

## **Simplified sewerage: is it the best thing since**



**In general, Yes!**

***But a few exceptions:***

- (a) when the housing/population density is so low that on-site sanitation is cheaper than condominial sewerage;***
- (b) in low-lying (especially coastal) areas where floods occur regularly -- in these areas a low-cost combined sewerage system<sup>[a,b]</sup> is likely to be more appropriate than condominial sewerage; and***
- (c) when people really want to have EcoSan toilets -- providing, of course, that they can afford them (reported costs are very high indeed<sup>[c]</sup>) and that there's sufficient space for them.***

### ***References***

<sup>a</sup>Combined surface sewerage: a low-cost option for effective sanitation in semi-urban areas of India (*Environmental Engineering and Policy*, August 1999).

<sup>b</sup>Augusto Sérgio Pinto Guimarães and Amarílio Pereira de Souza, *Saneamento Ambiental: Projetos de Pequenos Sistemas Unitários de Esgotamento*. Brasília, DF: Caixa Econômica Federal, 2004.

<sup>c</sup>*Sustainable Pathways to Attain the Millennium Development Goals – Assessing the Role of Water, Energy and Sanitation*, Stockholm Environment Institute, 2005 (see Table 4-5 on page 50).