

Sustainable Sanitation Alliance invites you to take part in a Wikipedia Edit-a-thon to celebrate World Water Day

Stockholm. March 10, 2017. **The Sustainable Sanitation Alliance (SuSanA) is calling on the help of the world's billions of toilet users and Wikipedia enthusiasts for a major upgrade of Wikipedia's sanitation-related pages between now and World Water Day on 22 March.**

Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) calls for universal access to clean water and decent sanitation by 2030. This Edit-a-thon is a chance to help realize this ambition.

Working around the world and around the clock, anyone can join the SuSanA Wikipedia Edit-a-thon. Simply register here to join the group of volunteers and start editing: bit.ly/SuSanAEdit-a-thon

The SuSanA Wikipedia Edit-a-thon has a serious purpose. Lack of access to a decent, functioning toilet puts 2.5 billion people and their environment at risk. That's 40% of people on the planet. SuSanA believes we as a human race have the knowledge and the technology needed to make sanitation a cornerstone of economic development and achieve SDG6.

"We need to get this knowledge out there," says Arno Rosemarin of Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). "We are looking forward to seeing what committed people can accomplish when they put their minds and hands to work ... on their computer keyboards."

"Wikipedia is the 'go-to' source of information – the fifth most visited site on the Internet – so that's why we want to upgrade sanitation information there," says Esther Shaylor, Programme Adviser with Oxfam GB, who originated the SuSanA Edit-a-thon idea.

Examples of sanitation-related Wikipedia articles the global team of volunteers will aim to improve include for example open defecation, sustainable sanitation, dry toilets, behaviour change, faecal sludge management, water- and sanitation-related diseases, and reuse of excreta.

Working together in virtual space, volunteers will polish up existing Wikipedia articles, editing the text, adding images and references and translating articles into other languages, as well adding new articles as needed.

The SuSanA Wikipedia Edit-a-thon is part of a larger project to support the continued growth and development of SuSanA's knowledge management services. The project is led by Stockholm Environment Institute and implemented by a consortium that also includes the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, WaterAid and Oxfam GB. It is funded by a \$2.7 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a period of three years.

For more information:

- Visit the SuSanA Wikipedia Edit-a-thon Meetup page at: bit.ly/SuSanAEdit-a-thon
- Contact: Elisabeth von Muench elisabeth.muench@ostella.de (consultant for SEI)
- Use the hashtag #edit4impact