

## **Policy: SEWAGE TREATMENT**

Prepared By: Planning

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**The Problem:** The farm does not have septic tanks that can support 60 persons even for a short period of time. Poor sewage disposal can create dysentery, hepatitis and cholera.

### **Assumptions:**

The average person produces 2.5 pints of urine and one pound of feces every day.

This equates to a volume of two five gallon buckets per day for 60 persons.

**Plan:** Use home made composting toilets and store the contents off-site using the Human Manure method as recapped at

<http://www.co-opvillagefoundation.org/vHumanmanure.asp>

This will allow us to operate safely forever.

The composting of the material will render it mostly sanitary in a few weeks by burning it up.

The compost can be dispersed in 12 months or placed on vegetables after 24 months of curing.

We can make the toilets ourselves. Each will contain a special colored five gallon bucket. This makes removal to the compost pile simple and sanitary by placing a lid on the bucket.

The method is odorless and sanitary, both in the bathroom and the compost pile. Odor is kept away by covering the waste with sawdust, leaves, grass, compost, dirt, shredded paper, or hay after each use.

The compost pile will be a four foot cube when completed. Sixty persons will fill one cube every two weeks.

Some urine can be collected separately. Because it is sterile and high in nitrogen, it can be safely placed on crops in place of fertilizer.

Bathrooms can be located near where people congregate for their convenience.

**Cost: \$150 Total.** Store bought materials would cost about \$25 per toilet.

### **Cons:**

Would require that all fecal matter be collected in composting toilets ONLY.

All materials needed can be gathered from a vacant home (toilet seat, 2 door hinges, 2 buckets with lids).

Toilets in campers would collect urine only, unless that camper stored enough chemicals to liquefy feces, or that owner was willing to transport his holding tank contents to the compost pile himself.

It is not fun to throw up in a composting toilet.

**Responsible Party:** Medical Focus Group.