

## GSA Region 5 Venture Capital Initiative Proposals

### Technologies and Processes for Detecting and Predicting Mold Growth

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**Situation:** Mold poses a problem for property managers and tenants. Some people with allergies to mold are highly sensitive to its presence. Mold can cause serious disruptions in building operations and agency productivity. Often, the mold growth is detected well after the infection has become serious destructive.

**Need:** A quick, proactive technique for systematically detecting and isolating mold within buildings is needed. A procedure or technology that could be incorporated into regular building inspections or the biennial building reviews (MARS) would be ideal. Detecting mold early would prevent enormous amounts of time and money from being wasted and greatly improve air quality and tenant comfort.

### Compost Programs

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**Situation:** Currently, all food waste from government employees is simply thrown away. Food waste contains lots of nutrients and energy which can be used to help grow plants and crops.

**Need:** A program which encourages a portion, or all of the food waste produced at federal buildings to be converted to compost for local farms and plant life. Building infrastructure for capturing food waste along with transportation and tenant education will be needed.

### Portable Composting Toilets for Construction Sites

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**Situation:** Currently, construction sites only use “port-a-john” style toilets. Not only are they are generally unpleasant to use, but they have other serious environmental impacts. A portable composting toilet would reduce use of harmful chemicals and reduce strain on civic waste management services.

**Need:** A well-designed, portable toilet which uses natural composting processes to eliminate waste.

### Farms

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**Situation:** Currently, rooftops are not utilized to their full advantage. Plenty of sunlight, rainwater and open space make rooftops ideal for small farm plots.

