

No market for class A sewage sludge “biosolids”

(compiled by Helene Shields, sludge researcher
<http://www.sludgevictims.com> hshields@tds.net)

Why have the US EPA and sludge marketers labeled these products as “organic compost” ? Why are they omitting the words “sewage sludge”, “biosolids”, and even “wastewater residuals” from their contents labels? Because the public has gotten wise to the fact that sludge biosolids contain lots of toxic chemicals and pollutants. Therefore, there is little or no retail market for sewage sludge biosolids products.

Coast to coast, many sludge producers give the sludge biosolids away for free:

<http://enclave-nashville.blogspot.com/2010/09/biosolids-fail-neighborhoods-forward-to.html>

TENNESSEE NASHVILLE – September 28, 2010

NEW SLUDGE PLANT - STILL STINKS - NO MARKET FOR NEW CLASS A sludge
"BIOSOLIDS" – PELLETS - SLUDGE NOT MEETING INDUSTRY STANDARDS - PELLETS
FIRE RISK

THE biosolids produced were rejected by the contracted buyer for failing to meet industry standards. Instead of selling those biosolids, Metro Water used private contractors to continue to truck them to landfills, and those trucks were usually dangerously overloaded. Biosolids drying tanks had overflowed near a greenway on several occasions.

Biosolids facilities have a dubious reputation elsewhere of catching on fire during the drying process. The pellets produced may not be safe for fertilizer use even with market standards in place

“UPDATE/CLARIFICATION: Demetria Kalodimos e-mailed and asked me to clarify my interpretation of what she told me during our interview. I overstated a couple of points she made. Here are the points she intended to make:

My information is the pellets had not been SOLD since going on line, but they indeed have been produced. I have some of the finished product.”
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<http://www.mwra.com/03sewer/html/trac.htm>

MASSACHUSETTS – MASS. WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY – MWRA

**Mass. sludge biosolids pellets – high fuel costs to dry the
sludge – PELLETS CONTAMINATED WITH
EXCESSIVE TOXIC METALS, LEAD, COPPER &**

MOLYBDENUM “While these levels are well below current federal standards, they exceed the Mass. DEP highest-quality levels for unrestricted land application. “ **[and yet they continue to promote unrestricted land application, including on home vegetable gardens . . .]**

<http://www.biosolids.com/Headlines/pdf/NEBRACaseStudyMWRA01.pdf>

**MWRA also offers this fertilizer free of charge to MWRA
wastewater municipal customers for use on public lands.**

MWRA spokeswoman Ria Convery said, the fertilizer, which comes in 40-pound sacks of dried sludge pellets that can be picked up by the truckload at the authority’s Quincy plant, meets state and federal standards for use on lawns, gardens — including vegetable gardens — and commercial agriculture.”

And don't forget the fires! There was a fire at the pelletizer in 1993 and then the MWRA Quincy Pelletizer was knocked out by a fire again last November...see:

“Quincy fire officials and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority shut down the Fore River sludge-to-fertilizer plant yesterday following several fires and said they would keep the plant closed until it is deemed

safe.

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1P28753487.html>

Massachusetts - MWRA Class A sludge distributed free:

“By Karen Nugent TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

Fertilizer pellets are loaded onto a truck at the MWRA facility in Quincy. The fertilizer, made from treated human waste, is sold around the country. (PHOTO COURTESY MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHO)

Given the current budgeting, I would hope that anyone who could use it would take advantage of the option of **free fertilizer**.

-- James J. LeBlanc, CLINTON SELECTMAN

Yes, it's made from human waste — but it's free

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority produces fertilizer made from treated solid waste and **offers it at no charge to communities** — including Clinton, Framingham, Lancaster, Southboro and Westboro — served by the authority.

The fertilizer, called Bay State Fertilizer, is used by cities and towns on municipal grounds such as parks, golf courses, median strips and ball fields, and is becoming an increasingly popular way of saving money, especially in the coming fiscal year with its cash-strapped state budget.
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**MISSOURI APRIL 27, 2009 FREE TOXIC
HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM SLUDGE**

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20090427/NEWS/904270335/1003/NEWS03>

**On Friday, The Associated Press reported that a
free sludge program at a company in Missouri had**

been suspended because it contains hexavalent chromium, a carcinogen used in tanning. The company, National Beef Leathers, which gave fertilizer away free to area farmers, used chromium to remove hair from animal hides. Bay State Fertilizer has 67 parts per million of chromium. The federal government does not regulate chromium. The Massachusetts limit is 1,000 parts per million.

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INDIANA - <http://www.ci.carmel.in.us/services/utilities.html>

Wastewater Division which handles the disposal of the city's sanitary wastewater as well as the Carmel Green (Biosolids) Program. .

<http://bestlawn.info/organic/indiana-free-carlem-green-biosolids-t1814.html>

Indiana free Carmel green biosolids

by [eric0919](#) on April 23rd, 2010, 8:33 pm

The Carmel, Indiana waste water treatment plant is giving away free Carmel green on the 24th 12-4pm. Free bags while they last or bring a bucket. I got a free bag last year, it's got a lot bigger chunks than Milorganite but is basically the same.

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Indiana – Fort Wayne -
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Grow-Hops/message/7603>

I came to the realization that our city (Fort Wayne, IN) has a waste recycling facility that offers **free mulch and compost** if you load it yourself. **The compost is "biosolids" composted from the waste water treatment plant and is safe for vegetables.** The mulch is made up from

debris that the city and contractors drop off (for a fee) and then the city mulches it. Now, loading with a shovel is hard work, **but it's free.** They also offer loading for a few dollars a ton. Hopefully there's a municipal site near you doing the same thing.

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<http://www.fwrj.com/TechArticles08/t3-%20Sludge%20Management.pdf>

FLORIDA July 5, 2009

” Pellet plants are being built by many communities in Florida. Costs to produce and market pellets can range from \$400-\$800per dry ton. **Many cities wind up landfilling a portion of the pellets they produce because of the limited market demand.** Every year more communities are investigating pelletization plants to comply with current and future federal and state regulations. **Every year the market will have more pellets available, decreasing demand and value.”**

FLORIDA – APRIL 2011

<http://www.cbs12.com/news/mulch-4732161-county-fortified.html>

County offers free sludge-fortified mulch

April 27, 2011 3:52 PM

[WPEC - CBS12.com](http://www.wpec.com)

LANTANA, Fla. -- Palm Beach County is giving yard mulch away, fortified with a safe organic waste product from sewage treatment.

The free mulch will be available at the Lantana Transfer Station as part on an ongoing pilot program starting Friday. Anyone can visit the Lantana Transfer Station at 1810 Lantana Road and pick up free compost/mulch materials, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon. You must hand-load your own material.

County officials say the compost is a mixture of yard waste mulch and "waste water residuals," aka the solid material left over after sewage treatment.

Delaware - Sent: Monday, March 16, 2009 1:06 PM

Subject: **DELAWARE - quarter million tons of TOXIC mixture of sewage sludge, coal fly ash, industrial soot - NO MARKET - Pigeon Point Landfill - VFL Technology - financial assurance - performance bonds needed**

SEE ATTACHED article - taxpayers and public officials were warned of "Trojan Horse" sludge landfill in November 2005.

This abandoned pile of sludge/toxic industrial wastes which will cost taxpayers \$17.5 million dollars to clean up, is a perfect example of WHY THE POSTING OF FINANCIAL SECURITIES AND/OR PERFORMANCE BONDS should be required from the waste industry with every sludge stockpiling/land application operation . . .

"VFL officials said they would eventually remove the waste material when they found a market for it, but the market never materialized.

The only current approved use for the stabilized sludge, a drainage and landscaping job at the closed Pigeon Point landfill, ends in a year. Environmental groups previously questioned whether the 1.5 million tons sent to Pigeon Point was excessive.

Taxpayers could get stuck with the bill if, as some regulators have warned, VFL simply walks away from the pile."

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20090313/NEWS02/903130350>

NO MARKET FOR CLASS A SLUDGE "BIOSOLIDS" COMPOST – April 2006

It is unfortunate the huge Hinkley CA sludge composting facility was approved. Communities around the country are finding there is little or no market for this contaminated waste. People are leery of Class A sewage sludge (biosolids) compost and pellets because they contain significant quantities of toxic industrial wastes, and are subject to incidents of pathogen regrowth.. . recent EPA research indicates Class A sludge "biosolids" compost/pellets may also contain infectious human and animal prions which can cause transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)

(mad cow, scrapie, Chronic Wasting Disease, sporadic Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease, etc.

A more prudent course of action may be to follow Europe's lead and utilize clean new thermal and other technologies to exploit sludge as a renewable resource to generate biogas, biomass, electricity, power, energy

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FEBRUARY 24, 2009 – MICHIGAN – no market for Class A sludge – zinc too high

From *Record-Eagle, Traverse City, MI, 2-22-09*. **Compost Giveaway Plan is a flop in Traverse City, MI.** TRAVERSE CITY -- Area gardens won't receive a promised compost product from Grand Traverse County's septage treatment plant. Septage plant proponents had claimed the facility could produce a clean, beneficial soil supplement from septic tank waste. When construction began in 2004, a public relations firm doled out samples of a **similar material as part of a promotional event. But the bagged compost campaign flopped, providing local taxpayers a sneak peek of woes that would dog the \$8 million plant.**

New studies show plant-produced material contains levels of zinc too high for retail or wholesale distribution, said Scott Blair of CH2MHill OMI, who oversees operation of the septage and city sewer plants. Testing indicates lofty zinc levels are indigenous to the area's septage, and the elemental metal can't be treated or filtered out. "It's disappointing," said Chris Buday, director of the county's Department of Public Works. "I thought (engineering firm Gourdie-Fraser Inc.) tested the septage when they designed the plant, but maybe they didn't test for metals."

South Carolina, April 2007: "The county's compost program has been **unexpectedly unprofitable.** Georgetown County is spending \$500,000 a year to run a composting site that generates about \$50,000 a year in revenue."

"Thu, Apr. 05, 2007

**Negative returns on compost production a sticky problem
Georgetown County seeks out strategies for marketing sludge"**

<http://list.web.net/archives/sludgewatch-l/2006-December/002044.html>

Pennsylvania, Jan. 2007: " The newsletter also includes problems Synagro is running into in Philadelphia wanting to build a new sludge pellets facility. **The market for those pellets "is already saturated and the pellets will end up in increasingly expensive landfills"** according to a union spokesperson."

<http://list.web.net/archives/sludgewatch-l/2007-March/002293.html>

Maryland, Hagerstown - March 2007: "HAGERSTOWN - An explosion Tuesday tore a hole in the roof of a building where a company turns sludge into fertilizer for the City of Hagerstown at a water-treatment facility on Frederick Street."

"Barton said the city will have to find an alternative way to handle its sludge, which Synagro turned into fertilizer pellets.

"They used to sell it, but the market for sales now has kind of dried up," Barton said."

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<http://www.slocoastjournal.com/docs/archives/2011/jan/pages/news5.html> CALIFORNIA

How Does Your Garden Grow?

by Linda Stedjee

Synopsis: Wastewater treatment plants nationwide produce compost from sewage sludge and make it available as a soil amendment at no cost to the public. An aggressive public relations campaign sponsored by the sewage treatment industry has convinced most consumers that the material is safe. However, researchers have found that compost made from sewage sludge can contain numerous dangerous contaminants, including tens of thousands of unregulated chemicals. Government-required testing does not cover these contaminants, which end up in our food and in the environment.

California - <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics/Biosolids/#Application>

There are currently several biosolids composting operations operating in California with the majority of operations located in Southern California. At this time, the overall size of the market for composted materials is uncertain and competition exists with the green waste composting market. Market considerations are an important aspect of **composting since in the absence of an end market, composted materials would, by necessity, have to be landfilled.** Composters who end up landfilling biosolids would incur financial losses due to tipping fees plus the costs incurred during the production of the biosolids into compost.

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http://www.ojaisan.org/about_us/biosolids.html

CALIFORNIA OJAI

“The Ojai Valley Sanitary District collects and processes wastewater from about 20,000 residents of the City of Ojai, the unincorporated Ojai Valley, and the north Ventura Avenue area. Approximately 120 miles of trunk and main sewer lines form a network that transports the untreated wastewater downstream to the Ojai Valley Treatment Plant. ”

Here's the Dirt on Biosolids

Rich, natural compost is now available to the public free of charge.

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<http://www.turlock.ca.us/citydepartments/municipalservices/waterqualitycontrol/nutrilock/>

CALIFORNIA – TURLOCK

What is Nutrilock?

Nutrilock is a complete specialty co-compost product that consists of biosolids, a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process, and greenwaste from community landscaping.

Where Can I Find Nutrilock?

Picking up your own Nutrilock is convenient! Here's how...

Where: Turlock Transfer Station, 1100 S. Walnut Rd. 668-6049

When: Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM Saturday, 8AM – 12PM

(No appointment necessary)

Cost: Free-of-charge

California, Nov. 2006: <http://www.lvmwd.com/index.aspx?page=173>

"The Calabasas Rancho/Las Virgenes Composting Facility
Rancho Las Virgenes BIOSOLIDS Composting Facility. produces
12,000 cubic yards of compost each year, Lippman said.

Compost is given to residents free each Saturday at the Calabasas facility.

Recipients are required to bring their own containers and haul the fertilizer themselves. Lippman advises residents to bring trash cans and shovels, and if it is hauled away in a truck, the compost should be covered, he said."

<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9B04EED9103EF934A1575BC0A9609C8B63>

California, LA, August 2006: "A small part of the treated waste is composted at a city park, but Ms. Ruiz said larger-scale efforts to use it in the city had failed.

"We tried to sell compost from some of our green waste," she said, "and **couldn't find a market for it.**"

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CALIFORNIA – Orange County – April 2011 – sludge compost giveaway

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Orange_County,_CA,_Sludge_Compost_Giveaway

On April 7, 2011, the **Orange County Sanitation District** of California announced the town of Fountain Valley, California, home of pro-sludge industry clean water group, the **National Water Research Institute**, and pro-sludge compost group, the **Utility Branding Network**, will reinstate its **toxic sludge compost giveaway**. A **PR statement** released April 7, 2011, stated that Fountain Valley's new recreation center has already seen the spreading of "compost on of its ten baseball and soccer fields

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California – San Francisco – free sludge biosolids compost
Aug 18, 2010 ... San Francisco's **free 'organic biosolids compost'** filled
with toxic chemicals.
www.naturalnews.com/029504_organic_biosolids_toxic.html -

CALIFORNIA <http://www.cayucosd.org/JPAkeydocuments.htm>
March 2011 **Morro Bay-Cayucos**

Biosolid Composting Program

Free compost available at the WWTP

Class A Exceptional Quality Composted Biosolids are NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC from the **Morro Bay-Cayucos Wastewater Treatment Plant**. The composted material is made from treated biosolids generated from the Treatment Plant, mixed with wood chips and green waste from the local community.

CALIFORNIA [Water District Offers Free Community Compost - Agoura Hills, CA Patch](http://agourahills.patch.com/.../water-district-offers-free-community-compost)

Jan 28, 2011 ... Agoura residents can collect **all the free compost** their garden desires ... **Compost** or soil conditioner made from **biosolids** and recycled wood ...
agourahills.patch.com/.../water-district-offers-free-community-compost –

.....

VIRGINIA <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/452/452-230/452-230.html>

New Market, Town of Mike Ritchie 389 Academy Road New Market, VA 22844	Phone (office): (540) 740-3432 Phone (plant): (540) 740-8914 E-mail: <i>phile@shentel.net</i>	Biosolids, sawdust, and wood chips compost: 20 to 40 cu yd/yr.	Free: pick-up at treatment plant
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*PENNSYLVANIA Philadelphia

1. [Gardening 101: Where can I find free compost in Philadelphia](#)

...

Jul 18, 2009 ... The Philadelphia area has more than her share of facilities offering **free compost made** from good stock of various leaves, **biosolids**, grass, ...

www.examiner.com/.../gardening-101-where-can-i-find-free-compost-philadelphia -

<http://faq.gardenweb.com/faq/lists/pagard/2004072034000862.html>

Distribution Locations: **Philadelphia**

Philadelphia Water, Aramark Tower - 5th fl, 1101 Market St, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Phone: (215)-685-4065

Product: Screened Compost

Feedstocks: anaerobically digested biosolids

Processing Time: 90 days

Quantity: Sale **and giveaway**

NEW HAMPSHIRE – MERRIMACK

<http://www.biosolids.com/Headlines/pdf/NEBRACaseStudyMerrimack01.pdf>

The Merrimack facility treats wastewater from commercial, industrial, and residential users in Merrimack, as well as the septage from five other area communities.

The facility offers free compost seven days a week to residents of Merrimack--

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[Town of Bristol Rhode Island: compost](#)

Additionally, the Compost Department provides **free compost** for residents that can ... **Biosolids compost** created from a combination of the by-product of the ...

www.bristolri.us/sewer/compost.php - [Cached](#) - [Similar](#)

Rhode Island, Dec. 2006: "Biosolids compost is a tough sell in Rhode Island"

RHODE ISLAND

http://www.projo.com/westbay/content/projo_20051118_ww18com.1c1d7ebc.htm

|

<http://mailman.cloudnet.com/pipermail/compost/2005-November/013760.html>

Waste compost is just wasting away

01:00 AM EST on Friday, November 18, 2005

BY BENJAMIN N. GEDAN
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

excerpts:

"Plant officials have struggled for years to develop a market for their "Class A" compost. Plant manager Michael P. Roberts' frustration has been rising along with the piles of compost, and yesterday he lashed out at several state agencies he says have largely ignored his appeals for help.

"We have been having a God-awful time getting rid of this stuff,"

Roberts said in an interview. "I see the garbage that the Department of Transportation uses, and you know they're paying for that."

Plant officials had initially put their hopes in homeowners, including local residents who were offered the compost for free.

In the early 1990s, plant officials hired trash hauler BFI to market the compost. But later, they opted to do their own promotion, figuring the material would be an easy sell.

"At this point we're willing to give it away because we have to dispose of it," Roberts said. "Every door we knocked on remained closed." State officials are wasting tens of thousands of dollars, he said, citing recent landscaping work along Route 95, three miles from the sewer plant, that he calls the "Great Wall of Cranston."

State environmental regulations limit the quantity of compost the West Warwick plant can store. If the facility cannot more quickly move its organic merchandise, it will be forced to incinerate stockpiles in Woonsocket for \$8,000 per week."

"But Parker said the department would not mandate that its contractors use West Warwick's compost -- and, he said, it would bar them from using it near housing."

HAWAII – 2009

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services (ENV) is offering **free biosolids compost** to the public, including individuals, ...

www.honolulu.gov/refs/csd/.../ENVoffersfreecompost.htm -

HAWAII – September 4, 2008

"According to the audit the "implementation of test marketing, promotion and sales of the biosolid pellets and efforts to develop a local market of potential users are under way. **However, public acceptance of the beneficial use of the pellets is questionable.**"

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com:80/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080904/NEWS04/809040351/1008/LOCALNEWSFRONT>

Posted on: Thursday, September 4, 2008

Audit of biosolid project disputed

Georgia, Cobb County - May 2005: - " They experienced odor problems, processing problems, **and had few paying markets for their finished product.** **The facility caught on fire at least a couple of times and the public was not very supportive of the operation."**

Georgia, Crisp County, May 2007: "I believe their capitol cost was around 50 million for the composting and recycling center and **in the first few years they lost plenty of money.** **The last I heard it was a 75 million dollar hit, they lost their prison labor and it was shut down in less than four years."**

Missouri, O'Fallon, Sept. 2006: "Instead of tons of gooey, stinky sludge, the pasteurization at the city's brand new biosolids plant was supposed to transform the gunk into a **marketable type of fertilizer that could be sold not only to farmers but also to weekend yard warriors and others.** It was so unique, the city even licensed with the inventor to give its mix a trademark name: **Nature's Blend.**

In what current staff and council members now describe as **a pet science project gone bad, the city is struggling to figure out how to recoup what's turned into a literal and financial mess, costing the city more than \$1.5 million a year.**

In the four-plus years since the plant was built, the biosolids plant on Firma Road at Highway 79 **has never earned a cent** from the top-grade organic fertilizer it produces, said Assistant City Administrator Greg Smothers. **Because the final product is considered too soggy, the city pays \$100,000 a year to haul it away, an additional \$670,000 in production expenses and an estimated \$750,000 in debt service, annually."**

Wisconsin - Milwaukee - Sept. 2006 - Milorganite: "Eighty years ago, Milwaukee became the first community in the country to recycle its sewage as fertilizer. **Now the future of Milorganite, the granddaddy of the industry, is uncertain.**

" What has hurt is that some competitors are giving away their treated sludge to former Milorganite customers, such as orange growers in Florida "

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CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

----- Original Message -----

From: "Maureen Reilly" <maureen.reilly@sympatico.ca>

To: "asludgewatch" <sludgewatch-1@list.web.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2009 8:46 AM

Subject: Sludge Watch ==> **Maryland - City must pay to both make and to take sludge pellets**

Sludgewatch Admin:

You have heard the palaver about how cities will make money by making their sewage sludge into dry pellets and then selling it.

Hogwash. San Diego is spinning this fiction recently. They've been spinning this fib in Toronto for years.

Here is yet another story that tells the truth:

**Cumberland wants to make their sludge into pellets.
They will be producing 8,000 wet tons of sludge per year.**

**They will have to pay over \$10M for the sludge plant.
Then for each ton of finished pellets they will have to pay about \$200 to the sludge company to get rid of the pellets (\$47 per wet ton of sludge processed into pellets).**

And hang on a minute: it looks like the reporter forgot to mention the additional fee: More than \$300 per dry ton of sludge to pay for the fuel to dry them!

Look at this municipal document to see the whole cost picture:
http://www.ci.cumberland.md.us/new_site/app/webroot/files/results.pdf

They will be paying over \$500 per ton to make these pellets - and they still have to pay the producer to haul them away.

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Published: April 17, 2009

Environmentalist details wastewater treatment plant's biological processes
Tess Hill

Cumberland Times-News, Maryland

CUMBERLAND — The city of Cumberland is looking at the second phase of wastewater treatment plant upgrades before awarding a bid for biological services.

At this week's city meeting, Raquel Ketterman, the city's environment specialist, told the mayor and city council members that sludge, also known as biosolids, is a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process.

Because of the biological nutrient removal process, the plant produces approximately 4,000 to 5,000 wet tons of sludge each year. This is then applied to agricultural lands. But once the enhanced nutrient removal process is in place, that number will grow about 40 percent — approximately 8,000 wet tons each year.

“We have the ability to store around 3,000 wet tons and that will be an issue once we change to the ENR system,” Ketterman said. **“It will also be a challenge to find enough regional agricultural land to apply 8,000 wet tons versus 5,000.”**

The current nutrient removal process creates Class B biosolids, which still contain pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. Class B biosolids can only be taken to the landfill or applied to permitted lands. There are also buffer areas, such as distances from houses and bodies of water, and humans and animals must stay away from contact with these biosolids for a certain period of time as the pathogens continue to decay.

With the ENR system, the sludge can go through a heat-drying process, which will create a Class A biosolid.

“Class A biosolids can be marketed across the country and are lightweight and easy to transport,” Ketterman said. “They are virtually pathogen-free and can be used as a fertilizer or as a fuel source.”

Ketterman said New England Fertilizer Co., the low bidder for the project, already has a marketing system and clients who want this product. **However, they will still have to pay for this service.**

New England Fertilizer Co., located in North Quincy, Mass., had the low bid of \$10,123,000 for capital costs. Synagro, headquartered in Houston, was the only other applicant, with a bid of \$11,945,000. **New England Fertilizer Co. also had a lower annual service fee, which would go toward marketing and transporting the biosolids, at \$382,100 per year; Synagro would charge \$894,000 per year.**

“Funding is approved and we’re in the process of accepting the proposal (from New England Fertilizer,)” Ketterman said. “Approval to accept the bid will be on the city’s agenda at an upcoming meeting.”

The project is estimated to cost \$35 million, with \$26 million coming from the Bay Restoration Fund, \$6 million from the state’s economic stimulus package and \$3.5 million from the Maryland Department of the Environment Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund.

http://www.times-news.com/local/local_story_107225755.html

NEW YORK AMHERST

From: "Maureen Reilly" <maureen.reilly@sympatico.ca>

To: "asludgewatch" <sludgewatch-1@list.web.net>

Sent: **Tuesday, January 26, 2010 9:21 AM**

Subject: Sludge Watch ==> **Near Buffalo NY: Amherst advised to abandon \$8 M sludge fertilizer project**

Sludgewatch Admin:

Municipal politicians are being sold a pile of sludge when it comes to marketing sewage sludge pellets as 'fertilizer'. Here is the Amherst NY experience:

"Great initial hopes by town officials to market and sell sewage byproducts as fertilizer on a national scale never materialized. Instead of producing \$400,000 in revenue each year through the sale of "AmEarth" fertilizer pellets, the pellets have brought in less than \$100,000 during the past five years combined and less than \$1,000 so far this year because of breakdowns."

Similarly in Toronto the Veolia pelletizer never worked properly and still doesn't work properly. It shuts down regularly so Toronto sludge staff never know how much sludge needs to be trucked to landfill in the US and on any given day don't know if the pelletizer will be working. Impossible to plan. Impossible to get trucking contracts since they never know how many trucks they need.

No wonder Toronto's sludge spreading costs are ballooning out of control. Yet the wastewater shills continue to tell municipal leaders that sludge as fertilizer will bring them significant revenue. Not so.

NEW YORK

<http://www.buffalonews.com/258/story/935489.html>Great

**Amherst advised to abandon \$8 million fertilizer project
By Sandra Tan**

January 26, 2010,

An environmental consultant told the Amherst Town Board on Monday that it makes financial sense for the town to abandon the wastewater treatment plant's aging, \$8 million fertilizer-making project and instead have sewer sludge trucked to the Buffalo Sewer Authority for incineration.

"The pelletizer ... the equipment really is reaching the end of its useful life," said Tom Whetham, senior associate for Malcolm Pirnie Inc., the firm that analyzed the town's solid waste disposal options. "When you think about a mechanically intensive piece of equipment, 13 years is a long time."

After combining operating costs with the additional capital expenses to fix worn-out machinery, it would cost \$16.7 million in current dollars over 20 years for the town to continue converting sludge into fertilizer pellets, Whetham said.

That compares with \$10.2 million over the same period to have the Buffalo Sewer Authority take and incinerate sludge cakes that would be trucked from the town's sewage plant to Buffalo's.

Great initial hopes by town officials to market and sell sewage byproducts as fertilizer on a national scale never materialized.

Instead of producing \$400,000 in revenue each year through the sale of "AmEarth" fertilizer pellets, the pellets have brought in less than \$100,000 during the past five years combined and less than \$1,000 so far this year because of breakdowns.

COLORADO

<http://www.themountainmail.com/main.asp?SectionID=4&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=20257>

Wastewater plant yields free compost

Audrey Gilpin - Mail Staff Writer

excerpts . . .

"Plant manager Randy Sack said Thursday 80-120 tons of compost is produced annually through the plant biosolids system. **He said the compost is available free. "**

"Sack said Class A compost is certified with the state and may be used for planting grass, flower beds, vegetable gardens and hay fields as a few options. "

"Dan Poole, plant employee, said they have about 40 tons of compost left from biosolids accumulated last year."

"We end up giving all of it away. What isn't taken, we give to a ranch," he said.

"People interested in picking up compost, may call 539-2448."

OHIO – NORTH ROYALTON – FREE SLUDGE BIOSOLIDS COMPOST

http://www.northroyalton.org/Wastewater_Dept.htm

“... by converting the raw sewage into purified water and the beneficial by-product of disinfected biosolids compost.”

“Compost is available!

Spring season opens up on Wednesday, April 6th. All residents will be able to receive 2 cubic yards free twice a year. ”

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WASHINGTON – LYNDEN

http://www.iafbc.ca/funding_available/programs/livestock/documents/LWTI-27_CompostReport.pdf

“BIOSOLIDS COMPOST 1-5 CUBIC YARDS – FREE ”

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ARIZONA - Mine owners want to be paid to take sludge biosolids

http://www.cwc.org/organics/organic_htms/cm001rpt.htm

The two major mining companies in the area could potentially utilize a portion of the uncomposted biosolids currently stockpiled at the plant at

closed mines and ‘over-burdened’ sites. As a contingency, additional end markets must be developed to consume the existing and future stockpiles of biosolids. **Both mines want to charge tip fees for receiving biosolids** and hold contracts with local cities to be the managers of their biosolids products (similar to what land application companies are doing). **This arrangement would be a financial benefit for the mines, since they would be paid to receive the biosolids and offset much of the cost of reclaiming their mine sites.** The Solid Waste Department of the ADEQ is interested in seeing a large-scale demonstration completed at one of the mine sites. **Although both mining companies were interested in being paid to take the biosolids as a future business opportunity, they were also interested in discussing receipt of the IBWC biosolids for FREE (e.g., someone else pays shipping)** so large-scale demonstration sites could be tested for the ADEQ.

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OREGON

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/pnw/pnw508-e.pdf>

If biosolids are a valuable resource, why are they provided at no charge to the landowner? Not all biosolids are free. Some municipalities charge a transportation fee, an application fee, or a fee equal to the nitrogen value of the biosolids. **In other cases, biosolids application is free, which compensates for landowners’ time and effort**

<http://www.laconner.net/sewer.cfm>

WASHINGTON

Sewer

La Conner's wastewater facilities serve the Town of La Conner, Swinomish Tribal Community (Village), Port of Skagit County and Skagit County Sewer District No. 1 (Hope Island Area). Our plant is located at :

Compost Sales

We also produce a Class A high quality compost. Compost that is self-loaded is offered free at the Compost Kiosk at the entrance to the wastewater treatment plant.

INDIANA ELKHART

<http://www.elkhartindiana.org/departments/division.asp?fDD=38-227>

Bio-Solids Compost

The Elkhart Environmental Center serves as a site for citizens to obtain free bio-solids compost.

<http://www.groproorganics.com/images/Using%20Compost%20to%20Improve%20Turf%20Ecology.pdf>

ILLINOIS GLENVIEW

To apply compost topdressing to fairways we purchased a TY-Crop MH-400 for \$20,000. This material hauler/topdresser is used for other tasks as well, such as rapid refill of materials while topdressing greens and tees and applying sand in bunkers. The compost we currently use is a 50/50 mix of yard trimming compost and biosolids. Our cost for yard trimming compost is \$14.00/cubic yard. For us now, biosolids are freely available (EPA permits are needed).

<http://www.compostwizard.com/docs/GAcompostsurvey.pdf>

GEORGIA A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF GEORGIA'S COMPOST INDUSTRY

“... example, a municipal wastewater plant that composts an arbitrary amount of biosolids on site requires an amendment to its NPDES permit in order to compost.”

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The final market or end use of finished compost was either sold, given away or

used internally (Table 10. . . . Municipal operations varied, using it internally, **providing it free to the public,** or selling it both by the cubic yard or by the ton. Private sites predominantly sold their compost by the cubic yard, although it was used internally **and even given away free at two sites. The two private operations that gave their compost away for free were under contract by cities to provide this service for residents.**

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<http://generationgreen.org/2010/02/son-of-toxic-sludge-the-smell-that-will-not-die/>

Son of Toxic Sludge: The Smell That Won't Die

Sewage sludge is the mucky residue of municipal wastewater treatment operations, consisting largely of human feces. Repackaged as "biosolids," sludge is sold **or given away to farmers and homeowners** for use as a nutrient-rich fertilizer.

<http://www.myballard.com/2010/11/19/deadline-for-free-trees-is-monday-2/>

WASHINGTON SEATTLE

Program participants receive:

- Free trees!
- Watering bags
- Training on proper tree planting and care
- **One free bag of GroCo compost, made with King County biosolids**

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<http://www.indianawea.org/resources/Conference%20Presentations%202010/Residuals/C%20Williams%20-%20Outside%20the%20Tank.pdf>

INDIANA

Free Compost Goes Fast At Angola WWTP

Monday, April 5, 2010

(ANGOLA) - It did not take long for people to take advantage of **the Angola Waste Water Treatment plant giving away free compost** on Monday morning. Waste Water Department Superintendent Craig Williams says nearly 130 cubic yards of compost was gone by 10:00am.

<http://www.stpetersmo.net/article-detail-page.aspx?article=766>

MISSOURI ST. PETERS

“The nutrient-rich biosolids are byproducts of St. Peters’ wastewater treatment process.”

“St. Peters residents are entitled to **two free cubic yards of compost** or mulch each year.”

“Between 2,000-3,000 St. **Peters residents pick up free compost** or mulch each year from Earth Centre. “

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<http://www.ci.valdese.nc.us/wastewater.htm>

NORTH CAROLINA VALDESE

“The woodchips and Biosolids are mixed together. The compost then goes through a process to meet [state guidelines](#). **The compost is given away, free of charge to the public.** Many landscapers and mulch yards take large quantities of the compost. “

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<http://www.casaweb.org/documents/BiosolidsCompostMemo.pdf>

CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: Comparison of Priority Pollutant Contaminants Found in Commercially Available Soil Amendments and in Synagro (Central Valley) Compost Provided to the Public at no Cost

“The priority pollutants found in the commercially available soil amendments and Synagro CV compost and their associated concentrations were similar in occurrence and concentration.”

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Markets for Compost

Most of the standards were originally developed for biosolids compost, **take the compost for free (or at a nominal cost of \$1**

per ton) if delivered. ...

nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPURL.cgi?Dockey=10001B24.txt - [Cached](#)

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http://www2.timesreview.com/ST/stories/T102909_compost_jal

NEW YORK LONG ISLAND GREENPORT

Greenport has composting woes

To proceed or delay -- that is the question

"Whether composting is a recipe for disaster or an opportunity for the Village of Greenport to save and make money depends on whose opinion you believe.

Greenport's sludge is filled with heavy metals and toxins and that's why Village Board members should shun a proposal to build and operate a composting plant that would only cause problems, said Bill Swiskey, a former trustee and ex-utilities chief.

Mr. Bunchuck agreed to speak with The Suffolk Times about his experiences with composting.

"It's not a panacea," he said. "It's not something you would jump into; there is a learning curve."

Mr. Bunchuck said he is pleased with the \$200,000 he expects the town to see in sales of composting material this year, but he has experienced bumps along the way.

Sludge composting is a whole different animal than the leaf and yard debris his workers process at the Cutchogue site. DEC requirements are more strict when dealing with sludge wastes and the approval process is more complex, Mr. Bunchuck said.

"Not only are there more complexities in gaining regulatory permits to operate a sludge-based composting facility, but the **DEC also imposes limits on where the sludge can be used, Mr. Bunchuck said.**

"From Mr. Swiskey's vantage point, Greenport is "rushing this thing through" and it will meet the same fate as the now defunct scavenger waste plant.

"Get rid of this thing," he advised. "You could put yourselves at risk."

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[Beyond Pesticides Daily News Blog » Blog Archive » Triclosan ...](#)

Sep 23, 2010 ... **However, recent tests on biosolids have detected triclosan in compost distributed free to gardeners and labeled as "organic biosolids ...**

www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/?p=4286 - [Cached](#)
