



Metropolitan Biosolids Center

The Metropolitan Biosolids Center is the City of San Diego's regional biosolids treatment facility. Biosolids are the nutrient-rich, processed organic material produced by the wastewater treatment process. Located adjacent to the City's [Miramar Landfill](#), the facility began operation in 1998 and is an essential component of the region's wastewater treatment system.

Treatment Operations

The Metro Biosolids Center provides two treatment operations:

- Thickening and digestion of the raw solids (raw sludge) generated at the North City Water Reclamation Plant; and
- The dewatering of the wet biosolids from both the [Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant](#) and North City Water Reclamation Plant.

The facility produces dewatered biosolids that are approximately 30% solids and 70% water, the consistency of wet plaster.

Biosolids Process

Raw solids from the primary and secondary treatment processes at the North City Water Reclamation Plant are pumped to receiving tanks at Metro Biosolids Center. The raw solids are thickened in five centrifuges before being pumped into one of three anaerobic digesters. There, the volume of organic matter is reduced in a process similar to human digestion. After digestion the organic solids are referred to as biosolids. From the anaerobic digesters, the biosolids are sent to a storage tank where they are mixed with biosolids from the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Energy Conservation

A key element of Public Utilities' comprehensive energy conservation plan is cogeneration, the utilization of methane gas to power the largest City wastewater facilities. The City has a long-term agreement with a private firm that uses methane generated by Metro Biosolids Center digesters and the Miramar Landfill to power both the Metro Biosolids Center and the North City Water Reclamation Plant.

Additional Information

For more information, see the [Metro Biosolids Center Master Plan](#).

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