Transforming Human Waste into Agricultural Resource in Central Ohio

Logan Rance

Cunz 330 | 11 - 2 - 18 | 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Through interviews, visualizations, and demonstration gardens, this project investigates the processes by which human “waste” is transformed into an agricultural resource while also identifying obstacles to the expansion of its use in central Ohio. The aim is to better understand how infrastructure, regulations, and taboos shape biosolids use. There is not a lot of salient information for the public on this topic, so demonstration gardens are also being utilized to explain this complex process, and attempt to gauge how effective these models are at increasing understanding.

I will also be covering my day-to-day experience in my previous EPA internship, including a discussion of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and how it relates to delineation of, and mitigation for, wetlands. My field work mainly involved documenting mitigation progress, looking for violations, and looking for invasive plants. My office work entailed checking old or forgotten cases, and writing letters to property owners who had been previously cited for violations.