

SER-001-011

Strathcona County  
Municipal Policy Handbook

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## Sewage Sludge on Farmland

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Date of Approval by Council: 06/22/93

Resolution No.: 551/93

Lead Role: Chief Commissioner

Replaces: n/a

Last Review Date: August 19, 2010

Next Review Date: 08/2013

Administrative Responsibility: Transportation and Agriculture Services

### Policy Statement

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Strathcona County shall implement a formal operating policy and procedures for screening applications for the application of sewage sludge to farmland in the County in order to:

- (a) identify concerns regarding possible damage to County roads, and the possibility of sludge being applied to land which could be developed in the future for residential use, and
- (b) to provide County Departments with the ability to provide input into the Alberta Environment approval process for the Sludge to Farmland Program.

### Procedures

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The “Sludge to Farmland Program” has been operated by the City of Edmonton since 1978, as one of the most cost effective and environmentally sound methods of sludge disposal. This program is of benefit to both the City of Edmonton and the farmers whose land receives the sludge. Under the program, municipal wastewater sludge is applied to farmland, pursuant to guidelines developed by Alberta Environment.

1. The City of Edmonton requires Alberta Environment approval before any sludge application to farmland is undertaken. As part of this approval process soil tests are taken to determine if the soil is suitable for sludge application. The application process minimizes potential problems from heavy metals and pathogenic organisms.
2. After receiving approval for potential farmland from Alberta Environment approval, the City of Edmonton shall forward a list of the applicants located within Strathcona County to Strathcona County's Transportation and Agricultural Services Department (“the Department”).
3. The Department is responsible to circulate the list of applicants to affected stakeholders, including the Engineering and Environmental Planning Department, the Planning and Development Services Department and Capital Health for any concerns they may have pertaining to future residential development, road or public health issues.
4. The Department shall forward the list of concerns, if any, to the City of Edmonton and Alberta Environment.

5. Following the review of proposed farmland by Strathcona County Departments and prior to application of sewage sludge to farmland in the County, the following requirements will need to be met:
  - 5.1 The City of Edmonton would be required to enter into a Road Use Agreement prior to use of County roads.
  - 5.2 No hauling during wet weather as top soil and other material may be tracked onto County roadways. Any tracking that does occur (due to sudden rainfall, etc.) will be removed at the City of Edmonton's expense.
  - 5.3 Any additional approaches that may be required to enter fields would only be constructed after the Department's approval and at the City of Edmonton's or landowner's expense.
  - 5.4 The City of Edmonton shall send a letter to all landowners that have land designated to receive an application of sewage sludge stating that this may restrict future residential development and/or the use of the land for the growth of root crops for ten (10) years.
  - 5.5 The City of Edmonton shall provide a road plan, a list of dates and legal land locations to the Manager of the Department, one (1) month prior to the application of sewage sludge of land located within Strathcona County. This information will then be disseminated to affected County Departments.