

From: SustainLane Government

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Subject: Full Access to 65+ New Gov't Sustainability Best Practices



Advancing Sustainability

January 10, 2007

Greetings!

Welcome to the first 2007 issue of SustainLane Government's newsletter.

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New Year Announcement



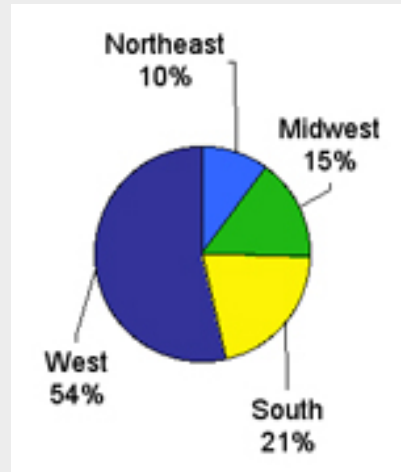
We have a big announcement to kick the New Year off with a bang:

Full Access to all Government Officials!

Since launching in October, SustainLane Government's [best practice knowledge base](#) has seen amazing participation, with state and local government officials contributing more than 65 model best practice documents, ranging from four-page ordinances to 200-page engineering and planning documents.

Our policy to date has required a best practice upload to gain full government access on our website. Starting today this is no longer necessary. If you're a government official, simply [registering](#) will guarantee full privileges--granting free access to best practices and the peer directory, both representing

Who's Using SustainLane Government?*



*Government officials only.

Cities most active on our website:

1. Seattle
2. San Francisco
3. Portland
4. Columbus*
4. Chicago*
4. Houston*

*denotes tie

participation from more than 150 cities, counties and states.

Of course we know you will continue to upload your excellent case studies, management plans, ordinances and planning documents to the site.

Thanks to all of those participants who have made SustainLane Government such a great success. We want to hear from you about what you found useful on the site or what could use improvement. We promise to respond to your needs and will be bringing you much more exciting news as the year progresses.

Best,

Warren Karlenzig
Chief Strategy Officer
SustainLane

[The Revolution will be Televised!](#)



Airing this month is a special appearance by SustainLane's Warren Karlenzig on [Climate Code](#) (Jan 21, 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time; rebroadcasts on following Saturdays into February), the Weather Channel's weekly show on global climate change. Warren will be talking about how different US cities are mitigating global warming, drawing on SustainLane's [city sustainability rankings](#).

Also airing in January: [Edens Lost & Found](#) showed "Seattle: The Future is Now" (Jan 4) and will be airing "Los Angeles: Dream a Different City" on January 11. This superb series documents US cities meeting environmental challenges at levels ranging from grass-roots to government. Check with [PBS](#) for the rerun schedule in your local area.

Last year was a watershed year for sustainability, and this year promises to see the media ripple become a substantial force. For a recap of last year check out our [Top Ten Sustainability Stories for 2006](#). (One development that we were among the first to cover was New York City's new Sustainability Advisory Council, which was given mention last week at [The New Yorker](#).) For the latest in government

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developments, check back here. We're keeping our ear to the wall....

Featured Best Practice: *Grease to Gas Power (Riverside, CA)*



We're happy to present the introduction from Riverside's excellent report on capturing grease from restaurant wastewater and converting this grease into compressed gas for combustion engines. The full Best Practice is available for download at SustainLane Government. Alternatively, if you'd like a full copy of "Grease to Gas to Power" emailed to you, please email us.

In the City of Riverside, the restaurant industry is required to pretreat their wastewater with gravity separation interceptors. These interceptors are multi-chamber underground concrete tanks of varying sizes measured in gallons of capacity. The capacities typically range from 750 – 5000 gallons. The interceptors separate fats, oils, and greases (FOGs), and solids. The maintenance of these grease interceptors is comprised of periodic and required pumping by a vacuum truck company and restaurant housekeeping practices to prevent excessive loading of the interceptors.

Problems have arisen with the disposal of the grease interceptor wastewater. Many sanitation agencies are refusing to accept out-of-area grease interceptor waste. Landfills have banned the disposal of grease interceptor wastewater. The downside of these prohibitions are load mixing with septic tank pumping companies with intent to discharge at a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), also called wastewater treatment plants; illegal disposal into sewers, storm drains, and remote areas; and disposal into other grease interceptors.

The grease wastewater contained in the restaurant grease interceptors contain organic material in the form of FOGs, carbohydrates, sugars and other organic solids that can be used to generate methane gas in a process called anaerobic digestion (anaerobic means "without air"). This process is

found at POTWs and uses bacteria contained in a large concrete tank called a digester. The digester can range in size from several hundred thousand gallons to several million gallons and is used to break down the solid materials separated in the wastewater treatment process. The bacteria in the digester that metabolize the FOGs, carbohydrates, sugars and other organic solids create a waste product of methane gas from the metabolization. This methane gas can then be collected from the digester and compressed to serve as a fuel for combustion engines that operate electrical generators.

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