

UNDERSTANDING PFAS IN BIOSOLIDS

Biosolids are Beneficial

As partners in Renewable Water Resource's (ReWa's) land application program, farmers know better than most people the value that biosolids deliver. Biosolids:

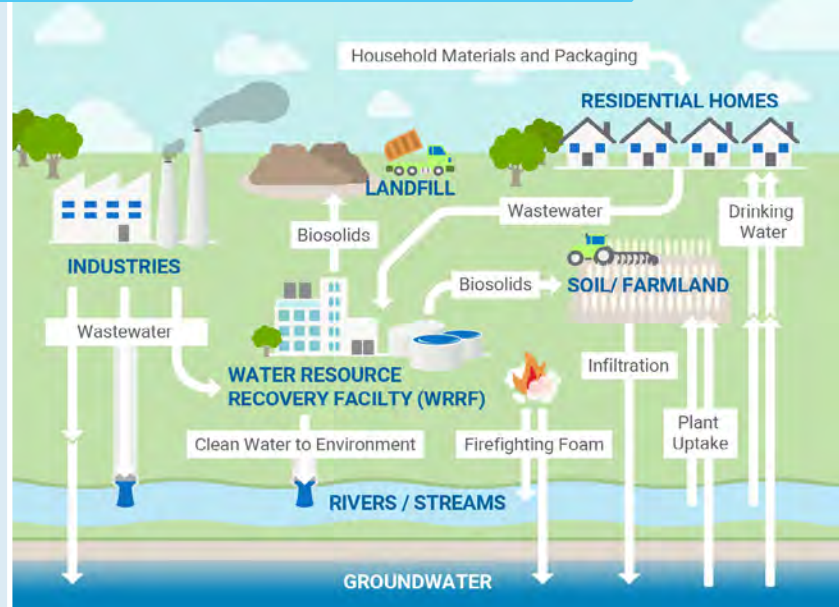
- Improve soil health
- Reduce the need for chemical fertilizers
- Recycle beneficial nutrients to the environment
- Save farmers and ratepayers money

Though the terms are often used interchangeably, biosolids are not the same as sewage sludge. The EPA defines biosolids as "a primarily organic solid product produced by wastewater treatment processes that can be beneficially recycled."

ReWa does not supply sewage sludge to farmers. The biosolids we provide have been processed extensively to meet all applicable federal regulations to be safely used on hayfields and tree farms. **We are committed to ensuring that the biosolids we provide are safe for you, your family, your farm and your livelihood.**

PFAS in Biosolids

PFAS is a general term for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—a large class of widely used, long lasting chemicals that break down very slowly over time. We are exposed to these chemicals through household products and environmental pathways.



THE PFAS CYCLE. PFAS is widespread and long-lasting. These substances can be found in everyday products and throughout the environment.

Because PFAS chemicals show up in our everyday lives, small amounts can also show up in our biosolids. When elevated levels are detected, it is often due to certain types of manufacturing industries that use PFAS or have PFAS containing material in their process and discharge into wastewater treatment plants. These cases often draw attention and raise understandable concerns.

While the EPA and other agencies continue to research PFAS in biosolids to determine if any regulatory action is needed, ReWa has been proactively monitoring the biosolids that leave our water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs).

We are working to limit the presence of PFAS in our biosolids and committed to keeping you informed as we learn more about this evolving issue.

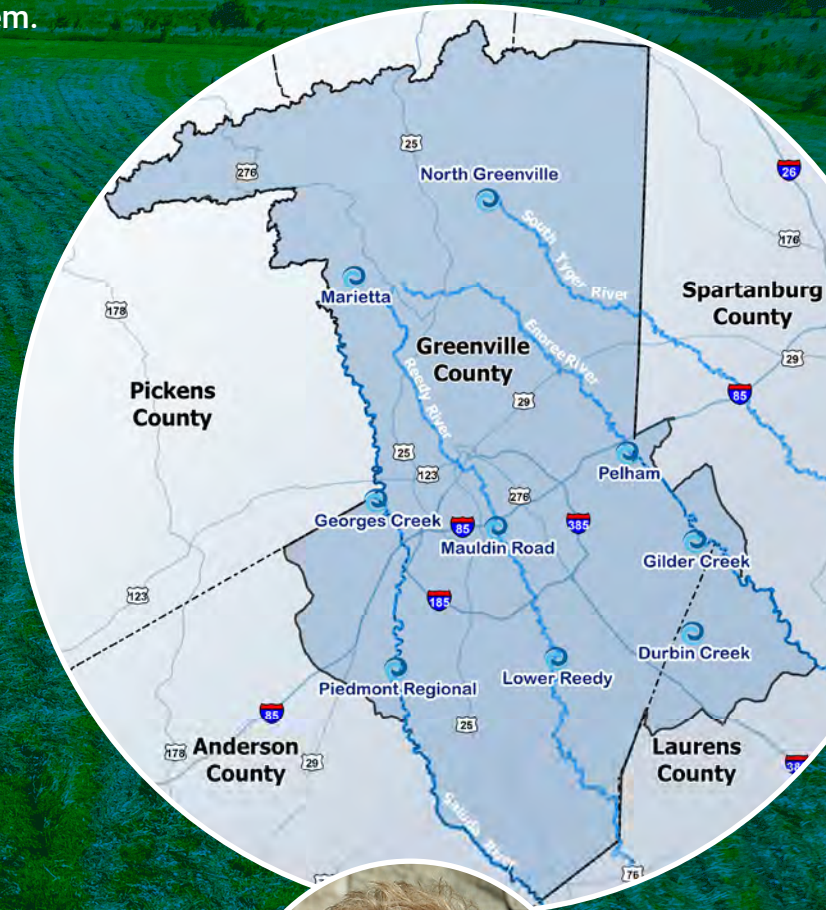


OUR PROACTIVE APPROACH

ReWa's award-winning land application program is a critical part of how we manage biosolids. Since 1989, ReWa has forged a productive and mutually beneficial relationship with our local farmers. We value our farmers and care about your health and success. ReWa is actively working to reduce PFAS that comes into our system.

Here are the steps we're taking:

- Increased sampling frequency at our 9 WRRFs
- Identifying sources of PFAS discharged into our system
- Started requiring industrial customers to monitor and report on PFAS and to pay for their own sampling program
- Launched quarterly meetings with industrial customers to discuss source reduction and to educate them on changing regulations and ReWa's requirements
- Coordinating with EPA, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), and national water organizations
- Engaging with SCDES to advocate for continued biosolids use in South Carolina



Rebecca F. West
CEO

“We have spent the past few years seeking a better understanding of PFAS while leading discussions with industries in our service area to keep them aware of regulations, our expectations, and the need for them to self-monitor as we await further guidance from regulators.”