




Hamilton

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	April 19, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Biosolids Facility Update and Product Information (PW11098(g)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	John Helka (905) 546 2424 Ext. 2826
SUBMITTED BY:	John Helka Director, Woodward Upgrades Public Works
SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable

INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the November 2020 response by the Hamilton Fire Department to the Woodward Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Biosolids Management Facility, and how the general public can obtain/purchase pellets produced from biosolids generated from the City of Hamilton's (City) Woodward WWTP.

As communicated in Report PW11098(f), the Biosolids Management Project (the 'Project') is a Public-Private-Partnership arrangement that was supported through funding from Infrastructure Canada (formerly PPP Canada) for the design, build, finance, operate and maintenance (DBFOM) of a biosolids management facility and management of the City's biosolids for a 30-year term. The Project was initiated in December 2011, and on March 28, 2017 the City awarded and executed the Project Agreement with Harbour City Solutions (HCS) allowing the Project to move forward. The construction of the new facility reached substantial completion on May 11, 2020, starting the 30-year Operations, Maintenance, and Renewal phase with HCS. The new biosolids management facility provides for the drying and pelletization of biosolids to a quality that

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OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

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is pathogen free and can be marketed as a fertilizer and/or sold as an alternate energy source.

Since reaching substantial completion, Synagro, the operational partner of HCS, have been operating the facility and producing pellets. Unfortunately, on November 18th, 2020 a small explosion occurred in the loadout conveyor within the facility resulting in attendance by the Hamilton Fire Department and a subsequent visit by the Ontario Ministry of Labour. Fortunately, no personnel from either Synagro or the City were in the area at the time and as such no injuries were sustained.

As a result of the incident, Synagro retained an engineering consulting firm to conduct an investigation to determine the root cause and provide recommendations to avoid a similar issue from occurring in the future. The City met with representatives from Synagro in January 2021, at which time Synagro provided assurances to the City that they have made the necessary repairs, operational adjustments and implemented the recommendations. Synagro have since restarted their operations and are once again producing pellets.

Pellet Availability

The ownership and marketing of the pelletized product is the responsibility of HCS, who uses the AIM Environmental Group (AIM) to market the product under the trade name EcoPearl.

At this time, it is the City's understanding that pellets are solely distributed to agriculture fields as a fertilizer (to various locations within a 160km radius around Hamilton). However, interested consumers can inquire about the availability of the EcoPearl pellets by contacting AIM directly using the email address info@aimgroup.ca or via telephone at (905) 560-0090. AIM does maintain a website to promote the EcoPearl product which can be viewed at www.ecopearl.ca.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

None