



**ZERO WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION**  
**20161012-003a**

Date: October 12, 2016

Subject: Policy Recommendations on Biosolids Management

Motioned By: Hoffman

Seconded By: Masino

**Recommendation**

A motion was made by Commissioner Hoffman to accept the recommendation as amended, Commissioner Masino second. The motion was unanimously approved 9-0-0-2 with Commissioners Gattuso and Jiampietro absent.

**Description of Recommendation to Council**

*See Attached Policy Recommendation by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission*

**Rationale:**

Recommendation of policy considerations on biosolids management drafted by the Joint Working Group (Water and Wastewater Commission & Zero Waste Advisory Commission) and amended by the Zero Waste Advisory Commission at October 12<sup>th</sup> regular ZWAC meeting.

**Vote:** 9-0-0-2

For: Commissioners Acuna, Blaine, Bones, Hoffman, Joyce, Masino, Rojo, Savage, White

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

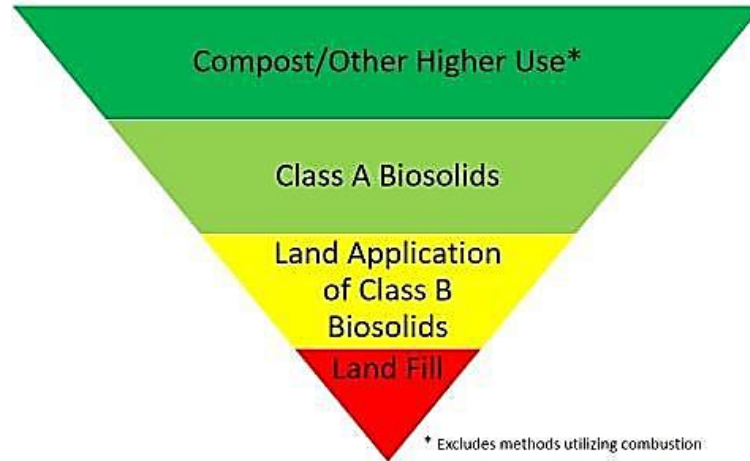
Absent: Commissioners Gattuso and Jiampietro

Attest:

Michael Sullivan, ZWAC staff liaison

**Zero Waste Advisory Commission**  
**Biosolids Management Policy Recommendations**

1. Biosolids management should honor the highest and best use hierarchy. The City will strive to treat all wastewater sludge to make compost that meets the United States Compost Council's definition of compost prior to final distribution.



2. Require production of compost that meets or exceeds United States Compost Council Seal of Test Assurance (STA) standards. STA samples shall be collected by independent third parties or City staff and tested by an independent third party.
3. Plastics shall be removed from all final products utilizing best management practices.
4. Under emergency conditions, land application of unscreened compost, Class A biosolids, or Class B biosolids may be made on a temporary basis.
  - a. Emergency conditions are defined as severe fire risk, other imminent threats to health and safety, or imminent risk of regulatory non-compliance that could not have reasonably been foreseen.
  - b. If time permits, plastics should still be predominately removed before land application.
  - c. Emergency application of these lower quality products shall extend only as long as necessary to alleviate emergency conditions.
5. Austin Water staff shall inform the City Council via a Corrective Action Memo within five business days of declaration of emergency conditions. The Memo shall specifically describe the procedure and timeline by which the contractor and staff plan to return to normal operations in the shortest possible timeframe.

6. Austin Water Operations will be conducted in a manner that will keep odors and pests to a minimum. Specific procedures for accomplishing this shall either be included in any contracts prior to final review by Commissions and Council or shall be brought to the Zero Waste Advisory Commission and Water Wastewater Commission within 90 days of the contract's execution.
7. All products produced using biosolids will be clearly labeled to inform the end user of that fact.
8. The Dillo Dirt trademark name and compost quality will remain in City of Austin control, regardless of who produces the product, and should be defined by prescriptive processing requirements determined by Austin Water staff.
9. Austin Water and Austin Resource Recovery should continue to vet and pilot new technologies and management strategies in line with active policies that will improve biosolids handling.
10. Austin Water and Austin Resource Recovery will continue to communicate with other city departments when contracts are being renewed or solicited to ensure any partnering opportunities are explored.
11. Bulking agents should be limited to by-products of other known activities and not include painted or chemically treated lumber, asbestos, or other contaminants inappropriate for compost products or land application.
12. Any contract that impacts these policies should come before the Zero Waste Advisory Commission, in addition to any other relevant Commissions, before they go to City Council for consideration of approval.