

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026**

**SUBJECT    Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – February 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 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 use activity and progress implementing the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

**Biosolids Beneficial Use Management**

*Biosolids Production and Management*

In February 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 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 intend to re-engage the market in spring 2026, with the objective of identifying lower-cost and reliable long-term solutions.

*February Operational Status of Beneficial Use Options*

<b>Beneficial Use Option</b>	<b>Current Availability</b>	<b>February 2026 Notes</b>
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 February.
Landscape Plant Growers (Fraser Valley)	Seasonally Paused	Applications pause during winter; program will resume in Spring 2026.

Biochar Carbonisation (Advanced Thermal Treatment) Project – 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 and the engagement approach reported to the Board in November 2025. Public engagement launched in February and is planned to continue through to March 5, 2026, providing opportunities for residents to learn more about the proposed technology, its environmental benefits, key operational considerations, and to provide feedback to inform further planning. Staff will report back to the Board with a “What We Heard” summary following the conclusion of the engagement period. The project remains on track to return to the Board in early 2027 to seek direction on a final investment decision.

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 February, 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 add advanced thermal treatment to CRD’s wastewater treatment process remains on track.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

Submitted by:	Rory Tooke, PhD, Senior Manager, Environmental Innovation
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer