



Composting Toilets in Public Venues: Costs and Benefits (Booth 13) (/initiative/4WxY/composting-toilets-in-public-venues-costs-and-benefits-booth-13)

We have compiled a review of six installations of composting toilets in public venues the U.S., three of which are in California.

In conducting our review, we were led to believe that opportunities exist for similar installations in Santa Cruz County that could serve to reduce the demands on our water supplies as well as to educate the public about effective alternatives to our traditional flush toilets and the sewer systems that service them.

Submitted by Peter Scott

Comments

Colin Young 3w, 5d ago

CON

Where viable compost toilets at best will only have a minuscule impact on SC city water demands.

Fred Martinez 2w, 6d ago

CON

Good to do but not effective in the overall water use.

Manu Koenig 3w, 6d ago

QUESTION

Can you discuss the maintenance cost of a public composting toilet vs. traditional toilet in more detail? Is the composting toilet actually cheaper to maintain? If so how many years until it becomes cost competitive with traditional toilets?

You say this:

"Furthermore, the cost for the maintenance, which can be contracted for and thus may be assured, is minimal. Developers or contractors, charged with estimating installation costs for toilets, may be inclined to pursue the "Build cheap, maintain expensive" philosophy, whereas the overall cost should be taken into account."

But I can't find a comparison of the overall costs.

Michael Lewis 3w, 6d ago

NEUTRAL

I didn't get to talk to Peter about this. How many opportunities are there in the County to replace flush toilets with composting toilets? Would the County be able to handle the maintenance requirements of such systems?

Bill Smallman 3w, 5d ago

PRO

I am in favor of this in areas not connected to the wastewater infrastructure already paid for, and investing in a Recycle plant to capture this water instead.

Jean Brocklebank 3w, 2d ago

PRO

This makes sense as one good opportunity for public venues, where new toilets are proposed, thus saving the water pipe delivery and wastewater pipe infrastructure. Maybe it is not a BIG picture solution, but every single step that

saves water - or uses water wisely - should count in planning to meet water consumption needs for any community.

Peggy Kenny 2w, 2d ago

PRO

Better idea than flush toilets

Christine Y Kirven 2w ago

PRO

Peter did not address the issues of so many of the public, 70%, I have read, being on pharmaceuticals of some kind, making the end compost inappropriate for food crop use, still in India and other places, much irrigation is fertilized this way. Great start to have public toilets use this. My friend, "Old John" who died at 95 always said downtown needs more public toilets so having some in such a highly visible place would be great. Not a big saver overall but the idea being introduced to people, the move for home units, such as those outlined in the book, Humanure, could then eventually be accepted, saving fortunes on garage toilet units, etc.

Christine Y Kirven 2w ago

(comment disabled) PRO

Jan Karwin 2w ago

This proposal is worthy of further research and evaluation by the panel of experts.

Dorah L Shuey 3w ago

PRO

This sounds great- I would like to see regulations permitting composting toilets in residences and businesses as well.