What are Biosolids?
Biosolids are nutrient-rich, treated organic matter recovered through the treatment of wastewater.

What is the Biosolids Program?
OCSD's biosolids program consists of processes to ensure solids are treated onsite and used offsite (recycled or disposed) in accordance with all regulations and best management practices.

How are they treated?
Solids in wastewater (sewage sludge) are settled through the treatment process and treated (digested) to minimize pathogens (germs that cause disease) and odors. These digested solids are called biosolids.

The digestion process also yields methane gas that is converted to electricity to fuel most of our treatment operations.

What is Biosolids Program Sustainability?
OCSD needs to safeguard that our biosolids have a home for a long time to come. We use strategies like a diversity of management options and ensuring contractors follow best management practices to achieve program reliability.

What is Land Application?
Land application uses biosolids as a soil amendment to fertilize farmland, typically for non-food crops. The biosolids are usually broadcast using a manure spreader then tilled into soil using a disc. Because biosolids are nutrient rich, contain beneficial microbes, and bring needed organic matter to marginal desert soils, biosolids are a low-cost, environmentally-friendly alternative to popular petroleum-based fertilizers.

How do our Biosolids Enhance the Environment?
• Some of our biosolids are recycled and used as soil amendment on farm fields to create and maintain healthy soils and improve crop yields.
• Some of OCSD’s biosolids are further processed through composting to create a consumer-grade soil amendment that is distributed to agricultural, commercial and residential users.

Where are OCSD’s Biosolids Recycled?
OCSD currently recycles our biosolids at the locations on the map at the bottom of pg. 2 (www.ocsd.com/map).

Farming with Orange County’s Biosolids is a Win for the Environment, Farmers, and Ratepayers
Decades of nationwide use, research, and regulatory review and oversight have demonstrated the benefits and safety of biosolids. Orange County’s biosolids have been safely applied to farmland in California and Arizona since the 1980’s.

Orange County’s biosolids (treated sewage sludge) are a beneficial soil amendment for farmland and an environmentally-friendly alternative to petroleum-based and chemical fertilizers. Not only do biosolids help conserve water in the soil, the California State Water Resources Control Board designated biosolids farmland application to be the environmentally-superior option in their Environmental Impact Report for the state-wide biosolids permitting process.
Orange County’s biosolids are safe, highly-regulated, and meet the most restrictive toxics standards. In order to maintain these high-quality standards for recycling our biosolids, OCSD maintains a comprehensive and award-winning Source Control program that has significantly reduced the amount of pollutants entering our facilities and biosolids.

Fertilizing farmland with biosolids is a win-win for the environment because we are recycling a renewable resource and creating productive farmland. It’s a win for farmers because research has demonstrated increases in crop yields. And this biosolids management option is a win for local sewer rate payers since it is a low-tech, low-cost, reliable option that helps keep sewer rates low.

**LEARN MORE**
Visit our Web site at [www.ocsd.com/biosolids](http://www.ocsd.com/biosolids) for more information and to sign up for periodic biosolids program newsletters using the Keep me informed button.

OCSD encourages public input on our biosolids program. Contact Deirdre Bingman at (714) 593-7459 or dbingman@ocsd.com.

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