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# BIOSOLIDS: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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**Q. How do other states and countries handle biosolids?**

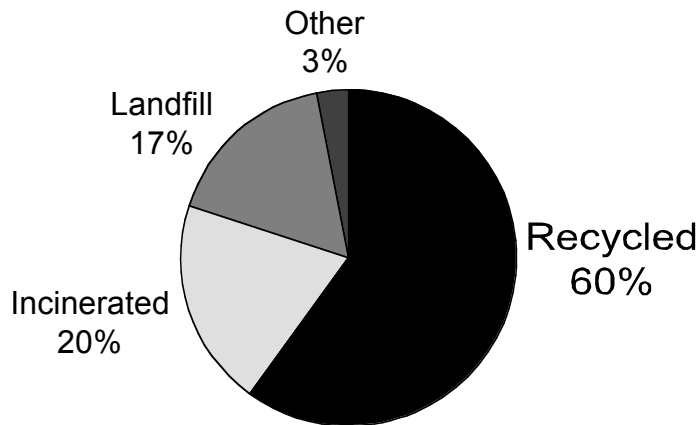
**A. The recycling of biosolids is a widespread and accepted practice throughout the United States and the world.**

## **Biosolids in all 50 States**

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, all 50 states have biosolids land application programs. With approximately 7 million dry tons of biosolids produced each year by the nation's 16,000 wastewater treatment plants, this recycling effort benefits the environment by using a valuable product that would otherwise take up space in landfills or affect air quality through incineration.

Rich in plant nutrients, most recycled biosolids are land applied on farms and forests as fertilizers and soil conditioners. Smaller quantities are sold as fertilizer and compost through home and garden centers and landscaping services.

Here is how biosolids are used in the United States:



## **U. S. Biosolids**

Sources: Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, North East Biosolids & Residuals Association, EPA.

*Continued on back page*

## **Around the World**

According to a United Nations report, the recycling of biosolids through agricultural land application, composting and other products is continuing to grow in developed and emerging nations. In recent years, Australia has developed an extensive biosolids recycling program in response to its need to conserve water and improve the quality of its soils, and has achieved a recycling rate of 81 percent.

### ***Biosolids Recycling in selected Middle- and Higher-Income Countries***

<b>Country</b>	<b>% Recycling</b> (Agriculture, composting)
Australia	81
Austria	65
Canada	33
China	49
Czech Republic	67
England & Wales	80
European Union*	52
Germany	57
Hungary	39
Italy	55
New Zealand	66
Norway	95
Slovakia	69

\* 27 Countries

Source: Global Atlas Of Excreta, Wastewater Sludge, and Biosolids Management: Moving Forward The Sustainable and Welcome Uses of a Global Resource, published by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), 2008.



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