

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

SUBJECT **Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – January 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 January 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.

A recent Request for Proposals seeking additional biosolids beneficial use options closed on December 31, 2025 and did not result in any submissions. Staff continue to investigate and assess additional beneficial use options and intend to re-engage the market in early 2026, with the objective of identifying lower-cost and reliable long-term solutions.

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 advanced thermal processing project that constitutes the preferred long-term solution within the CRD's Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

January Operational Status of Beneficial Use Options:

Beneficial Use Option	Current Availability	January 2026 Notes
Energy Feedstock (Cement Manufacturing, Richmond, BC)	Unavailable	Staff are working with Amrise Richmond to determine steps to resume deliveries.
Quarry Reclamation (Cassidy, BC)	Available	Primary beneficial use outlet for January.
Landscape Plant Growers (Fraser Valley)	Seasonally Paused	Applications pause during winter; program will resume in Spring 2026.
Advanced Thermal Processing (Future CRD Facility)	In Development	Engagement, planning and permitting discussions are underway. Public engagement including in-person open houses and guided tours of the Residuals Treatment Facility are scheduled to begin in early 2026.

Biosolids Advanced Thermal Processing - Engagement Update

First Nations engagement is ongoing and continuing in parallel, consistent with the CRD's commitments to early and sustained engagement. Staff will report back to the Board with a "What We Heard" summary following the conclusion of the engagement period.

Staff continue to progress work to deliver an advanced thermal processing facility, consistent with the Board-endorsed Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy and the engagement approach reported to the Board in November 2025. Public engagement is on track to commence in February and provides opportunities for residents to learn more about the proposed technology, its environmental benefits, key operational considerations, and to provide feedback to inform further planning. Engagement activities will include a dedicated project page on the CRD's Get Involved platform, an online survey, public open houses and guided tours of the Residuals Treatment Facility, targeted outreach to local community associations and interest groups, and supporting communications.

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 January, 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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