

Environmental Policy Statement

The City of Hamilton will have a substantial biosolids management program that meets regulatory and other applicable requirements, protects occupational health and safety, protects the environment, is fiscally responsible, ensures service and product quality, and builds public and stakeholder acceptance.

Health and Safety Policy Statement

The City of Hamilton will achieve its biosolids management program vision by adhering to management standards, applying industry best practices, verifying system performance, implementing continual improvements, and proactively involving and sharing performance results with the public and stakeholders.

Hamilton's Biosolids Environmental Management System follows the guidelines of:

National Biosolids Partnership
ISO 14001 – Environmental
BSI 18001 – Occupational Health and Safety

Our Vision

The City of Hamilton will manage its biosolids program to prevent pollution, comply with applicable regulations and other requirements to which the City subscribes, facilitate public involvement, track and publicize performance, and continually improve ongoing operations, including "worker" and public health and safety and the environment.

Our Mission

The City of Hamilton will manage its biosolids program to prevent workplace hazards/risks, comply with applicable regulations and other requirements to which the City subscribes, facilitate "worker" and public involvement, track and publicize performance, and continually improve ongoing operations, including "worker" and public health and safety and the environment."

Learn more...

For more detailed information on Hamilton's Biosolids Environmental Management System, please view our website at www.hamilton.ca/water or visit your local Municipal Service Centre for one of our brochures.

**Drinking Water Report
Lead Pipe Service Replacement Program
Poor Water Pressure Program
Watering Your Lawn Efficiently
Low-Flow Aerators
Maintenance of Sewer Laterals
Sewer Lateral Tree Root Policy
No-Fat Sewers
High Household Water Consumption
Hamilton Harbour WINS**

If you would like to talk to our staff, please call the City's Water and Wastewater Division at 905-546-CITY (2489)



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Public Works Department
Water and Wastewater Division

Biosolids Environmental Management Systems



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What is the Biosolids Environmental Management System?

A Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) provides municipalities with a systematic approach and the necessary tools to ensure their biosolids' quality and application program consistently comply with regulations and guidelines, maintain a pro-active community involvement program, and foster continuous improvement in their corporate mission/value statements.

In 2001, to help build a sustainable and publicly-acceptable beneficial use program for biosolids in Ontario, the City of Hamilton undertook a joint program with the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agricultural and Food, Government of Canada's Great Lakes Sustainability Funds, and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to implement a pilot Biosolids EMS program for Ontario based on the National Biosolids Partnership that was developed in the United States.

Who Oversees the EMS?

The City of Hamilton's Biosolids Environmental Management System (EMS) is being managed and maintained by the City's Water and Wastewater Division of the Public Works Department.

A Local Implementation Team was established to spearhead the EMS development process and the creation of the Biosolids program. It is comprised of representatives from various City departments, contractors, consultants, and governmental agencies.

The Biosolids EMS program receives oversight through the utilization of a peer review committee, such as the Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee, to provide input and feedback for the program.

What are Biosolids?

When wastewater enters the Wastewater Treatment Plant, it is separated into a liquid and a solids stream. The liquid stream is treated to Ministry of the Environment standards then discharged, the solids stream is thickened and stabilized by anaerobic digestion. After digestion, the treated solids are called biosolids. It is dewatered, stored, and transported off site for land application. Biosolids samples

are routinely analyzed at the City's certified environmental analytical laboratory, this ensures the biosolids' quality meets the provincial regulatory guidelines for land application. Biosolids applied to the land increase the organic fraction in the soil and supply nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, which are essential for crop growth. During winter months and inclement weather, biosolids are taken to an approved storage facility until they can be safely applied to the land.

Biosolids Production

Hamilton is responsible for the operation of three wastewater treatment plants located in: Dundas, Waterdown and Hamilton. All solids from Dundas and Waterdown are transported to the Woodward Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant where they are treated by anaerobic digestion.

Cradle to Grave...

Hamilton's Biosolids EMS program is being developed with the "Cradle to Grave" approach which encompasses all aspects of the biosolids process starting when wastewater enters the collection system (pretreatment), through to collection, treatment, and end use.

Operations

The City of Hamilton owns and oversees all aspects of its wastewater facilities. Since 1994, the day-to-day operation and maintenance of these treatment facilities has been contracted out. This offers Hamilton the opportunity to provide the best service for the best value.

The City also contracts the operations of the biosolids recycling program. The contractor is responsible for the haulage and application of Hamilton biosolids onto agricultural lands, and the operation of their biosolids storage facility. It is their responsibility to assure farmland is available for biosolids application and that all provincial and local permits and approvals are in place at all times during the spreading season.

Hamilton's dewatered biosolids are transported by truck and are applied to agricultural lands using advanced field application technology and equipment. The majority of biosolids spread on agricultural land is immediately incorporated into the soil within a couple of hours of spreading and provides beneficial fertilizer for crop production.



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