

# Biosolids Process and Management

A function of the Metropolitan  
Wastewater Management  
Commission

Turning waste  
into a **valuable**  
**resource** through  
biosolids **recycling**



## Who Knew?

Biosolids from the anaerobic digesters at the wastewater treatment plant are pumped about 5.5 miles to the Biosolids Management Facility



## How Biosolids Are Managed

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) Biosolids Management Facility (BMF) is an important part of processing wastewater and effectively managing our natural resources. The BMF is located in Eugene on Awbrey Lane where biosolids generated from the treatment of wastewater at the facility on River Avenue are turned into nutrient rich, beneficial organic materials.

Solids generated from the biological treatment of wastewater are pumped from the treatment plant to lagoons at the BMF where, over time, natural decomposition processes further stabilize the materials and reduce pathogens. Once fully treated, the biosolids are dried using mechanical dewatering and air-drying processes. The end result of this process is biosolids, which are safe for the environment, and high in concentrations of valuable

nutrients. They are a beneficial resource, containing essential plant nutrient and organic matter and are recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment. The majority of the biosolids are applied to agricultural lands and a small amount is composted for urban uses.

## From Biosolids to Biocycle

The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission calls the biosolids product Biocycle. Biocycle is applied to agricultural land approved by the Department of Environmental Quality, or to the Biocycle Farm, the MWMC-owned poplar plantation. The MWMC has been providing Biocycle to local grass seed and hay farmers for more than 20 years.



## Our Mission

To protect public health and safety and the environment by providing high quality wastewater management services to the Eugene-Springfield community.

## Wastewater Solids Make Excellent Soil Conditioners and Fertilizers

Biosolids are the safe, nutrient rich, organic byproduct of the wastewater treatment processes. This byproduct is a beneficial resource that contains essential plant nutrients and organic matter. Recycling this resource is a great way to return valuable nutrients to the soil. All essential plant nutrients are found in biosolids. The organic matter in biosolids provides advantages that are not available from chemical fertilizers, such as moisture retention and improvements to soil texture.

The treatment process used guarantees that the biosolids are appropriate for specific uses.

In fact, Biosolids recycling has been thoroughly researched by top scientists for decades. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality establish and regulate quality criteria for biosolids, including the mandate of stringent monitoring during and after treatment and the establishment of rigorous guidelines for applying biosolids to land. We're pleased to report that the

Commission's biosolids recycling program does more than what is required by these regulations.





*Partners in Wastewater Management*

## Mission Statement

Our purpose is to protect public health and safety and the environment by providing high quality wastewater management services to the Eugene-Springfield community. MWMC and the regional partners are committed to providing these services in a manner that is effective, efficient and meets customer service expectations.

For more information on MWMC, please visit us at:

[www.mwmcpartners.org](http://www.mwmcpartners.org)  
[www.biocyclefarm.org](http://www.biocyclefarm.org)

### City of Springfield

Department of Environmental Services  
225 Fifth St.  
Springfield, OR 97477  
(541) 726-3694  
Online at: [www.ci.springfield.or.us](http://www.ci.springfield.or.us)

### City of Eugene

Public Works Wastewater Division  
410 River Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97404  
(541) 682-8600  
Online at: [www.eugene-or.gov/pww](http://www.eugene-or.gov/pww)

