

**REPORT TO CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT BOARD  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025**

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**SUBJECT     Biosolids Beneficial Use Management – April 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 March 19, 2025, the Minister of Environment and Parks confirmed 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 uses of CRD-produced biosolids in alignment with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

**Biosolids Beneficial Use Management**

**Biosolids Production and Management**

In April 2025, the CRD Residuals Treatment Facility produced 193 tonnes of Class A Biosolids. Biosolids production was reduced in April due to the bypass of secondary treatment at McLoughlin Wastewater Treatment Plant. All the biosolids were beneficially used for out-of-region, non-agricultural applications.

The CRD has established three options for biosolids beneficial uses including energy feedstock for cement manufacturing in Richmond, BC, as a soil amendment for the reclamation of a quarry site in Cassidy, BC, and in 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. These costs are funded through the Core Area Liquid Waste Management budget with \$1.2 million allocated for 2025, assuming high dependence on the Richmond facility option,

which is the current lowest cost option. Staff's updated cost forecast for 2025 ranges between \$1.7 million and \$2.8 million largely because of planned maintenance and unplanned outages at the Richmond facility necessitating increased use of the higher cost biosolids beneficial use options. As of May 6, 2025 biosolids management expenses are \$725,000 and it is anticipated that budget authority will be reached by early July 2025. As a result, a budget amendment will be brought to the Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee on May 28, 2025 seeking additional funding from operating reserves.

### **CONCLUSION**

Throughout April, the Capital Regional District continued to beneficially use all of its produced Class A biosolids in alignment with the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy using a portfolio of out-of-region non-agricultural options. A budget amendment will be brought to the May 28, 2025 Core Area Liquid Waste Management Committee seeking additional funding from operating reserves as a result of higher than anticipated biosolids beneficial use management costs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

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