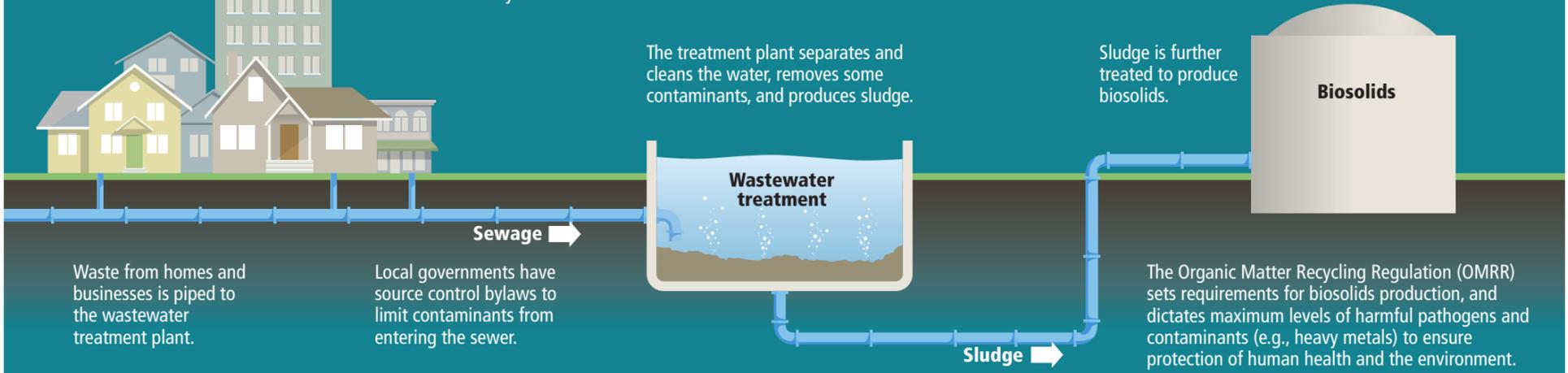


BIOSOLIDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Biosolids are a product of wastewater treatment

The Ministry of Environment establishes and enforces standards for wastewater treatment.



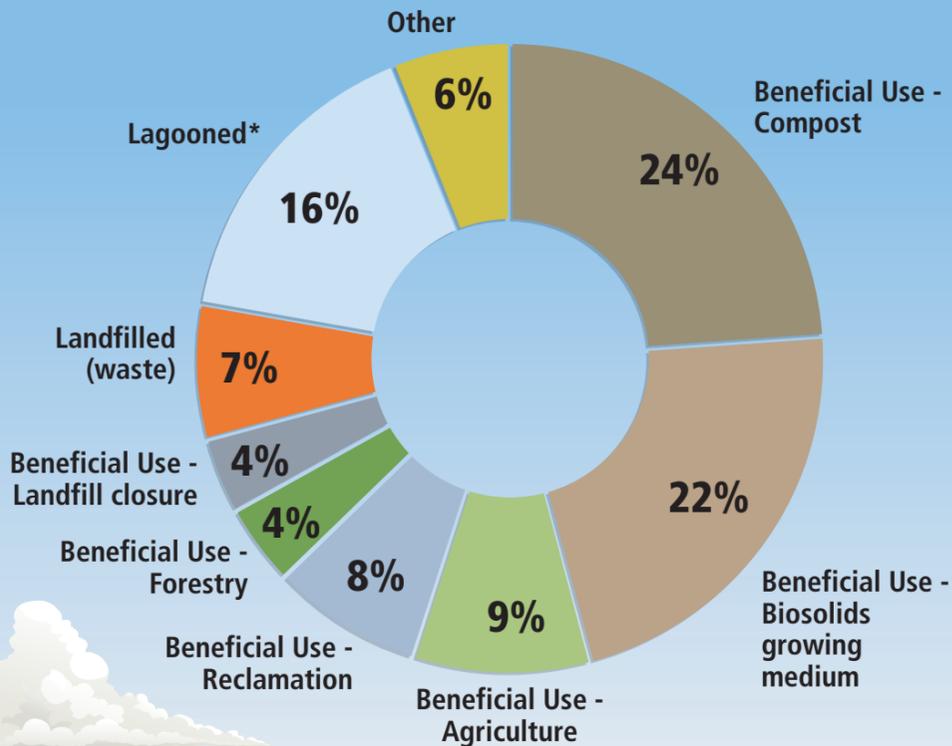
38,000 dry tonnes of biosolids are produced in BC every year, enough to cover a football field 25 metres deep.



Biosolids are used in many beneficial ways

Biosolids can be applied to land to support forestry, agriculture or land reclamation

Some local governments send sludge or biosolids to the landfill. The Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment recommends against this, as it wastes resources and increases greenhouse gas emissions.



Biosolids

- add organic matter and plant nutrients to the soil
- store carbon in soil and decrease greenhouse gas emissions
- increase soil water holding capacity
- sustain healthy soils



Biosolids can be mixed with wood chips, yard waste, or other ingredients to create compost or biosolids growing medium. These materials are well suited for landscaping and agriculture. Compost facilities and soil amendments are regulated by the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (or permits).

*Lagooned: biosolids that are being processed in lagoons at wastewater treatment plants



Use of biosolids is strictly controlled for human health and environmental protection

The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation provides strict controls on how biosolids may be used for agriculture, forestry or land reclamation

1

A qualified professional must prepare a Land Application Plan (LAP) that specifies where, how much and when the biosolids will be applied.



2

The LAP is submitted to the Ministry of Environment as well as to Health Authorities (if used on agricultural land or in a watershed used as a permitted water supply) and the Agricultural Land Commission (if on agricultural land). The Ministry of Environment and Health Authorities can request changes to the LAP to address potential concerns about human health or the environment. Health Authorities can also deny land applications.



3

A qualified professional must certify that the LAP was followed and that the soil standards for contaminants were met.

