

BIOSOLIDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Biosolids are a product of wastewater treatment The Ministry of Environment establishes and enforces standards for wastewater treatment. The treatment plant separates and Sludge is further cleans the water, removes some treated to produce **Biosolids** contaminants, and produces sludge. biosolids. Wastewater treatment Sewage ___ The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) sets requirements for biosolids production, and Waste from homes and Local governments have businesses is piped to source control bylaws to dictates maximum levels of harmful pathogens and the wastewater limit contaminants from contaminants (e.g., heavy metals) to ensure treatment plant. entering the sewer. Sludge | protection of human health and the environment.

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

Other Some local governments send sludge or biosolids to the landfill. The Canadian Council 6% **Beneficial Use** of Ministers of Environment **Compost** recommends against this, as Lagooned* it wastes resources and **24%** increases greenhouse gas 16% emissions. Landfilled **7**% (waste) 4% **Beneficial Use -**22% **Landfill closure Beneficial Use -**8% **Beneficial Use -Forestry** 9% **Biosolids Beneficial Use** growing medium Reclamation **Beneficial Use -**Agriculture *Lagooned: biosolids that are being processed

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).

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



in lagoons at wastewater treatment plants

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



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





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

