

Residuals Management

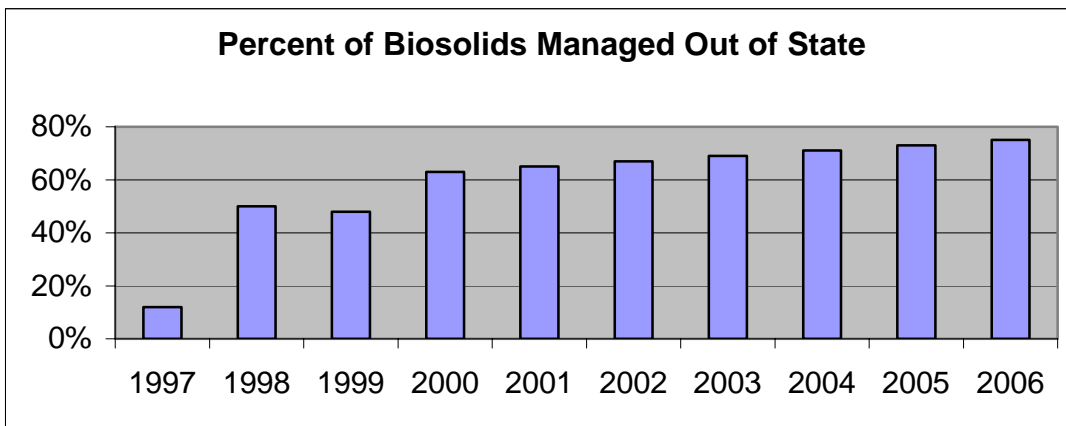
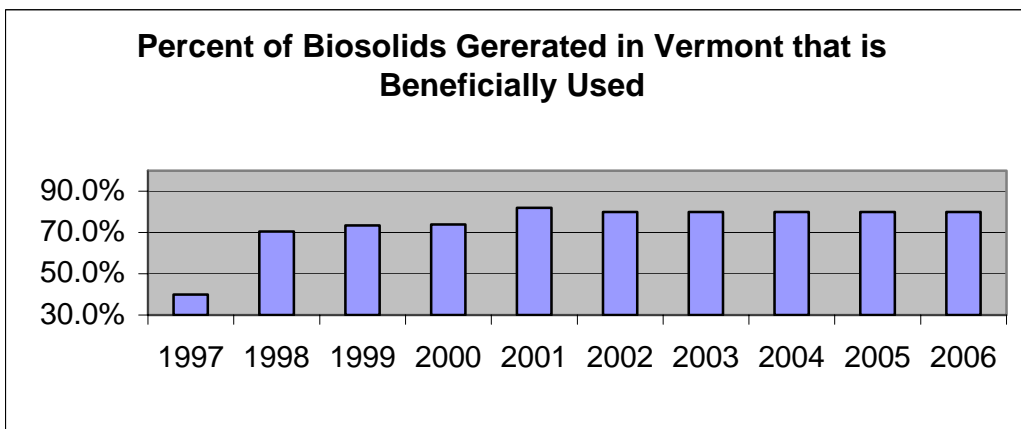
Wastewater Management Division

August 8, 2003

Results

Biosolids and septage are properly managed and beneficially used in accordance with the State Solid Waste Management Plan.

Key Indicators



Story behind the baseline

Approximately 85 million gallons of biosolids (at 2% solids) and 25 million gallons of septage are generated annually in Vermont. Biosolids and septage that meets standards and are properly treated can be used on the land (i.e. beneficial use) by either application on specific permitted sites or by being further treated then distributed to the public for more broad uses. Other options for managing biosolids and septage are landfilling and incineration.

Although the amount of biosolids that are beneficially used has increased over the past few years, the amount that is sent out-of-state to be composted to qualify for beneficial use has dramatically increased. Many Vermont municipalities are depending on out-of-state composting facilities to manage biosolids. It is unclear whether this is due to less acceptance to manage this waste in Vermont or if using out-of-state facilities is more economical. Problems could arise if these out-of-state facilities should suddenly not be available for use.

Strategies/ Performance Measures / Proposed Accomplishments

The program regulates biosolids (sludge) and septage facilities, which must have either a Solid Waste Certification or an approved Sludge and Septage Management Plan. The program reviews applications and plans, issues approvals and certifications, tracks compliance, performs inspections, provides technical assistance, and develops policy and rules.

Past accomplishments include adopting a streamlined approval process for certain sludge and septage facilities that are within the fenced area of a wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), which allowed staff to have more time for inspections and compliance assistance. Work has been done on two pollution prevention pilot projects aimed at reducing contaminants in biosolids. In addition, biosolids and septage management have been included in the revised State Solid Waste Plan.

Performance Measure “P”=Projected and A”=Actual Values		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Certifications	P								10	15	10
	A				20	19	14	10			
% Meeting Performance Std	P							100	100	100	100
	A				100	100	100				
Number of approvals issued for SMPs	P							6	6	10	6
	A					23	6				
Number of inspections performed	P							25	26	27	28
	A				*	29	22**				
Percentage of targeted inspections	P							90	95	100	100
	A					100	78				
Number of facilities in Compliance***	P							24	25	26	27
	A										

* Formal inspections initiated in 2001.

** Staff person left position.

*** New performance measure.

Proposed Accomplishments 2004-2006

Work with Solid Waste Districts and municipalities that are not members of districts that are charged with providing the public with information regarding biosolids and efforts to reduce contaminants found in biosolids.

Continue to perform inspections of facilities that land apply or further treat biosolids and septage in Vermont.

Revise statute to authorize approval of other facilities within the fence of a WWTF via Sludge Management Plans rather than certification.

Use a relatively new computerized compliance tracking system to track biosolids use, quality and opportunities for reducing contaminants in biosolids.