



# factsheet



## biosolids recycling to agriculture

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the application of biosolids to agricultural land in your area. Biosolids is the term used to describe treated sewage sludge.

nutri-bio is the brand name for Anglian Water's range of biosolids products. These are produced to high standards laid down by the Government and the Environment Agency, ensuring safe and sustainable use for recycling to agriculture.

### Organic manures

Biosolids currently represent 2% of the total organic manures applied in agriculture but are the most highly researched and regulated of all organic manures. The rest is comprised of farmyard manures (96%) and industry by-products (2%).

### Treatment and quality

Biosolids are produced as a result of the treatment of wastewater (see schematic diagram to illustrate the treatment process). The treatment of biosolids is controlled using a system originally developed to ensure high standards in food production (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points or HACCP). The recycling process is carried out by a dedicated biosolids team who are accredited to ISO 9001:2000 and 14001:1996. The ISO system is an internationally recognised set of standards used to ensure consistent quality.

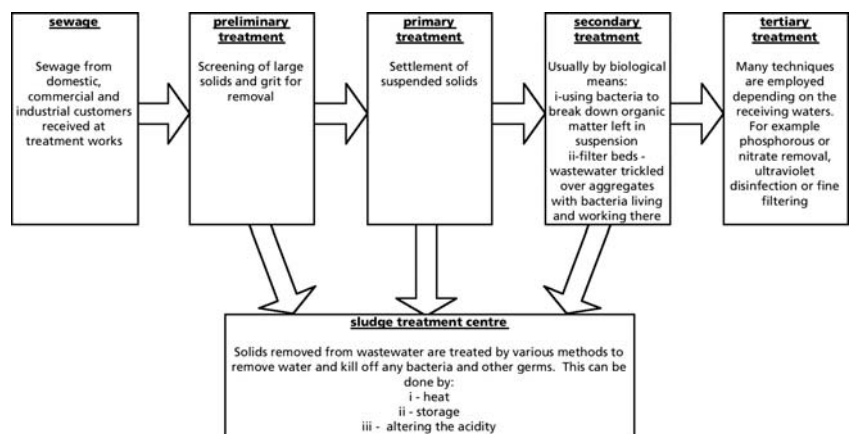
### Environmental management

Before an application onto agricultural land can take place there is a legal requirement for comprehensive soil analysis to take place. This determines the natural soil nutrient level. These results are used in conjunction with the farmers proposed cropping to produce a nutrient management plan to ensure the maximum utilisation of the biosolids nutrient value. Applications of nutri-bio are tailored to crop nutrient requirement in line with the soil analysis. nutri-bio products are usually delivered to farms in either bulk or skip lorries, or in one tonne bags of pellets/granules. These are stockpiled on the corner of fields prior to application.

The use of biosolids across the UK saves an estimated £15 million in the use of artificial fertilisers per year. There is the added advantage of offsetting the use of fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources used in manufacturing artificial fertilisers. This is why the Government views the recycling of biosolids in agriculture as the 'Best Practicable Environmental Option'.

Alternative uses for nutri-bio includes projects to improve areas of disused land, in order to transform and enhance the local environment. These can include sites such as old quarries, disused coalfield sites, landfill restoration and maintenance, as well as forestry development.

### Production of nutri-bio





# factsheet



## biosolids recycling to agriculture

### Product supply

As there is a charge for nutri-bio products it is in the farmer's interest, in conjunction with Anglian Water's professionally qualified advisors, to ensure that the maximum benefit is made from biosolids. The use of biosolids in agriculture not only reduces reliance on artificial fertilisers but it also provides the potential for improved crop yield and quality through the addition of organic matter.

### Odour management

Organic manures by their very nature can be odorous. Care is taken to try and minimise the impact of biosolids on the locality through:

- choice of product
- location of stockpiles
- prevailing wind direction
- proximity to housing
- incorporation into the soil within 48 hours

### Service to the community

It is Anglian Water's intention to ensure that biosolids are managed in a responsible and safe manner that enables a sustainable future for the recycling of biosolids to agriculture. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Biosolids Recycling Team  
 Anglian Water Services Ltd.  
 Milton House  
 Cambridge WwTW  
 Cowley Road  
 Cambridge  
 CB4 0AP  
 08457 145 145

