

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026**

SUBJECT Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – April Update

To provide a monthly update to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on the management and beneficial use of biosolids in alignment with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

BACKGROUND

The CRD has been producing Class A biosolids at the Residuals Treatment Facility since the commissioning of the Core Area Wastewater Treatment Project in 2020. On March 19, 2025, the Minister of Environment and Parks endorsed the CRD's Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy. The strategy prioritizes advanced thermal treatment as the preferred option for biosolids management supported by a portfolio of out-of-region, non-agricultural beneficial uses for resiliency and contingency purposes. This report provides a monthly update on the beneficial use activities and progress implementing the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

In addition to the three established beneficial use outlets and the planned 2026 procurement for additional options, the CRD is progressing the development of the Biochar Project that constitutes the preferred long-term solution within the CRD's Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

BIOSOLIDS BENEFICIAL USE MANAGEMENT

Biosolids Production

Beginning in late March, the Residuals Treatment Facilities (RTF) started receiving solids from the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment facility and is successfully processing these residuals into Class A Biosolids. For the past 15 years, Saanich Peninsula wastewater residuals have been disposed at the Hartland Landfill as a temporary measure pending the RTF's ability to accept the material. Following the recent agreement with the third party RTF operator, the facility is ramping up toward steady-state operations and full acceptance of all solids. This transition enables the beneficial use of Saanich Peninsula residuals, aligning with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy, reducing reliance on landfill disposal, and advancing a more integrated regional approach to biosolids management.

Biosolids Management and Beneficial Use

In April 2026, all biosolids produced at the CRD Residuals Treatment Facility were beneficially used for out-of-region, non-agricultural applications in accordance with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy. Up to date information on biosolids production and beneficial use can be found on the CRD website at: <https://www.crd.ca/government-administration/data-documents/biosolids-production>.

The CRD has established three options for beneficial uses of biosolids including energy feedstock for cement manufacturing in Richmond, BC, as a soil amendment for the reclamation of a quarry

site in Cassidy, BC, and as a soil amendment for landscape plant growers in the Fraser Valley. CRD staff actively coordinate biosolids allocation across this portfolio to maintain operational reliability and cost-effective management.

Staff continue to investigate and assess additional beneficial use options and are advancing towards procurement solicitation in Spring 2026, with the objective of identifying lower cost and reliable long-term solutions.

April Operational Status of Beneficial Use Options

Beneficial Use Option	Current Availability	April 2026 Notes
Energy Feedstock (Cement Manufacturing, Richmond, BC)	Unavailable	Staff are working with Amrize Richmond to determine steps to resume deliveries.
Quarry Reclamation (Cassidy, BC)	Available	Primary beneficial use outlet for April.
Landscape Plant Growers (Fraser Valley, BC)	Seasonally Paused	Applications pause during winter; program will resume in May 2026.

Biosolids Advanced Thermal Processing – Update

Staff continue to progress work to add carbonisation equipment (advanced thermal treatment) into CRD’s wastewater treatment process to transform biosolids into biochar consistent with the Board-endorsed Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy. The project remains on track and staff anticipate bringing forward a report to the Board in February 2027 seeking direction on a final investment decision for the project.

Financial Implications

The 2026 biosolids management disposal budget is \$2.85 million. Expenditures to date are tracking within budget and no variances to the 2026 budget are anticipated at this time.

CONCLUSION

Throughout April, the Capital Regional District continued to beneficially use all Class A biosolids in alignment with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy using a portfolio of out-of-region non-agricultural options. The primary beneficial use continued to be quarry land reclamation. The project to procure a Biosolids Beneficial Use Advanced Thermal Facility remains on track.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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