

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08, 2026**

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**SUBJECT     Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – March 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 and Management***

In March 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 are advancing towards procurement solicitation in Spring 2026, with the objective of identifying lower-cost and reliable long-term solutions.

March Operational Status of Beneficial Use Options

<b>Beneficial Use Option</b>	<b>Current Availability</b>	<b>March 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 March.
Landscape Plant Growers (Fraser Valley, BC)	Seasonally Paused	Applications pause during winter; program will resume in April 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 and the engagement approach reported to the Board in November 2025. The current phase of public engagement concluded in March and successfully built understanding of the project, generated constructive and diverse input, and strengthened relationships with community members and stakeholders. Staff will report back to the Board with a “What We Heard” summary of the specific outcomes of the engagement in the coming months.

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 March, 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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