Non-Sewered Sanitation Devices: A New ISO Standard for the Reinvented Toilet

Edward R. Osann, Natural Resources Defense Council

Joelle Wirth, RS, REHS, Coconino County, Arizona

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Education Conference

Nashville, TN

July 10, 2019

Today's Presentation

- The imperative to "Reinvent the Toilet"
- Development of an ISO Product Standard
- Performance requirements in the ISO Standard
- Main technology paths
- Likely applications of NSSDs in North America

The Global Sanitation Problem

- 1 in 10 people live without clean water – that's 844 million people
- 1 in 3 people, 2.3 billion, do not have regular access to a decent toilet
- 800 children under 5 die *every day* from diarrheal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation

"Improved sanitation contributes enormously to human health and well-being, especially for girls and women. We know that simple, achievable interventions can reduce the risk of contracting diarrheal disease by a third."

WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan

This is an International Priority

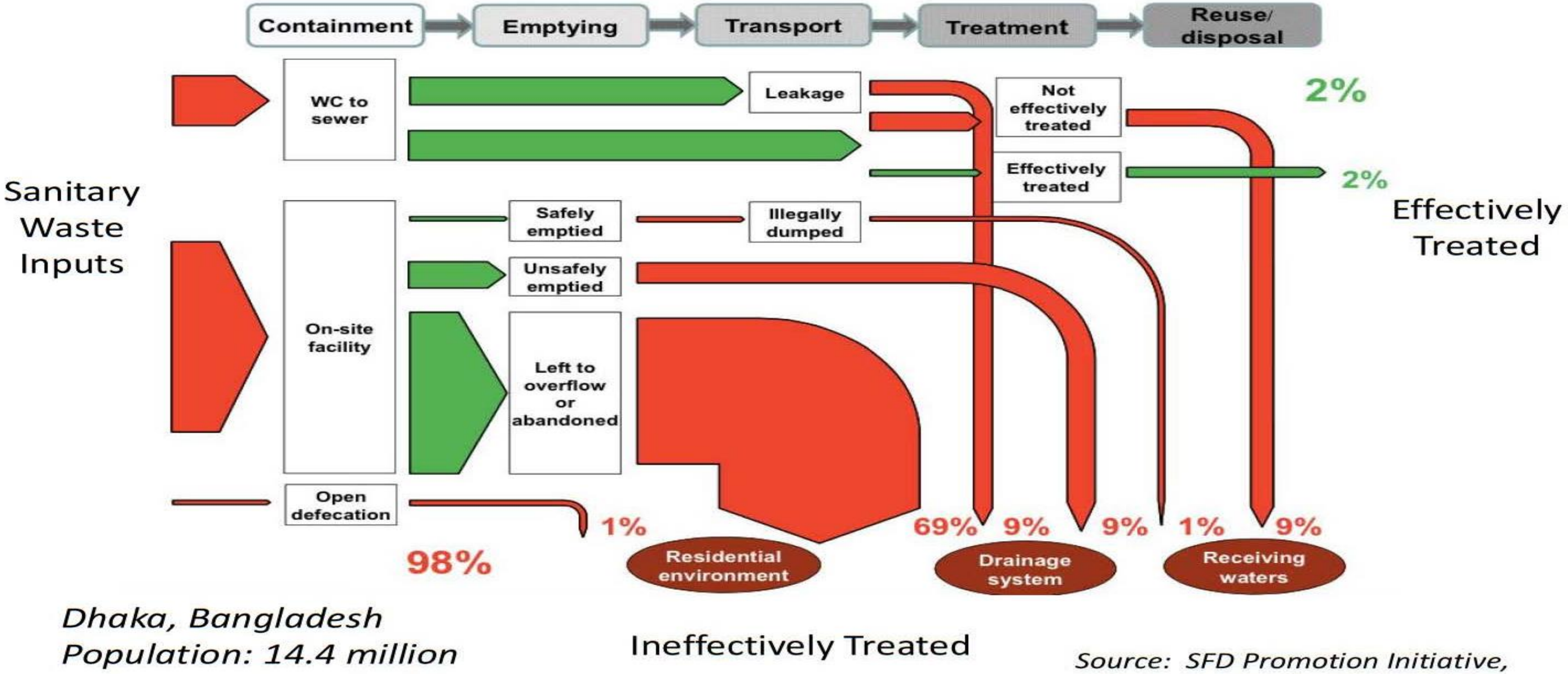
UN Sustainable Development Goals (2015)

- Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of **water** and **sanitation** for all
- “Access to safe water and sanitation and sound management of freshwater ecosystems are essential to human health and to environmental sustainability and economic prosperity.”

2017 WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme Report

- “Universal implies all settings, not only to households, but also schools, health care facilities, workplaces and other public spaces.”
- “These limited sanitation services reflect both cultural practices and socioeconomic constraints in densely populated areas.”

Understanding the Problem



Dhaka, Bangladesh
Population: 14.4 million

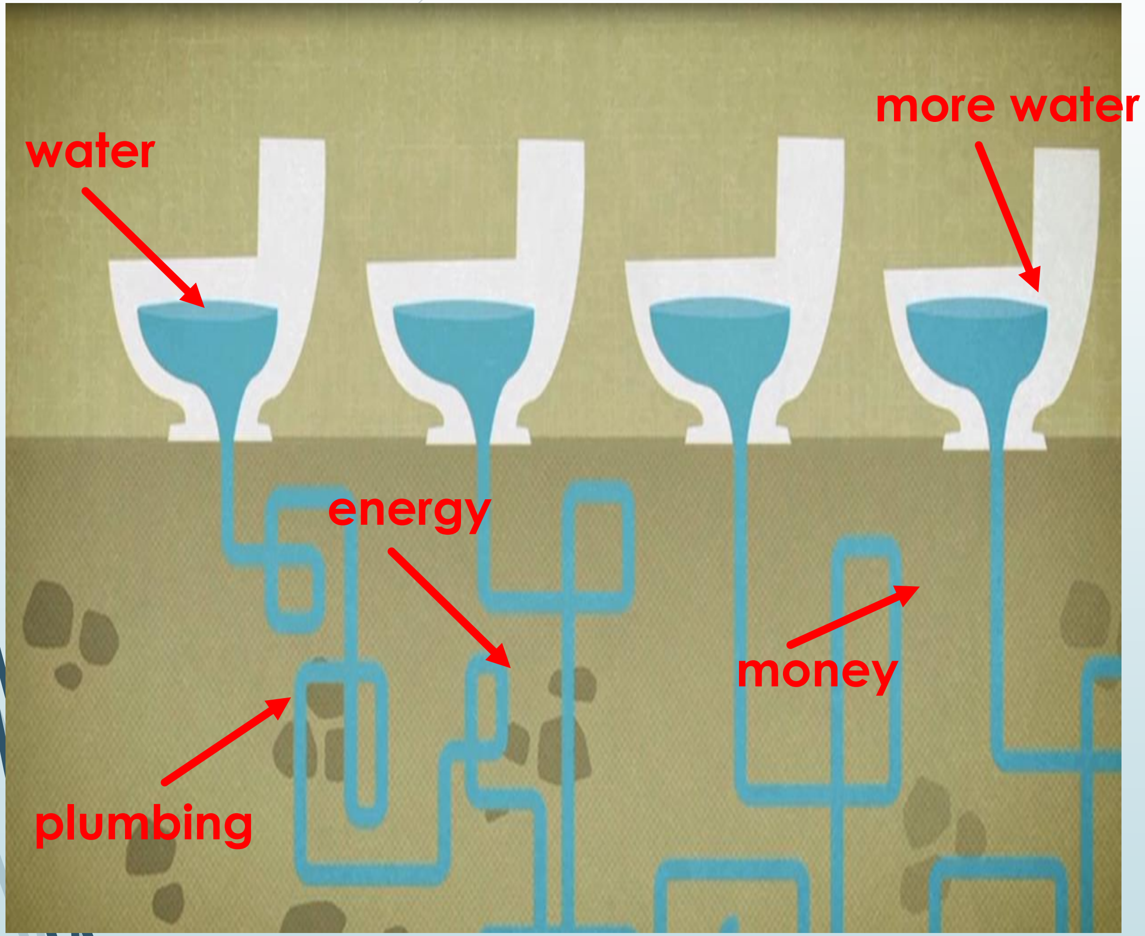
Source: SFD Promotion Initiative, Panesar, et.al., 2015

The Extent of the Problem

Kigali, Rwanda

- Population of over 1.1 million
- Lacks a sewer system
- 67% of its residents live in dense, unplanned areas
- Majority of those living in unplanned areas use pit latrines
- Most pits are emptied manually

2011: Gates "Reinvent the Toilet" Challenge



The Reinvent the Toilet Challenge aims to create a toilet that:

- safely eliminate or beneficially recover human waste,
- works off the grid,
- costs less than 5 cents per user per day,
- promotes sustainable and financially profitable sanitation services and businesses that operate in poor, urban settings, and
- is a truly aspirational next-generation product that everyone will want to use.

Gates' Grantees for "Reinvent the Toilet" Initiative

- Groups and Principal Investigators:
  - California Institute of Technology – Mike Hoffman
  - Cranfield University – Ewan Mc Adam
  - Loughborough University – M. Sohail
  - RTI International – Brian Stoner
  - University of South Florida – Daniel Yeh
  - University of Toronto – Yu-Ling Cheng
  - University of West England, Bristol – Ioannis Ieropoulos
  - Eawag – Tove Larsen
- All have published literature (all open access papers)

The Value of a Product Standard

- Provides a clear roadmap for researchers, product manufacturers, and marketers.
- Provides specific guidance for procurement by large purchasers
- Instills confidence in government regulators to permit the sale and installation of such products in their jurisdiction
- An international standard offers potential scale economies for manufacture and distribution of compliant products

From Concept to ISO Standard

- 2014-2015: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation private standard development
- May 2016: ISO International Workshop Agreement (IWA 24:2016): Singapore
- Sept 2016: ISO Project Committee 30500 organized: Washington
- May 2018: Final ISO PC 30500 plenary: Katmandu
- Oct 2018: ISO 30500 published

What is a non-sewered sanitation system (NSSS) under the ISO Standard?

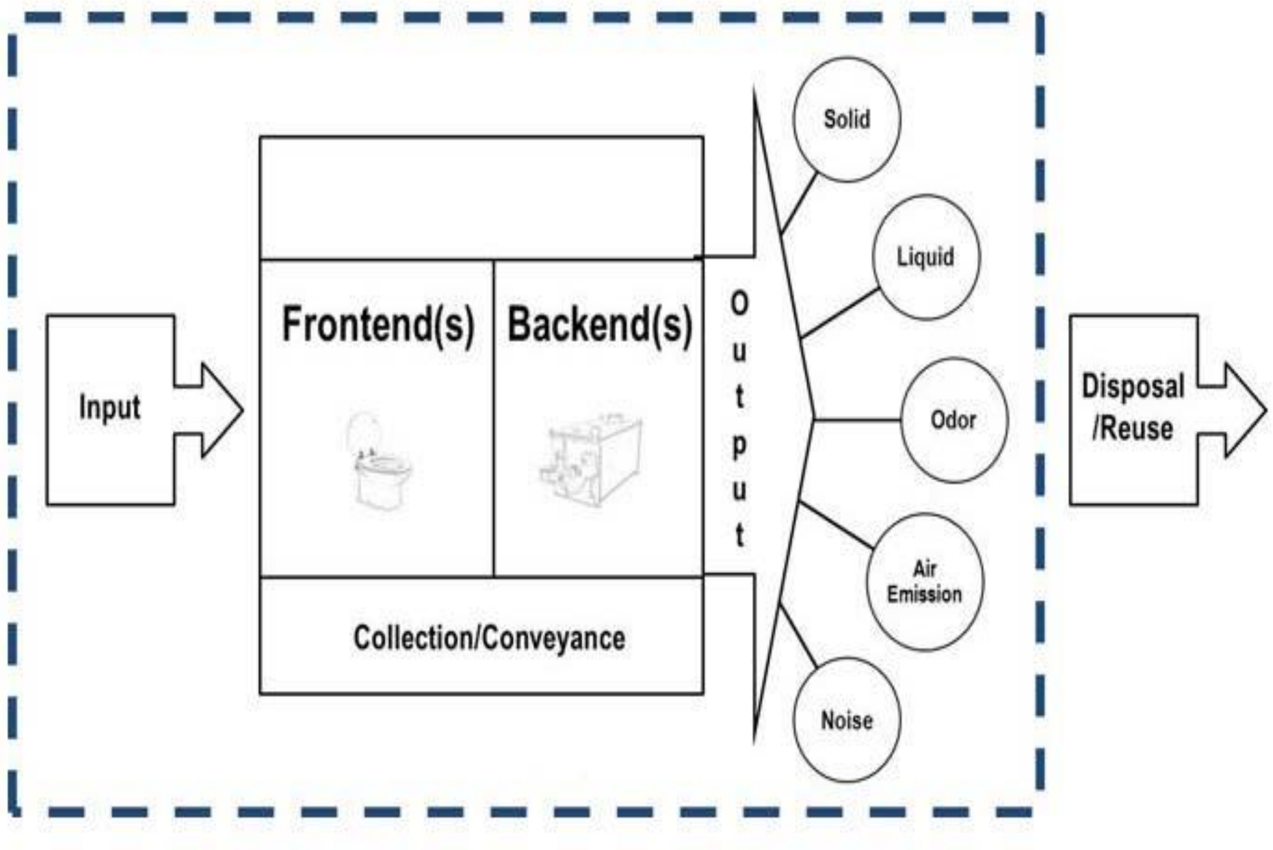
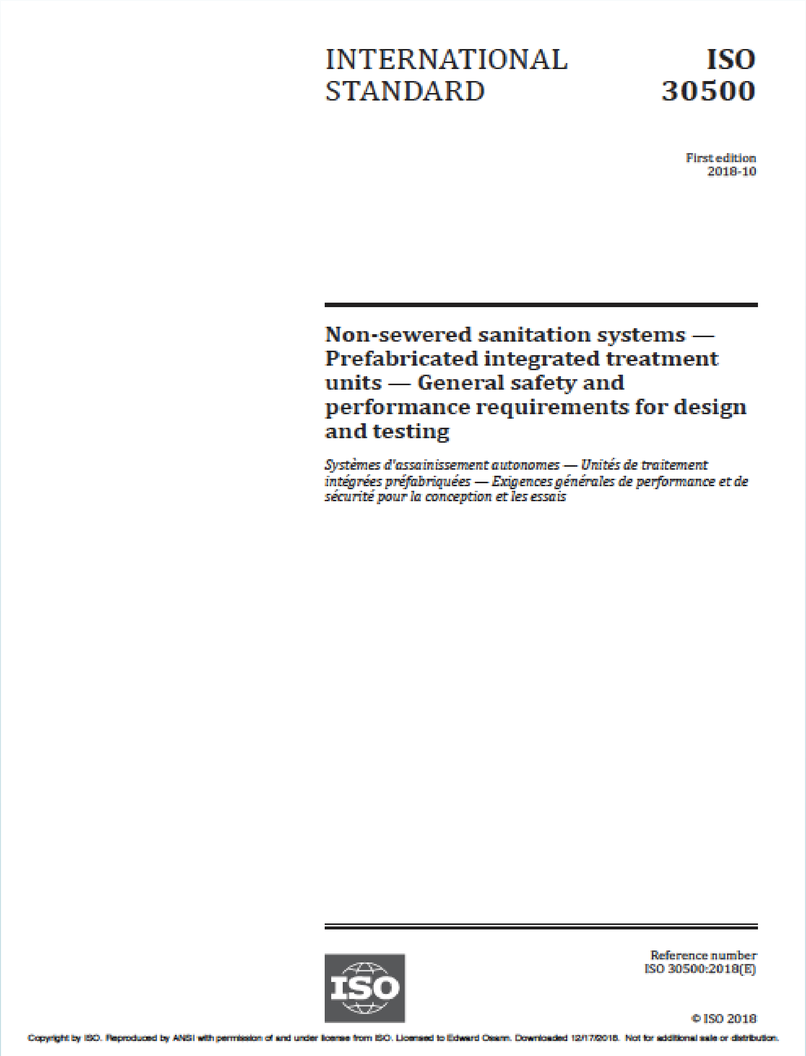


Figure 1: Scope of standard

- NSSS: A device that isn't connected to a sewage system and collects and fully treats the input (human excrement) into a safely reusable or disposable output
- Packaged, not site-built
- How do they work?
  - combustion
  - electrochemical reactions
  - biological treatment
  - combinations of the above

ISO 30500 : Performance Requirements and Test Procedures



INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 30500

First edition
2018-10

Non-sewered sanitation systems — Prefabricated integrated treatment units — General safety and performance requirements for design and testing

Systèmes d'assainissement autonomes — Unités de traitement intégrées préfabriquées — Exigences générales de performance et de sécurité pour la conception et les essais

Reference number
ISO 30500:2018(E)

- Product definition
- Performance Requirements:
  - Solid output and effluent
  - Odor
  - Noise
  - Air emissions
- Requirements for components and materials
- Requirements for safety and reliability
- Test procedures
- User interface requirements

ISO 30500 :Performance Requirements for Solid Output

Table 4 — Solid output validation thresholds and log reduction values (LRVs) for human health protection

Parameter (Pathogen class)	Human enteric bacterial pathogens	Human enteric viruses	Human enteric Helminths	Human enteric Protozoa
Surrogate	using *E. coli*[b] as surrogate, measured in CFU or MNP	using MS2 Coliphage as surrogate, measured in PFU	using *Ascaris suum* viable ova as surrogate	using viable *Clostridium perfringens* spores as surrogate, measured in CFU
Max. concentration in solids [number/g (dry solids)]	100	10	< 1	< 1
Overall LRV for solid[a]	≥ 6	≥ 7	≥ 4	≥ 6

[a] Log-reduction values (LRVs) were derived from a quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) as described by WHO 2016, assuming 1 g of faecal solids contains approximately the same range of reference pathogens as in 1 l of liquid effluent (for LRVs derived in Table 5). For further information, see Reference [61] and Reference [72].

[b] *E. coli* strain KO11 (ATCC 55124) is selected because it is chloramphenicol resistant. Therefore, this antibiotic may be added to the plating medium to suppress the growth of other, interfering bacteria.

ISO 30500 : Performance Requirements for Liquid Effluent

Table 5 — Liquid effluent validation thresholds and log-reduction values (LRVs) for human health protection

Parameter (Pathogen class)	Human enteric bacterial pathogens	Human enteric viruses	Human enteric Helminths	Human enteric Protozoa
Surrogate	using *E. coli*[b] as surrogate, measured in CFU or MPN	using MS2 Coliphage as surrogate, measured in PFU	using *Ascaris suum* viable ova as surrogate	using viable *Clostridium perfringens spores* as surrogate, measured in CFU
Max. concentration in liquids (number/l)	100	10	< 1	< 1
Overall LRV for liquid[a]	≥ 6	≥ 7	≥ 4	≥ 6

[a] Log-reduction values (LRVs) were derived from a quantitative microbial risk assessment (QMRA) as described by WHO 2016. For further information, see Reference [61] and Reference [72].

[b] *E. coli* strain KO11 (ATCC 55124) is used because it is chloramphenicol resistant. Therefore, this antibiotic may be added to the plating medium to suppress the growth of other, interfering bacteria.

ISO 30500 : Performance Requirements for Effluent – Environmental Parameters

Table 6 — Effluent performance thresholds for environmental parameters

	Category A usage: Threshold for unrestricted urban uses	Category B usage: Threshold for discharge into surface water or other restricted urban uses
COD (mg/l)	≤ 50	≤ 150
TSS (mg/l)	≤ 10	≤ 30

NOTE 1 In accordance with Reference [81], Category A usage refers to unrestricted urban uses that comprise all uses where public access is not restricted (e.g. landscape irrigation, toilet flushing).

NOTE 2 In accordance with Reference [81], Category B usage refers to discharge into surface water and other restricted urban uses that comprise all uses where public access is controlled or restricted by physical or institutional barriers (e.g. fences, temporal access restriction).

NOTE 3 COD refers to total COD unfiltered.

ISO 30500 : Performance Requirements Environmental Parameters (cont'd)

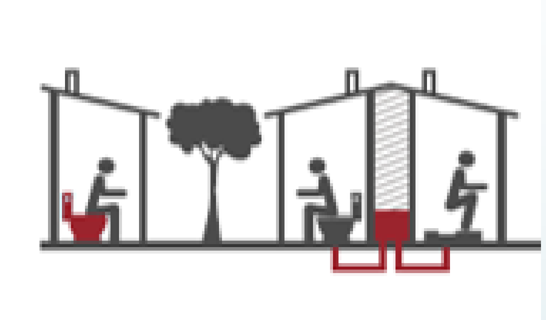
Table 7 — Effluent performance load reduction percentage for nutrients (Environmental requirement)

	Minimum load reduction percentage %
Total nitrogen	70
Total phosphorus	80

Table 8 — Effluent performance range for pH (Environmental requirement)

	Range for all reuse purposes
pH	6 to 9

Two versions of Reinvented Toilet for different scales: single and multi unit

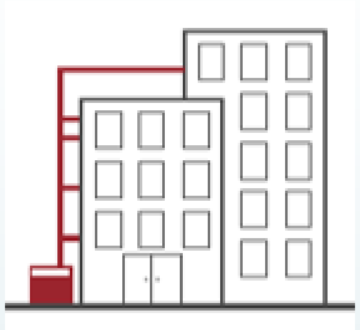


Single unit (SURT)

A single toilet and attached processing unit that fully treats solid waste and wastewater

Capacity: ~1-2 households

Example use cases: household, small commercial building



Multi unit (MURT)

Central processing unit that connects to multiple toilets to treat waste and recycle wastewater for flushing

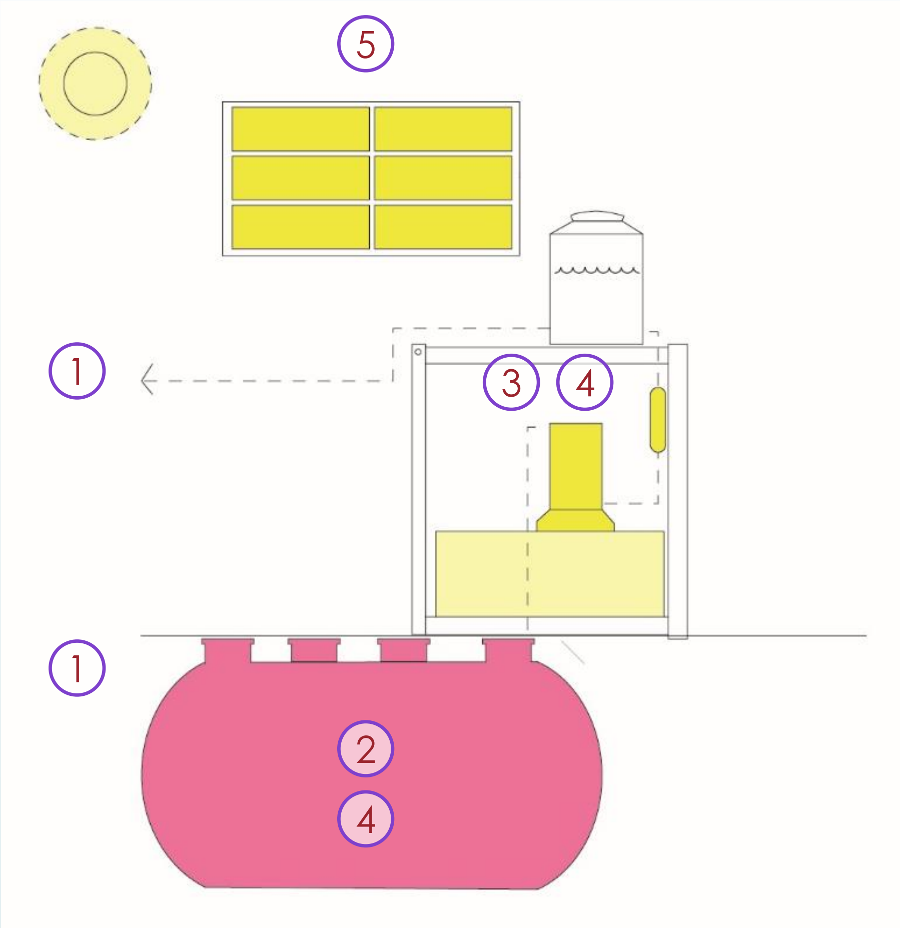
Capacity: Varies, up to ~500 users

Example use cases: apartment building, public toilet block

The Caltech Toilet:
treats and recycles wastewater for reuse as flushing water

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

1. Frontend	User interface containing toilets and urinals
2. Urine/Feces Separation	Passive settling and anaerobic digestion occurs
3. Liquid Processing	Electrochemical process treats urine and wastewater and produces hydrogen. Table salt (Chloride) is oxidized, increasing disinfection.
4. Solids Processing	Solids are macerated and the suspended fraction is treated with the liquids. Settled solids are evacuated once a year.
5. Power System	Solar panels with energy storage in batteries and/or grid electricity.



Caltech Electrochemical toilet | *details*

Use Cases: ***MURT***

- Scalable; capable of servicing 50-800 users per day with one system.

Key Features:

- Unique electrochemical cells process mixed wastewater
- Process effluent can be reused as toilet flush water.
- Compatible with any type of flush toilets (squat pan, western style, etc.)
- At least one commercial partner prototype can be fully containerized

Commercialization: ***Partnerships with large and small companies, open to additional partnerships***

- Patents pending in the United States, India, and China. See WO 2014/058825 A1 for further information.
- Test licenses in place with multiple commercial partners with path to commercial license. No commercial licenses negotiated to date.

Learn More: http://hoffmann.caltech.edu/

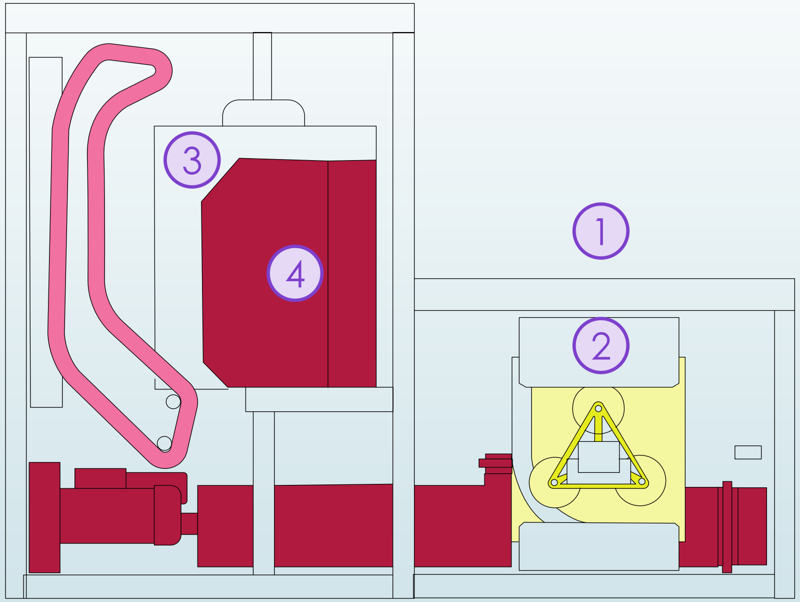
2017 EcoSan prototype of public toilets (MURT), also available in a fully containerized solution.

Earlier prototype of the CalTech technology

The Toronto system uses combustion

SYSTEM COMPONENTS

1. Frontend	Currently used with an elevated squat plate that is above backend components
2. Urine/Feces Separation	Liquids and solids are separated. This separation device is built into the squat plate, just below the user interface
3. Liquid Processing	Sand filter captures solids particles and parasites. UV light kills pathogens in the filtered liquid. Sand is transferred to smoldering chamber for combustion with the other solids.
4. Solids Processing	Solids flattened and dried, then transferred into a smoldering chamber for combustion. Combustion will destroy pathogens, and byproducts are filtered to remove odors
5. Power System	TBD but options include solar panels and a thermoelectric generator



Revision July 19, 2016

The Toronto toilet | *details*

Use Case: ***SURT – household and community***

- Initially household toilet design: 10 users per day.
- Could be scaled-up for family application at 15-20 users per day, with potential for community (multi-stall) application with one system per stall.

Key Features:

- Continuous smoldering process for processing of fecal matter and consistent heat production.
- Catalytic conversion of the generated pyrolysis gases supplies additional heat, and mitigates emissions.

Commercialization: ***Available for licensing and actively seeking commercial partners; Preserving IP rights for future corporate partner engagement***

- Provisional patent filed for solids processing.
- Initial discussions started with at least one commercial partner for household applications

Engineering prototype installation in India in mid-2017.

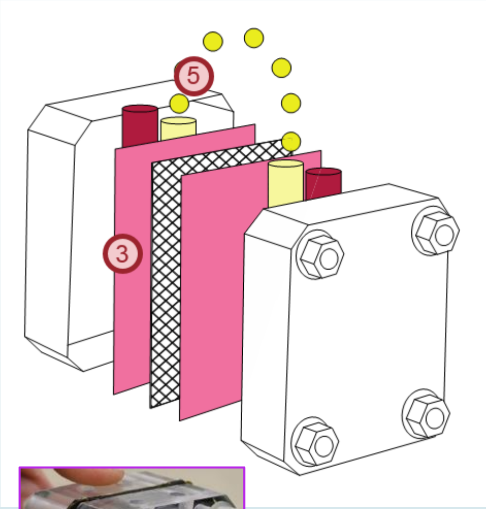
Learn More: http://cgen.utoronto.ca/research-initiatives/current-projects/re-invent-the-toilet-challenge/

UWE Bristol microbial fuel cell (MFC) | *biological*

The Microbial Fuel Cell (MFC) generates electricity by processing urine. It is small enough to be built into a urinal, and multiple MFCs can be linked together in a "stack" to process greater volumes and increase power output. Compared to a traditional MFC this technology uses a ceramic as it's membrane. While the power generation is typically the output expected from MFCs, this technology acts as a platform to produce disinfectant solutions (ECAS), fertilizers, and is being explored as a route for denitrification and nutrient removal from urine.

How does it work?

1. Frontend	The MFC is a backend processing component that can be integrated with a urinal or solids-liquids separating interface.
2.Urine/Feces Separation	No separation of components, separation must occur upstream of the MFC.
3. Liquid Processing	Organic compounds and pathogens in urine are consumed by a microbial community in the MFC, generating redox reactions. This enables movement of protons through a proton exchange membrane, and causes exchange of electrons between the electrodes generating current.
4. Solids Processing	Can process a small concentration of solids at a low Total Suspended Solids (TSS). Has been demonstrated to kill pathogens.
5. Power System	MFCs generate net power.



UWE Bristol microbial fuel cell (MFC) | *details*

Use Cases: *MURT or SURT*

- System is scalable; multiple MFC cells can be stacked to accommodate large volumes

Key Features:

- System design is a small, cubicle cell.
- System produces electricity via breakdown of microbes and organic compounds in urine.
- Novel, cheap membranes improve cost effectiveness. It has been demonstrated that at certain scale membranes are not needed.
- Generates a byproduct which can be used as a disinfectant

Commercialization: *IP filed, actively seeking commercial partners*

- Patent pending in the United States, Great Britain, China, and Japan, with additional EU designation pending. See US 2014/0057136 A1 for additional detail.

V1. Pee Power toilet with stack of MFCs underneath. Lights of the toilet were powered

Ceramic membrane prototype.

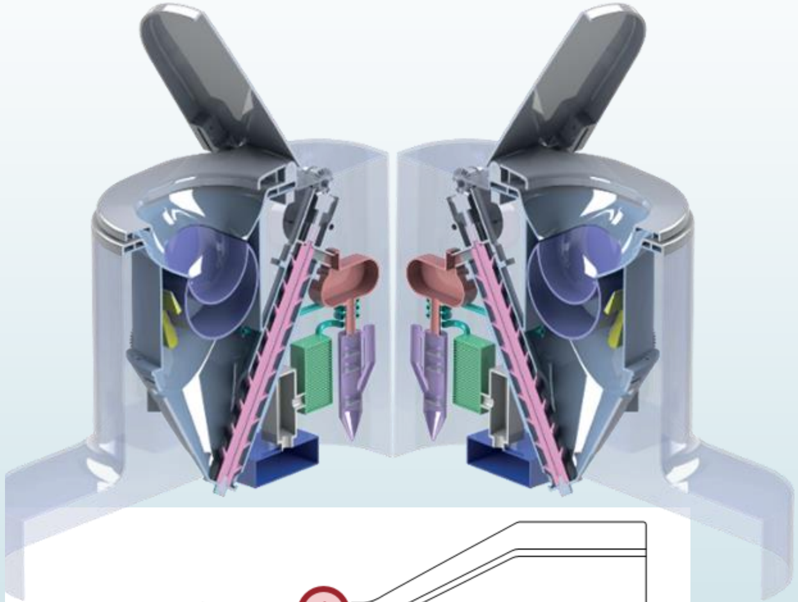
Learn More: http://www.brl.ac.uk/researchthemes/bioenergyself-sustaining.aspx

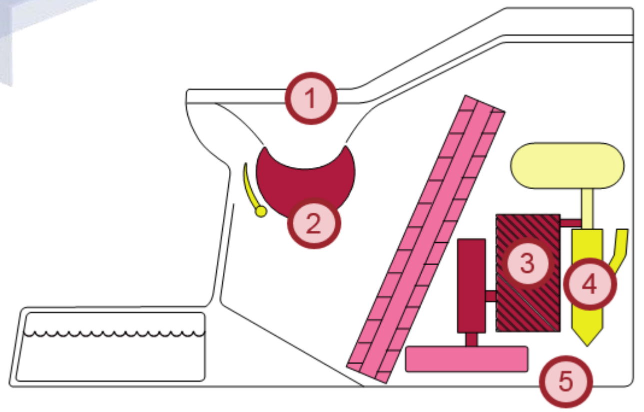
Cranfield Nanomembrane Toilet | *Dry combustion*

Fully self-contained household toilet system. Frontend resembles a Western-style pedestal toilet, and all processing components are housed within. In the backend, solids and liquids are settled. The solids are extracted by a specifically designed auger, dried, and combusted, while liquids are preheated and purified through a dense membrane by pervaporations.

How does it work?

1. Frontend	User encounters a pedestal toilet with a unique waterless flush system. A rotating odor barrier and scraper mechanism manages odor and enables dry flushing.
2.Urine/Feces Separation	Solids and liquids are separated by gravity sedimentation. Liquids flow over a weir to liquids processing, while the solids are extracted using an auger.
3. Liquid Processing	A dense, nanomembrane separates clean water and volatile organics from the contaminated urine. The non-potable, clean water is then sent to a storage tank for later use.
4. Solids Processing	Solids are dried, pelletized and gasified to resulting in ash. The gasifier is being developed in partnership with other institutions, and is a micro-gasifier that can be fed at <1 g/min of dried fecal waste.
5. Power System	The lifting of the toilet seat creates energy that is stored to eventually power the mechanical systems. Excess heat from the gasifier is used in the liquids disinfection process and potentially for power generation.





Cranfield nanomembrane toilet | *details*

Use Cases: ***SURT, potential for MURT***

– Currently designed as a self-contained, household unit serving up to 10 users, but modeling has shown that core processing technology could be scaled.

Key Features:

– System design is completely self-contained, no water or power connections are required
– Unique waterless flush system minimizes water requirements
– Heat from the gasification process is used to increase filtration efficiency
– System produces non-potable water each day for household use
– Ash requires regular disposal

Commercialization: ***Available for licensing and actively seeking commercial partners; Preserving IP rights***

– Multiple patent applications filed but not yet published

Learn More: http://www.nanomembranetoilet.org/

Early Cranfield prototype on display at New Scientist Live in London; September 2016.

"Known Unknowns"

- Availability
- Price
- Warranty
- Consumer acceptance
- Servicing requirements
- Repair history
- Business model for sales and installation
- Business model for maintenance and replacement

ISO 30500-Compliant Systems: Addressing Septic System Limitations

Removes blackwater from the waste stream --

- Fecal solids removed
- Fecal pathogens removed
- Hydraulic loading from toilets removed

Extends service interval

Potential Applications in North America

- National and provincial/state parks and forests
- Mobile sanitation for public event venues – festivals, concerts, etc.
- Rural/low density populations in
  - Arid lands
  - Poorly drains soils
  - Permafrost areas
- Any jurisdiction prone to water curtailment or sewage treatment capacity constraints
- Any home not served by central collection and treatment

Thank You

Ed Osann eosann@nrdc.org

Joelle Wirth jwirth@coconino.az.gov