

Pataskala Utilities Department

Bio-solids Program



Did you know that the City of Pataskala uses the wastewater that it collects to create a Bio-solid product that can be used as a fertilizer for local farmers?

Through the wastewater treatment process, the solids found in the wastewater are treated biologically and then thickened to a solids content of about 1.5%. This solution is then mixed with a chemical polymer that causes the solid particles to stick together into larger clusters. At this point, they are ready to be run through our press for dewatering.

The department uses a 1 meter BDP belt filter press to perform the dewatering process. The wastewater solution pours onto a porous belt where gravity pulls the water through the pores, leaving the clusters of solids behind. The belt then runs these clusters through a series of rollers where they are squeezed, forcing out even more water. This process leaves behind a product that ranges on average from 14% to 15% total solids content. At this point, the product is stored for up to six months in a storage facility located at the Water Reclamation Facility.

Twice a year, in the spring and the fall, the product is transported to a local field where it can be applied for beneficial use by the farmer. This process can be a delicate balancing act between the storage capabilities of the department, the schedule of the farmer and the weather.

The EPA has strict requirements that must be met in order for a Utility to take advantage of this program. These requirements include chemical makeup of the product, nutrient levels of the field, pathogen reduction of the product, vector attraction reduction and many others. All desired fields must be approved by the EPA prior to use.

The department produces an average of 860 wet tons of product, which equates to 120 dry tons. If not for the beneficial use of our product by local farmers, this would have to be disposed of in a landfill at an annual cost of \$50,000.



We would be happy to answer any questions at: Utilities Department, 621 W Broad St, 740-964-6275

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