

CLASS A DOES IT PAY?
Issues, Technologies, and Solutions for Class A Biosolid Production

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What are biosolids?

- “Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic material resulting from the treatment of domestic wastewater”
- Biosolids differ from “sludge” in that they are treated to standards required for recycling

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How marketable is a Class A product?

- “Soil-like” appearance makes product more marketable; examples include compost, topsoil blends, and thermally dried biosolids
- Simply meeting regulatory standards for Class A may be insufficient to maximize market potential

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Example Programs

Location	Product
Newberg	Compost
Myrtle Creek	Dried Product
Newport	Lime Pasteurized
Eugene	Air-dried
Milwaukee, WI	Milorganite
Tacoma	TAGRO
Pierce County	SoundGRO

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Review of Class A Market Options

- Class A digested biosolids
- Class A via storage and air-drying
- Alkaline processing
- Thermal drying
- Compost

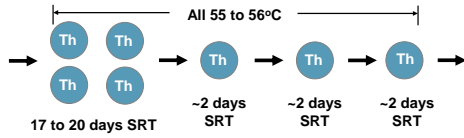
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Class A digested biosolids

- Thermophilic or temperature-phased
- ATAD
- Slurry or dewatered product
- Base market similar to Class B
- Upgradeable product with further processing

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Vancouver BC Class A Thermophilic Digestion



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DC WASA TPAD Concept Design



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Biosolids slurry application



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Slurry application



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Dewatered product application



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Field stockpiles can be problematic



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Class A via storage and air-drying



Solar/Greenhouse Air Drying Systems for Future Consideration



Wendewolf® - Degremont's
Heliantis System

Huber's Kult® Solar Dryer



Alkaline processing

- RDP lime pasteurization
- FKC lime pasteurization
- N-Viro

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RDP



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Lime pasteurized product

- Variable quality depending on feedstock
- May require additional processing
- Lime value in addition to nutrients



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Thermal Drying Technologies

- Direct (hot air) dryer
- Indirect (hot oil or steam)
- Medium temperature belt dryers (indirect plus convection)

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Medium Temperature Belt Dryers are Energy Efficient



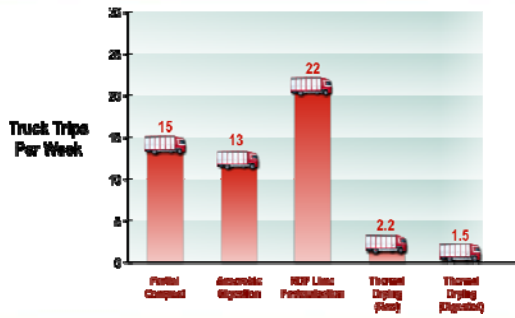
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Drum dryers produce a "pelletized" product



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Product type affects quantity and distribution cost



Compost



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More compost



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Blended products (TAGRO)



TAGRO Products

TAGRO Mix - \$8/CY
 TAGRO Mulch - \$30/CY
 Green Roof media - (call for quote)

Cost Considerations

Description	Municipality	Biosolid class	Total cost, \$/DT
WTF to local applicator	Olympia	B	152
	Pierce County	B	253
WWTF to east of Cascades	Seattle	B	118 to 136
	Portland	B	175
WWTF to processor ¹	Seattle	A	191
	Aberdeen	A	-
WWTF topsoil blending	Tacoma	A	125 (estimated)
Apply to City-owned land	Centralia ²	A	30 to 50
Apply to nearby farmland	Centralia ³	A	40 to 80

Note: Dry ton cost varies depending on percent solids.
¹ Processors compost Class B biosolids into Class A material.
² Refers to biosolids applied to City-owned farm land.
³ Refers to biosolids applied to privately-owned farm land.



OSU PNW 508, "Fertilizing with Biosolids", 2007

Table 4. Approximate first-year fertilizer replacement value for anaerobically digested biosolids.

Nutrient	Expressed as	Total nutrient (% dry wt.)	Available nutrient* (% of total nutrient)	Nutrient cost* (\$ per lb)	Value per dry ton (\$)
Nitrogen	N	5.0	35	0.41	14.35
Phosphorus	P	2.5	40	0.94	18.90
Potassium	K	0.3	100	0.29	1.74
Sulfur	S	1.0	35	0.13	0.91
Total					35.90

*Estimated plant-available nutrient released in the first year after biosolids application.
 *Approximate nutrient cost is based on Willamette Valley bulk dry fertilizer prices, June 2006. The actual cost of a pound of fertilizer N, P, or K varies depending on nutrient form and analysis (e.g., costs differ for anhydrous ammonia and calcium nitrate as a source of N), transportation charges, market conditions, and the quantity purchased. Cost of fertilizer application is not included.



Product Value

N & P @ \$0.25/lb = \$10/DT
 Lime @ \$50/ton = \$10/DT
 Total value = \$20/DT
 "as delivered" value = \$5/ton

*value excluding delivery and application

Treatment	% Protein
1X	15.1
2X	20.3
Control	7.9

Promotion



Depth	Field ID	NO3 -N #/ac	NH4 -N #/ac	P Morgan ppm	K Acet ppm	pH	SMP Buffer /100g	Ca meq /100g	Mg meq /100g
1	C	9	26	7	281	5.9	6.5	6.5	3.4
1	1X	21	25	10	324	6.5	6.8	20.8	3.7
1	2X	11	30	15	336	6.5	6.7	26.6	4.0

Promotion

APPROXIMATE NUTRIENT VALUE PER DRY TON OF CENTRALIA BIOSOLIDS

Nitrogen (N) 20 pounds
 Phosphorus (P2O5) 41 pounds
 Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE) 65 percent
 Iron (Fe) 17 to 20 percent

Value of Environmental Quality Credits: Biosolids

Centralia biosolids, a processed product of the City of Centralia Wastewater Treatment Plant, are classified as "recycled quality" biosolids by the State of Washington. An "recycled quality" biosolid is a biosolid that has been processed to meet or exceed the standards for Class A biosolids as defined in the Washington State Department of Ecology's (DOE) Biosolids Management Manual.

Recycled quality biosolids have been processed to destroy pathogens. This material is suitable for unrestricted use in a landfill and soil amendment.

Unlike Class B biosolids, the recycled quality materials do NOT need:

- A waiting period prior to crop harvest.
- Preplanting of soil and buffer zone plant.
- Land application controls.

Environmental quality biosolids must be applied at appropriate rates that are consistent with Washington State University fertilizer recommendations.

Centralia biosolids contain significant amounts of N, P2O5, and calcium in calcium oxide or lime. High amounts of lime in the product make it suitable for growing soil pH. Organic matter levels in the biosolids are also beneficial for improving soil productivity.

This product is not a commercial fertilizer. Nutrient contains an average and an iron guarantee.

* Refer to the user for details.

** Biosolids that are not recycled quality (Class B) biosolids. Iron used to make the composting or drying material.

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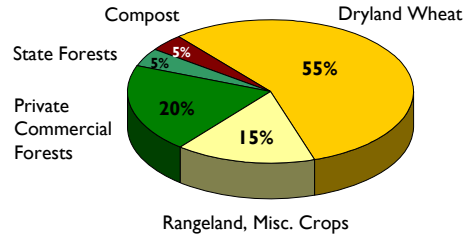


Keys to Success (King County)

- Go where you're wanted
- Work with respected farmers
- Use community spokespersons
- Support university research
- Build rapport with regulators
- Stay diverse – locations and uses
- Network with other utilities
- Continually improve - EMS



King County mixed product distribution



Class A product advantages

- Better market acceptance
- No regulatory constraints; “commodity”
- Convert from “sludge” to “product” to maximize demand



Key factors for biosolids marketability

- Class A
- Soil-like appearance
- Granular texture for blending with other materials
- Testing and promotion



Actual Biosolids Program Revenue

City of Portland (Class B)- \$5/DT
King County (Class B) - \$6.40/DT or \$0.18/#N
Pierce County (Class A, bagged) - \$3 per 50#
TAGRO (Class A bulk soil product) – up to \$30/CY product



Cost reduction vs. “revenue”

- Highest value products have high production cost
- Production cost often energy dependent
- Marketing product requires vision and commitment



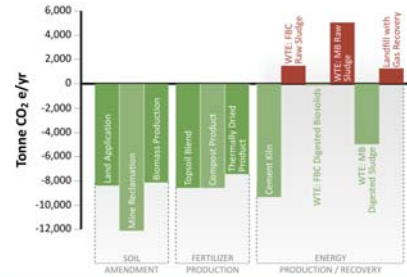
WWTP operation vs. public/private partnership

- Private firms such as topsoil blenders have an advantage
- WWTP marketing requires commitment and vision
- Don't count on profit in either case, focus on cost reduction

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Does sustainability count?

Comparisons of GHG emissions of biosolids management options



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Questions?

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Parkson Strainpress Installation



- Raw primary sludge screening
- Installation Capacity
 - 200,000 lb/d solids
 - 600,000 gpd flow

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