

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 09, 2025**

SUBJECT Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – March Update

To provide a monthly update to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board on the beneficial uses 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 June 18, 2024, the CRD submitted its Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy to the Province for review. The Strategy prioritizes advanced thermal treatment as the preferred option for biosolids management with a portfolio of out-of-region, non-agricultural beneficial uses for resiliency and contingency purposes.

This report provides a monthly update on the beneficial uses of CRD-produced biosolids in alignment with the Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy.

Biosolids Beneficial Use Management

Ministerial Endorsement

On March 19, 2025, the Minister of Environment and Parks acknowledged that the CRD's Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy puts the CRD in a strong position to meet its biosolids beneficial use obligations (Appendix A). Following this endorsement staff will continue to explore and refine opportunities for advanced thermal treatment aligned with Tier 1 of the Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy for the Board's consideration.

Biosolids Production and Management

In March 2025, the CRD Residuals Treatment Facility produced 310 tonnes of Class A Biosolids. All the biosolids were beneficially used for out-of-region, non-agricultural applications.

The CRD has established two existing options for biosolids beneficial uses including energy feedstock for cement manufacturing in Richmond, BC and as a soil amendment for the reclamation of a quarry site in Cassidy, BC. In March 2025, the CRD added a nursery in the Fraser Valley to its portfolio of options where the biosolids will be used as a non-agricultural growing medium for potted cedar trees and shrubs.

CRD staff conduct ongoing daily coordination of biosolids management to mitigate costs across its portfolio of options based on available capacity.

Out-of-region Compliance Options

To add further resilience and to encourage cost-competitive options under the CRD's portfolio for beneficial use of biosolids, staff have posted a Request For Proposals (RFP) to identify additional non-agricultural, out-of-region options, which will remain open until December 31, 2025. As of the date of this report, there have been no new submissions under the RFP.

Financial Implications

Biosolids beneficial use management costs averaged \$209,000 per month based on 2023 and 2024 actuals. Staff's current cost forecast anticipates similar annual costs for 2025 and 2026 in the range of \$2.2M to \$2.5M based on current options and trends.

Biosolids beneficial use management is funded through the Core Area Liquid Waste Management budget with \$1.2M allocated for 2025 based on a higher dependence on the Richmond facility option, which is the lower cost option on a per tonne basis. Staff closely monitor these budgets and will bring forward any necessary amendments for the Board's consideration.

CONCLUSION

In March 2025, the Minister of Environment and Parks acknowledged that the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy puts the CRD in a strong position to meet its obligations for the beneficial use of biosolids. Throughout March, the CRD continued to beneficially use all of its produced Class A biosolids in alignment with the Strategy using a portfolio of out-of-region non-agricultural options including the recent addition of a nursery in Agassiz, BC. CRD staff continue to manage the beneficial use of biosolids between its portfolio of options with the goal of mitigating costs.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Acknowledgement of Receipt of the Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy – Letter from the Minister of Environment and Parks (March 19, 2025)