

# Environmentally friendly sanitation systems

## CAT advice and consultancy



Environmentally friendly sanitation systems are increasingly recognised as the solution to a wide range of waste treatment needs. With 25 years of practical experience, CAT can bring to bear a unique range of skills and knowledge to define the sanitation system that will best meet your requirements.

As an independent organisation we are not biased towards any one technology and can guide you to the most appropriate solution to your situation, be it compost toilets, reed beds, septic tanks, leachfields, water filters, water conservation, water reuse, rainwater harvesting or any combination of these.

## CAT information and training

CAT's publications are a valuable initial reference point: specifically our books *Lifting the Lid* and *Sewage Solutions*, and our resource guide booklets *Sanitation* and *Water Supply and Treatment* that list suppliers plus other useful contacts.

CAT's specialist courses offer a chance to gain detailed practical knowledge of your topic of interest. We are also happy to discuss your particular requirements and can tailor courses to your specific needs.

## Initial advice and smaller projects

If you want an opportunity to explore all your options with a technical member of CAT staff, ask any questions you may have and find solutions specific to your situation, we can arrange for you to talk to one of our biologists. This can either be at CAT, in combination with a visit to the centre, or over the telephone. If you come to CAT we can take the opportunity to explain relevant features of applicable technology here on site, and you can bring with you photos and diagrams of your own site.



Centre for  
Alternative  
Technology  
Consultancy  
Services

The fee for this service is £50/hr+vat.

Whilst much advice can be given at the centre or over the phone, there are instances where a site visit is desirable. We can provide this, either as a stand-alone service, or in conjunction with reports and feasibility studies.

The same hourly rates apply as for on-site work. Day rates are available on request.

### **Specialist design guidelines for constructed wetlands and other sanitation systems**

This unique service provides tailor made solutions to your sewage problems. We are also able to talk to relevant authorities if it proves necessary. With these guidelines you should be able to install the system yourself with the aid of an architect or a good builder.

For constructed wetland systems we provide a 15-20 page document with 3 chapters:

1. The first explains how your constructed wetland works.
2. The second contains a simple plan of your constructed wetland and guidelines as to sizing (areas, depths of beds, etc). We include schematic cross sections of reed beds, etc, and specify suppliers of unusual or specialist material (such as reeds, reed bed liners and pumps). This is design help rather than detailed specifications, so we do not include working drawings, but the guidelines can be used by an architect or competent builder to create these. In this way you can be sure that you are not duplicating work done by other professions.
3. The third chapter comprises a users management routine that stays with the constructed wetland.

The price of guidelines varies with size and complexity of the system involved. Typical costs are between £300 and £600 for an average household; for larger projects we can give you a quote on request.

A site visit is not always necessary and we can usually offer the service by post, when we have as much information as possible about your sewage treatment.

Whilst it is not illegal to design your own system, any sewage treatment plant has to comply with planning and environmental health regulations, which means that it could prove an expensive mistake to try to design your own.

### **Contact**

Louise Halestrap or Judith Thornton  
CAT Biology Department  
Centre for Alternative Technology  
Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9AZ, Wales, UK  
biology@cat.org.uk  
tel: +44 (0) 1654 705971  
fax: +44 (0) 1654 705996  
**Website: [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk)**