

biosolids best management

Recognizing and Supporting the Best Biosolids Management Programs!



The National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) provides biosolids management training and support that helps biosolids management organizations improve their programs. In response to feedback from biosolids managers, the program has been streamlined and made more customizable to better fit the needs of participants. So far, more than 100 organizations have participated in NBP management training and 32 have had their programs verified by independent third-party auditors and certified by the NBP and have received national recognition for their achievement. The program is available to public agencies and private company preparers as defined by U.S. EPA.

Look inside to learn the answers to the most frequently asked questions about our program!



Photo credit: www.flickr.com/photos/pierrelaphoto/2997001471/.
Photo licensed under Creative Commons 2.0 license.

frequently asked questions

What is a NBP biosolids management program?

The NBP Biosolids Management Program is a comprehensive management tool based on the principles of an Environmental Management System (similar to ISO 14001) requiring continuous improvement to develop, implement, and monitor environmentally sustainable practices. A NBP Biosolids Management Program helps wastewater organizations ensure that they are efficient, responsive, and protective of human health and the environment.

What is new about the program?

The NBP management training program has been streamlined and made more flexible to maximize the benefits to participants. The program will now take 12 rather than 24 months to complete. We are defining “audit-ready” as successfully completing all the NBP requirements for a NBP Biosolids Management Program that has been reviewed and found acceptable by the NBP. In addition, the program now includes up to two customized, onsite visits providing real-time guidance to the entire biosolids management team based upon their current system.

The program also now includes two levels of recognition:

- 1 The original NBP Certified Biosolids Management Program track, which requires a third-party

interim audit the first year after the Verification Audit followed by bi-annual interim audits; and

- 2 The new, NBP Biosolids Management Program, which requires a third-party audit every five years after the Verification Audit. Both options require that organizations conduct annual internal audits and additional audits whenever there is a major program change. Organizations can opt into the full-certification program at any time.

What does the management training program include?

The training provides each agency with the knowledge and tools to create an audit-ready program by enhancing the organization’s existing biosolids management system. This support includes up to two multiday in-person training workshops, guidance documents, and ongoing on-call technical assistance. In addition, two technical assistance visits are provided to each participating agency to provide real-time feedback and advice on their existing program. This management training is offered on a periodic basis. The support to develop a biosolids management program, however, is available at all times from the NBP staff as resources allow. In addition, biosolids managers have access to mentoring assistance from currently certified organizations, which are listed on the NBP web site at www.wef.org/biosolids.

What are the benefits of an independent third-party audit?

Independent third-party verification of a biosolids management program can help improve interactions with stakeholders, such as regulatory bodies, and build or maintain the confidence of local communities. In addition, a successful audit results in certification by the National Biosolids Partnership. Third-party audits have been highly valuable to organizations in improving internal operations (e.g., communications, documentation), identifying cost-saving measures, and building public confidence. Subsequent audits serve to verify the “continuous improvement” aspect of the program.

Who can participate in the NBP program?

Any wastewater agency or organization that prepares biosolids for beneficial use or disposal can participate in the NBP training program. Location in the United States is necessary to benefit directly from the federal funding provided for those to receive on-site or group training financial support. International organizations and U.S. commercial preparers as defined by U.S. EPA can participate at their own cost.

What if my organization does not produce biosolids for land application?

The NBP program is applicable for all end use and or disposal options and not just for land application. The training program and support can help any organization improve their environmental performance and maintain credibility with their communities and stakeholders. All organizations that produce biosolids, regardless of final use or disposal, need to address odors, noise, transportation, and aesthetics. The NBP program provides a management tool to achieve environmental stewardship goals and the potential for reduced costs and improved internal efficiencies.

Why should my organizations participate in the NBP program?

The NBP program provides an organization with the tools to implement a biosolids program that meets NBP

requirements, which has many, far-reaching benefits both for the organization and in the community. A NBP biosolids management program will help an organization improve their overall environmental performance and stewardship, which is important to their communities and regulators. Once implemented, management practices result in internal efficiencies and can help managers identify money-saving opportunities. The program provides operators, managers, and administrators with tools to track and monitor critical data to achieve optimized management performance and ensure regulatory compliance. Improved communications protocols will help organizations maintain credibility with communities and stakeholders and enhance relationships with interested parties. Other benefits include capture of institutional knowledge to address aging workforce issues and improved employee morale through clarity of utility mission, goals, and objectives.



A NBP Biosolids Management Program helps biosolids organizations ensure that they are **efficient, responsive, and protective** of human health and the environment. **This builds public confidence.**



Photo credit: www.flickr.com/photos/cityofgeneva/4110496075.
Photo licensed under Creative Commons 2.0 license.

getting your organization involved

The full training program is offered on a periodic basis as funding is available. Support to improve an existing biosolids management program, however, is always available from the NBP. The NBP can provide the guidance tools, resources, and technical knowledge to assist agencies in improving existing biosolids management programs or in pursuing certification at any time in accordance with needs and our resources.

For more information, contact:

Jim Cox, Biosolids Program Director, WEF, NBP
703-684-2438; jcox@wef.org

Sam Hadeed, Biosolids Program Manager, WEF, NBP
703-684-2418; shadeed@wef.org

Pete Machno, NBP Field Coordinator, WEF, NBP
1-800-613-4502; pmachno@wef.org

The National Biosolids Partnership

The NBP is an alliance of the Water Environment Federation, National Association of Clean Water Agencies, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that was formed in 1997. The NBP's mission is to advance environmentally sound biosolids management practices in local communities. To achieve this mission, NBP offers a variety of technical and educational services.

- Education and training
- Technical assistance
- Information clearinghouse
- EMS-based third-party certification for biosolids management programs

For more information, visit www.wef.org/biosolids.