

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2026**

SUBJECT Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – May 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.

DISCUSSION

Biosolids Production

The Residuals Treatment Facility (RTF) is continuing to expand production of Class A biosolids from other sources of regional wastewater residuals. In late April, the RTF started accepting residuals from the Sooke Wastewater Treatment Plant following the earlier successful integration of residuals from the Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plant. As commissioning is completed, wastewater residuals from both Sooke and Saanich Peninsula Wastewater Treatment Plants will be fully integrated into the regional biosolids program for beneficial use, completing the transition away from disposal at the Hartland Landfill and supporting a more coordinated regional approach to residuals management.

Biosolids Management and Beneficial Use

In May 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, now anticipated in mid-2026, with the objective of identifying lower cost and reliable long-term solutions. Supporting technical work has recently been completed and is being incorporated into the procurement approach.

May Operational Status of Beneficial Use Options

Beneficial Use Option	Current Availability	May 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 May.
Landscape Plant Growers (Fraser Valley, BC)	Available	Facility is currently accepting materials; staff are working to align transportation and logistics to support resumption of shipments.

Biosolids Advanced Thermal Processing – Update

Staff continue to progress work to add carbonisation equipment (advanced thermal treatment) into the 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. This current budget has been assessed as adequate to cover expenditures to date and projected remaining expenses for 2026.

CONCLUSION

Throughout May, 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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