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Committee CDEM Group
Author Bruce Pepperell, Regional Manager, WREMO

Emergency compost toilet trial

1. Purpose

To inform the Wellington CDEM Group of the successful outcome of the emergency compost toilet trial that was run in Wellington during October/November 2012.

2. Background

One of the biggest issues emanating from the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February 2011 was liquefaction which rendered significant parts of the city's sewage systems inoperable. Thousands of alternate toilets (portaloos, chemical toilets, etc.) were urgently required.

It was a major operation sourcing alternate toilets nationally and internationally. Approximately 40,000 toilets were eventually sourced from mainly China and Australia.

WREMO realised that if something similar should happen in Wellington it would be more difficult to solve mainly due to access issues.

Research by WREMO staff revealed that emergency (compost) toilets could be a suitable alternative to the chemical toilets and port-a-loos used in Canterbury after the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes.

In 2012 a bid to the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management's Resilience Fund was successfully made to trial emergency (compost) toilets in Wellington.

The trial, using emergency compost toilets exclusively for 4 weeks was run in October and November 2012. Eleven (11) households and workplaces successfully participated in the trial.

3. Report and guide

A resulting report, completed by WREMO Business and Development, is enclosed as **Attachment 1**.

A guide for the public (It's Easy: Emergency Toilets) is being developed, and will be distributed to the community by the Community Resilience Team and Area Coordinators. The guide is being designed to raise the profile of emergency toilets, prior to an emergency, but can also be printed and distributed in an emergency where sewerage systems have been disrupted.

The current provider has indicated that he is in the process of developing a flyer (instructions how to make and use a compost toilet) which would be made available to the public as well.

4. Future work

The Business and Development team and the Area Co-ordinator for Porirua are currently working with Porirua City Council to incorporate emergency compost toilets into the council's emergency planning.

This work will be continued with the other councils in the region during the 2013-14 financial year.

5. Recommendation

That the CDEM Group:

- 1. Receives the report*
- 2. Notes the content of the report and guide; and*
- 3. Notes the on-going work with the councils in the region.*

Report prepared by:

Bruce Pepperell
Regional Manager, Wellington Region Emergency Management Office

Attachment 1: Emergency compost toilet trial