**BIOSOLIDS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**Biosolids** are a product of wastewater treatment.


The treatment plant separates and cleans the water, removes some contaminants, and produces sludge.

**Sludge** is further treated to produce biosolids.

**The Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR)** sets requirements for biosolids production, and dictates maximum levels of harmful pathogens and contaminants (e.g., heavy metals) to ensure protection of human health and the environment.


**Local governments** have source control bylaws to limit contaminants from entering the sewer.

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.

**Waste from homes and businesses** is piped to the wastewater treatment plant.

**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.

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

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 on 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.

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

This infographic provides guidance and is not a legal document. In all cases, the Environmental Management Act and Organic Matter Recycling Regulation will prevail.

**Beneficial Use - Compost**
- 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

**Beneficial Use - Reclamation**

**Beneficial Use - Growing medium**

**Beneficial Use - Agriculture**

**Beneficial Use - Forestry**

**Beneficial Use - Landfill closure**

**Beneficial Use - Landfill**

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

**Other**

**Landfilled (waste)**

**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.