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FRIDAY FINDS: TOILET TALK



Photo courtesy of Matt Seppings.

Californians are eyeballing human waste as a possible source of energy.

California flushes carbon emissions down the toilet

The California Energy Commission has its head in **the toilet**, but surprisingly, that's a good thing. Human waste is a huge pollution problem in the U.S. In fact, Californians alone produced 661,000 dry metric tons of biosolids in 2009. But instead of getting rid of the waste by fertilizing crops and filling up landfills—which both pose major environmental problems—the commission recently granted a Bay Area solid waste company almost \$1 million to convert biosolids into a "hydrogen-rich gas that could be used in fuel cells to generate electricity," reports *Grist*. Though the process hasn't been proven, it could go a long way in adding renewable power to California's alternative energy portfolio.