

Journal Assignment 9  
Due Session 16

This week's readings return to a theme introduced at the very start of the semester--the frequent disconnect between institutions responsible for W&S planning in communities and those responsible for environmental management. McGranahan and Satterwaite describe the many ways in which the 'green' and 'brown' agendas collide in priority setting and decision making, but also point out potential complementarities between the two approaches. What are some of your experiences with the 'brown' and 'green' agendas--either conflictual or complementary--as a planner, engineer, environmentalist, or consumer? What kinds of strategies have worked in meeting service delivery and environmental goals simultaneously? What are the conditions under which this tends to happen? M&S argue that democratic institutions must be strengthened to reconcile the two agendas successfully. Do you agree?

Esrey et al. provide us a concrete example of a strategy that potentially meets both 'green' and 'brown' agenda objectives--ecosan. What are some of the necessary and sufficient conditions--in terms of household and community characteristics, institutional framework, resources, etc.--that you think must be in place for ecosan to be successful? Are these different from the necessary and sufficient conditions for the success of more traditional forms of sanitation? If so, why? Can you imagine your home town--wherever it is--adopting ecosan technology? If not, why not?