

## Proposed Definition of Biosolids for CBP's Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Biosolids are the solid, semisolid, or liquid materials removed during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment facility – when those materials have been further treated to meet the standards established in state and federal regulations for use of such residual materials for land application, or direct marketing and distribution to the public. Any influent material that is processed through such treatment facilities, including food waste, can contribute to the total mass of biosolids.

Other definitions:

EPA

The terms biosolids and sewage sludge are often used interchangeably. When properly treated and processed, sewage sludge becomes biosolids; the nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the treatment of domestic sewage in a wastewater treatment facility. Biosolids can be recycled and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth. You will see the term sewage sludge used in the context of regulations, as EPA has established a protective regulatory framework to manage the use and disposal of sewage sludge. Effective sewage sludge and biosolids management options help ensure that useful materials are recycled on land and harmful materials are not released to water bodies.

VA DEQ

Sewage sludge is the solid, semisolid, or liquid materials removed during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment facility. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to, solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment, scum, domestic septage, portable toilet pumpings, Type III marine sanitation device pumpings, and sewage sludge products. In order for sewage sludge to become biosolids it must be treated to meet the standards established in state and federal regulations for use of biosolids for land application, marketing, or distribution. These regulations require that the sewage sludge undergo established treatment to meet the pathogen control levels, established treatment and management practices to meet the vector attraction reduction, and contain concentrations of regulated metals below established limits. The properly treated and processed sewage sludge becomes "biosolids" which can be safely recycled and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and stimulate plant growth.

Water Environment Federation

Q: What are biosolids and biosolids reuse?

A: Biosolids are a safe and beneficial resource composed of essential plant nutrient and organic matter that is recovered from the treatment of domestic sewage in a wastewater treatment facility. Biosolids can be reused and applied as fertilizer to improve and maintain productive soils and to stimulate plant growth. Farmers and gardeners have been reusing biosolids for ages. Biosolids are also used to fertilize gardens and parks and to reclaim mining sites. They are carefully monitored and must be used in accordance with regulatory requirements.