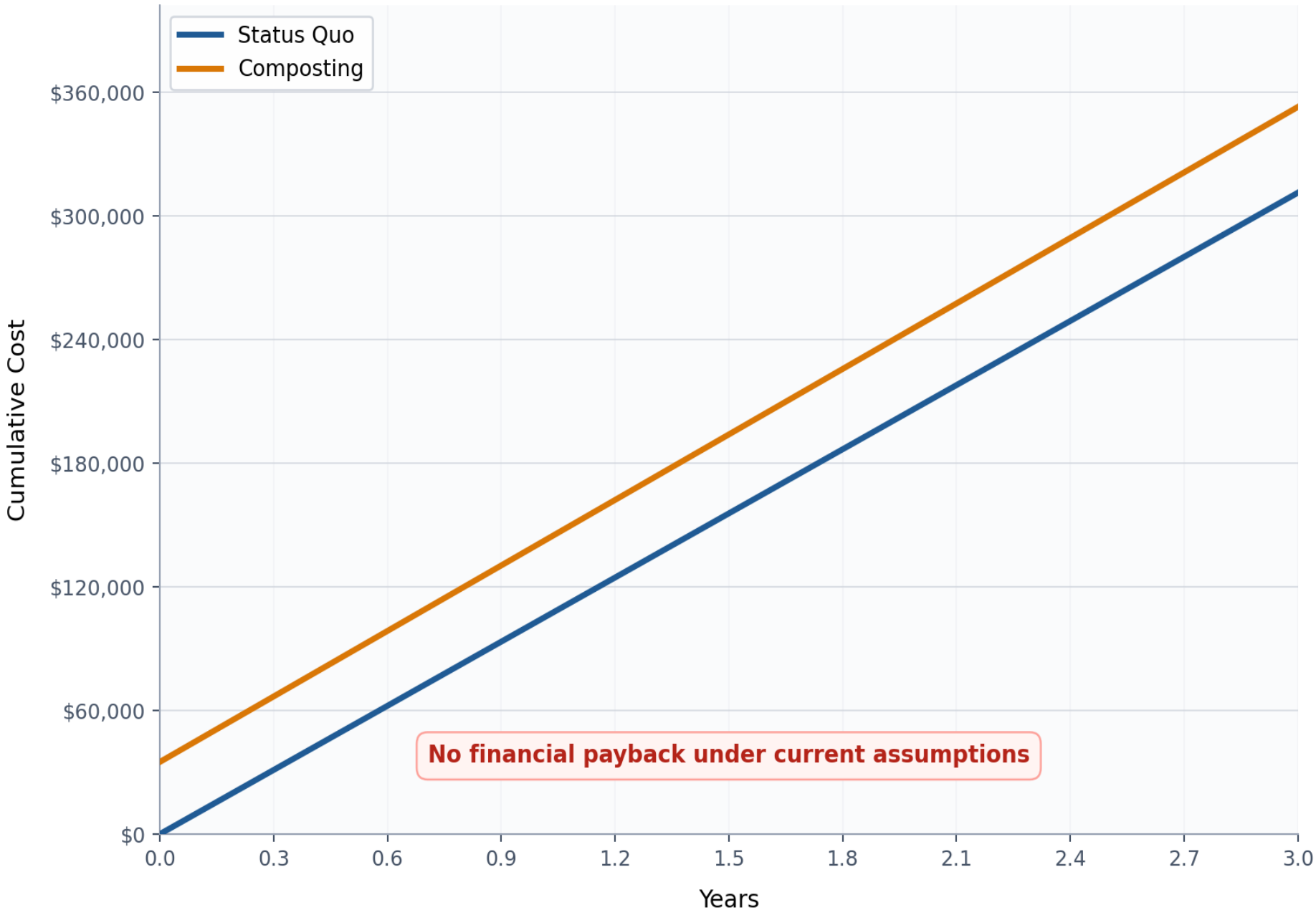
OCC: Cumulative Waste-Management Cost



PROJECT ECONOMICS

Initial Investment	$25,000
Annual Trash Savings	$24,836
Annual Maintenance	$5,000
Net Annual Savings	$19,836
Food Waste Diverted	48.2 tons/year
Realized Diversion	85.0%

EXAMPLE_SITE: Cumulative Waste-Management Cost



PROJECT ECONOMICS

Initial Investment	$35,000
Annual Trash Savings	$12,791
Annual Maintenance	$15,000
Net Annual Savings	$-2,209
Food Waste Diverted	134.6 tons/year
Realized Diversion	80.0%

Vocational Benefits

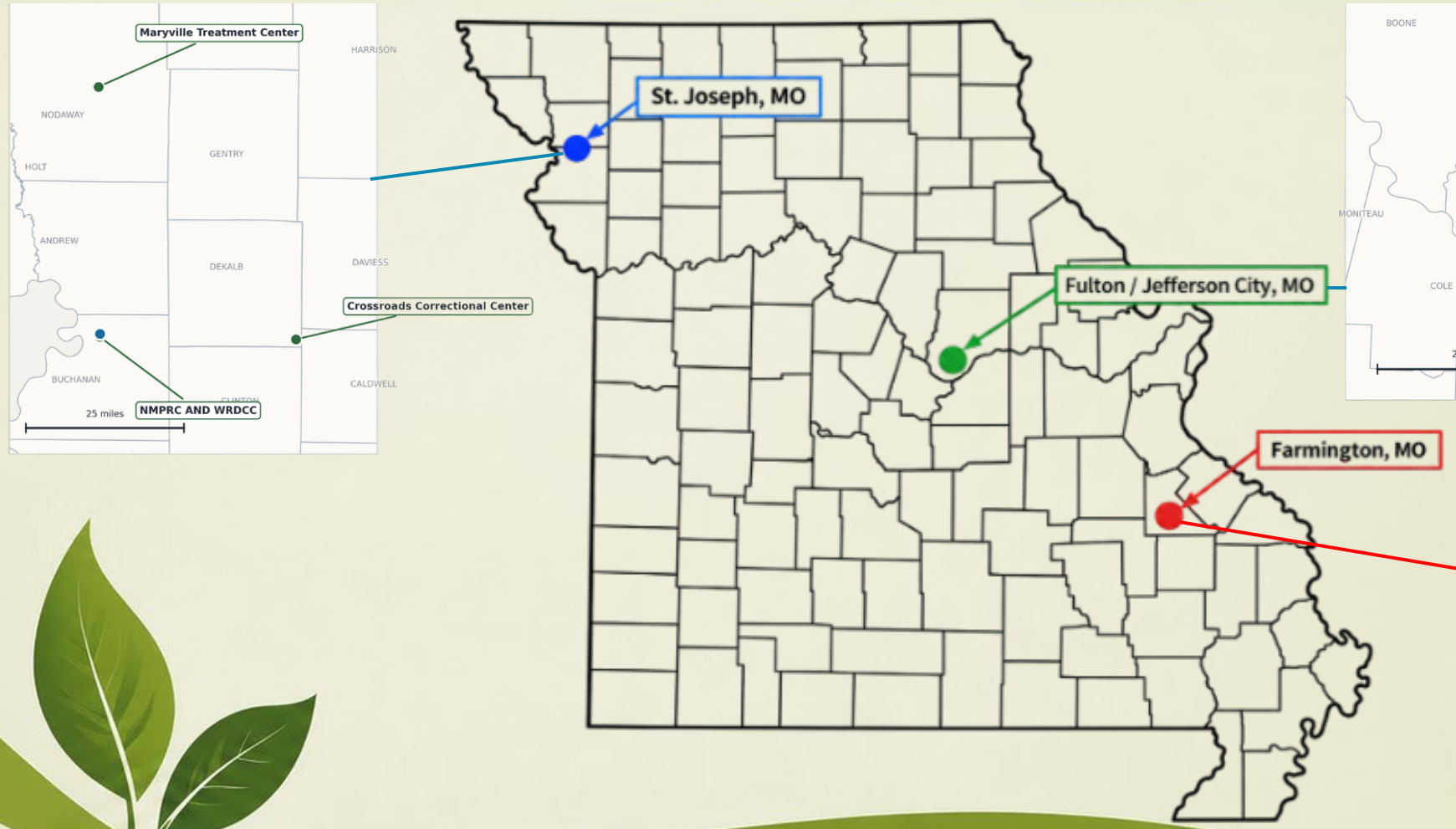
Decreased recidivism

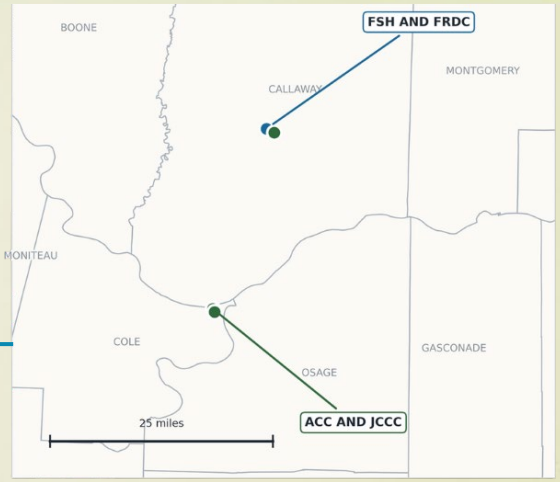
Higher job readiness

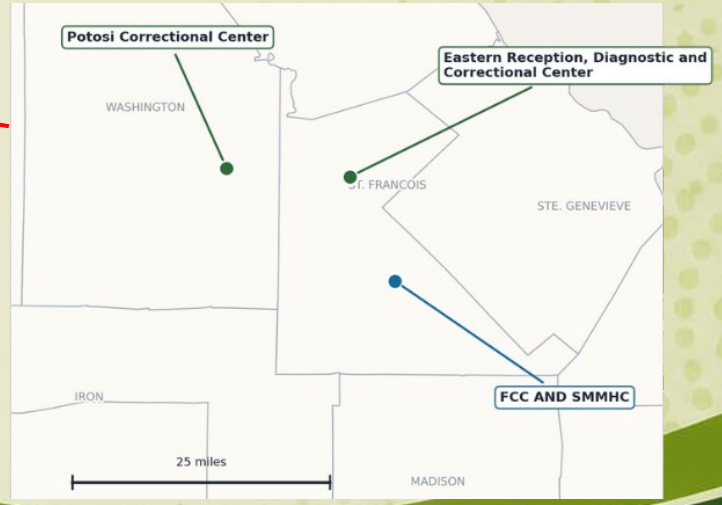
Increased confidence and pro-social behavior

Stronger community reintegration

Potential Partnerships







Conclusion

- Cost reduction
- Vocational opportunities
- Community partnerships
- Promotion of restorative justice

Scan to view the 2014 Press Release for successful composting efforts at OCC

Special Thanks

We'd like to thank the following individuals & organizations:

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