

Regional District Okanagan Similkameen (\$21,450)

Project Title: Low Flow Toilet Rebate and Education Program

Contact Person: Cameron Baughen, Environmental Technician (250) 490-4203

Project Start date: July 2007



Regional District Okanagan Similkameen received \$21,450 in funding from the Okanagan Basin Water Board to conduct a low-flow toilet rebate program throughout the rural areas of the south Okanagan. At this stage the program has been rolled out with press releases and information available on our website, at our offices and landfill facilities. We also contacted all the retailers, plumbers and organizations related to toilets to inform them of this program. We also include toilet rebate information in our mail outs relating to water conservation. We have budgeted 200 rebates for this program at \$50 each with \$11,450 being spent on education.

The 2006 pilot toilet rebate program for the Okanagan Falls Sewer area has been incorporated into the management of the Okanagan wide program for 2007. Twenty eight of the forty initial rebates have been issue in that program at this time. Ten of the two hundred Okanagan wide rebates have been issued at this time. We will be advertising in local papers and sending out further press releases to encourage the use of the rebate program.

The RDOS has commenced grinding of old toilets at our landfill facilities. One issue found is the necessary removal of plastic seats before grinding which increases the cost of grinding. The ground material is incorporated as road base for landfill roads. This material hardens the road making it more resilient.

The toilet disposal portion of our program includes the Summerland and Osoyoos Landfills. These landfills are run by their respective municipalities. These municipalities support our program by offering receipts for toilets disposed at the facilities.

With ongoing advisements and awareness we feel that we should be able to issue all the rebates by November, 2008. With the replacement of 200 13 L toilets, calculating 6 flushes a day and a savings of 7 litres per toilet, the RDOS will annually save over 3 million litres of water per year. It will also reduce an equivalent amount of waste water. We also hope the program will help reduce the stigma against low flow toilets. Some people we have spoken to feel the low-flow variety of toilets do not work effectively, so we direct all of our residents to the CWWA 'Maximum Performance Toilet Testing Report' which provides testing on the effectiveness of different brands of toilets.



An example of old crushed toilets at a landfill, to be incorporated into asphalt.