

Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences



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A Serious Game for Collaborative Sanitation Planning

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SPANS project - Sanitation Planning for Alternative Nutrient-recovery Systems

The project is exploring how new technologies and ways of planning can improve the recovery and reuse of important fertilizing nutrients from wastewater/faecal sludge

Objectives

- Investigate the <u>technical and</u> <u>market readiness</u> of nutrientrecovery technologies,
- Study the <u>readiness of</u> <u>society</u> to accept alternative systems,
- Evaluate alternative planning techniques for promoting innovation.









Why Games?

Research has shown serious games to be effective for:

Motivating learning

- Visualization enhances understanding of complexity situations
- Fun = increased learning

Problem-solving

- Improves decision-making and analytical skills
- Stimulates creativity

Increasing engagement & participation

- Creates trust and partnerships
- Develops the ability to function cooperatively

Collective learning

- Understanding other perspectives
- Understanding stakeholder roles & responsibilities
- Reflecting together









The game aims to share knowledge about *nutrient resouce recovery* from sanitation and supports *attitudechange* and *collaboration* between players.

Other aims of the game:

- Increase understanding of the need for sanitation
- Increase understanding of other stakeholder perspectives
- Increase collaboration between actors
- Inform about new technologies
- Having fun be engaging







Concepts included in the game

- Potential benefits of safe reuse
 - Fertilizers
 - Link to food production
- Potential negative consequences:
 - Water pollution
 - Disease
- Different roles within sanitation chain
 - Housing
 - Treatment
 - Farming
 - Private Contractor
- Unexpected event cards
 - Negative e.g. floods, disease
 - Positive e.g. innovations, development











Target audience

Politicians and **professionals** in decision-making positions

Other possible users of the game:

- Students
- Professionals involved in sanitation planning
- Citizens (private entrepreneurs, landlords, home owners, community groups, farmers)









Context

Players work together to manage the sanitation situation in a growing city.

- Each round the city grows
- Improper management leads to a collective loss!
- Follow your personal agenda









Personal Agendas



Environment – e.g. keep the water clean



Economy – e.g. avoid expensive imports



Happiness – e.g. clean housing areas



Public Good – e.g. keep people healthy









CHALMERS

SLU

Infrastructure cards: Buildings

RECLAIM Game

Board

Urban areas Rural areas Water Unusable land (e.g. swamp)

Resource Dice

- 🖢 Food
- Waste
- Sorted Waste
- Z Sludge
- NPK Fertilizer
- Disease outbreak







Infrastructure

Housing blocks

- Unconnected
- Improved
- "Safe collection"





LEVEL 2 HOUSING

BLOCK

Treatment

- Existing system
- Improved
- Resource recovery



50% risk of

failure!



LEVEL 1 TREATMENT PLANT



Transportation

- Roads
- Pipes



Farms

- Simple
- Improved (2x food)





PIPE FOR

MIXED WASTE









Max 4 of same resource per hexagon!

4 Houses per Hexagon

LEVEL 0 HOUSING BLOCK

LEVEL 1

BLOCK

HOUSING



Each House needs 1 Food → 1 Waste



2 Treatment plants per hexagon





Converts 2 NKP \rightarrow 2 Food





Event cards – every 10 min







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Tutorial







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Gameplay

Order of play: Housing \rightarrow Treatment \rightarrow Farming \rightarrow Independent Contractor

Each player's turn:

- 1. 3 build actions
- 2. Fetch resources
- 3. Convert resources
- 4. Send resources
- II: Political decisions all players together

Game consists of 4 rounds – roles rotate each round







Housing role starts

- Builds houses & transportation
- Converts food to waste

























Treatment Role

 Builds treatment plants & transportation





 Converts waste to sludge or NPK

















The old treatment plantoutly dice 1 has half capacity: throw the dice for each waste and see if it turns into sludge or will be dumped in the water



Roll the dice 3

11

- sludge

Farming Role

 Builds farms & transportation



 Converts NPK or sludge to food

















Private Contractor Role

Can choose to act as any of the other roles

However, everything is built to a higher cost













Political decisions











Watch your progress on sanitation provision!









End of Game



All players have lost,

If at the end of a round:

- River is fully polluted
- More than 4 disease dice on the board
- Not enough food

If the players have not lost, then the player with the most points at the end of Round 4 **Wins**!







Let's play!









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Counting Points



Points for Infrastructure

Points for Hidden Agendas









Post-discussion



Presentation of overall results (Excel model)

- How do you think that you performed?
- Do you wish you had played differently? In what way?
- In what ways does this game reflect reality?
- Can you apply lessons from this game in your own work?

(Present the Reuse-Compilation)

- What else is missing to improve the sanitation situation in your town?
- What more knowledge is needed to improve the sanitation situation in your town?
- What can you start working with now?









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SPANS TEAM













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