

Living on the Edge: Agriculture in Periurban Mexico City

Sistema Biobolsa installs biodigesters throughout Mexico so that, rather than having to *pay* for 1) someone to truck out animal waste, 2) natural gas, and 3) chemical fertilizer, farmers can convert the waste to methane gas – and use the byproduct, organic fertilizer.



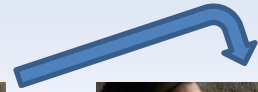
Animal waste



Biodigester



Methane gas



Delicious cheese & yogurt



Fertilizer



Thriving family farm in Puebla, Mexico

Isla Urbana installs rainwater harvesting systems in and around Mexico City so that people aren't forced to get water via...



or



but rather from a place many don't think about...



(hint: look up)

The mission of our Capstone project was to find ways to help Sistema Biobolsa and Isla Urbana work together on a joint venture. They have significant synergies, since biodigesters are water-intensive; with IU's rainwater harvesters, their potential reach is greatly increased. We decided we could best serve by 1) Producing a Research Database which they could use for grants and working with local governments; and 2) Producing GIS maps showing all of IU & SB's projects to date, as well as likely marketing targets for the future based on precipitation, roof cover, farmland, temperature, and other factors. Please see exhibits from my team members for more details.

Commonsense, sustainable solutions

I want to thank The Earth Institute for making possible our trip to Mexico. It was a highly engaging, informative and inspiring trip that, notwithstanding Columbia's academic prowess, is not duplicable in the classroom.



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Spring 2014 Capstone
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