

Dear Climate Committee,

I am committed to the uptake of sustainable human waste management eco-technology and as such, offer up this submission for consideration by your committee.

Submission - Carbon Credits for Compost Toilets

Approximately 17% of Australians live off sewer in rural or semi rural surrounds. This figure is growing as development spreads in rural areas. Most of these households are connected to the standard septic tank, an anaerobic device that produces greenhouse gases such as methane. Other treatment devices use a wet aerobic process that results in carbon leaving the system as CO₂. Only a dry composting process incorporates most of the carbon back into the soil profile as compost. This way of sequestering carbon is immensely measurable and well defined / researched. I believe that compost toilets should attract a carbon credit that equates to the effective life of the unit multiplied by the design capacity or load of the unit. The load can be stated as the number of bedrooms in the dwelling plus one.

This policy would have a multiplier effect with regards to Phosphorus resource depletion, an issue that a senate committee will undoubtedly have to deal with in the next 20 years or so.

My apologies for not having prepared a more detailed submission, but time was not on my side.

Regards

Stuart McConville