



Thames Water Utilities Ltd

Biosolids Recycling

Good environmental management is central to the activities of Thames Water Utilities Ltd. The company actively seeks to limit the environmental impact of its business activities and to enhance environmental quality in areas where it has influence. The collection and treatment of sewage and disposal of sewage sludge are primary duties and vital services for the local community. We are committed to the beneficial reuse of sewage sludge wherever possible.

The company recognises that, under most circumstances, the recycling of biosolids (sewage sludge) to agricultural land is the Best Practical Environmental Option because sewage sludge acts as a natural fertiliser and soil conditioner, providing essential organic matter to the soil.

It is our goal to effectively manage the recycling of biosolids to agricultural land at standards that meet statutory obligations thereby safeguarding the environment and food chain. We aim to do this through the following objectives:

Encourage continuous improvement

- Provide the best possible quality product and business service for the agricultural outlets available.
- Regularly audit our management systems to ensure critical aspects of business procedures are monitored and reviewed so that adverse environmental affects and nuisance to other parties are minimised.
- Maintain regular liaison and co-operation with relevant organisations and local communities in order to aid continuous business improvement.
- Invest in collaborative research and technology to ensure best practice for sewage sludge disposal.
- Put 100% of sewage sludge to beneficial use

Ensure the sustainability of business practices

- Ensure compliance with relevant regulations and agreements.
- Maintain a register detailing the application of biosolids to land in accordance with legislation, reporting publicly each year.
- Minimise the possibility of pollution and the incidence of nuisance by encompassing the principles of the Code of Practice for Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge and Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for Water, Soil and Air.
- Provide appropriate training for all employees involved with biosolids recycling, promoting the development of skills, awareness and knowledge.

Maintain the confidence of consumers and the general public

- Ensure that information on biosolids is available to interested parties and accessible to the general public.
- Act responsibly and professionally in all matters relating to the general public health and safety.

We will develop programmes to help us meet these objectives and review and report progress annually. This policy will be reviewed at least once every three years.

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Adopted July 2002

Last reviewed April 2005