



September 30, 2022

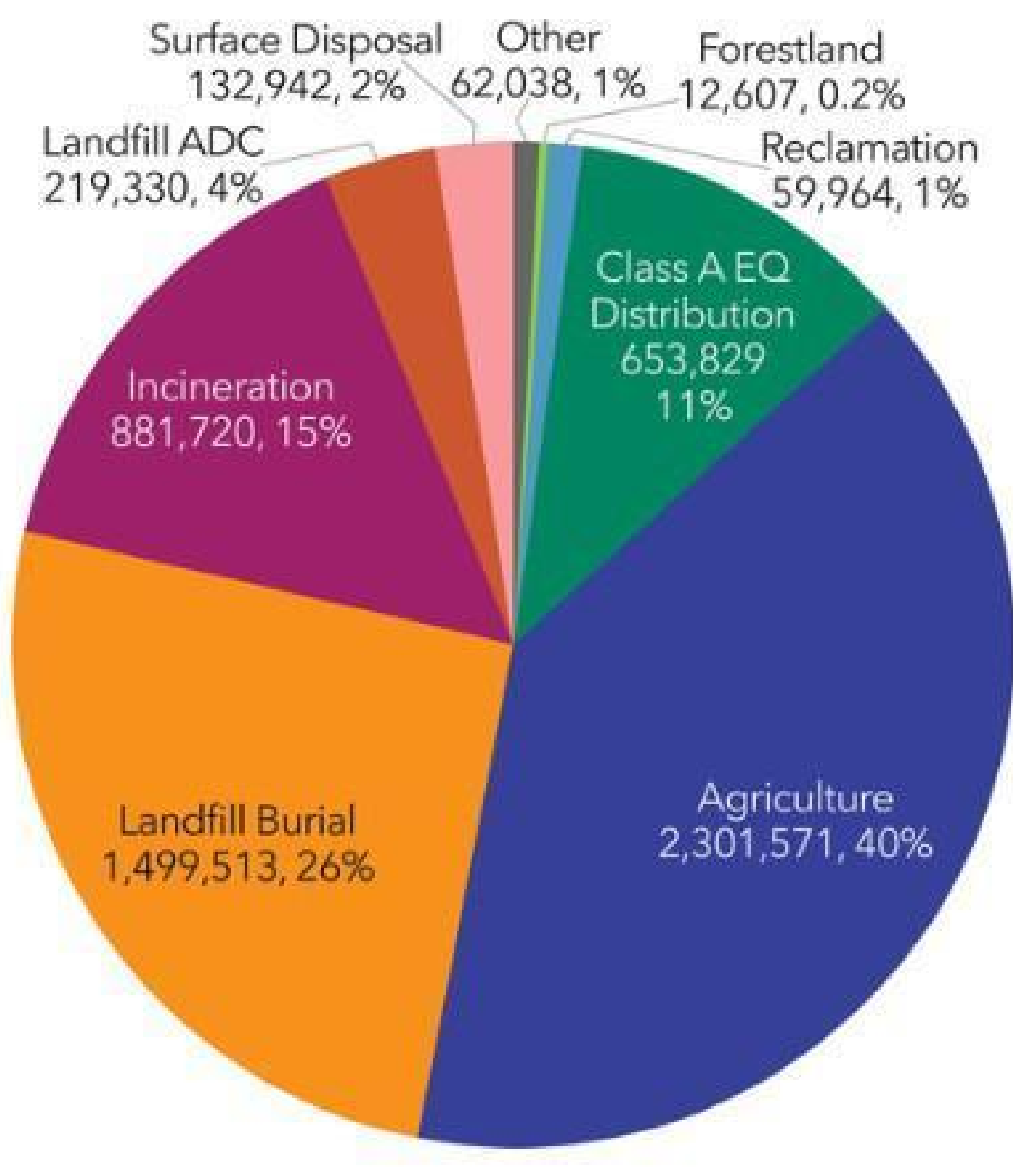
### EPA Propose to List PFOA/PFOS Under CERCLA

On September 6th, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published its intent to regulate two of the thousands of per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), namely perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) -- including salts and structural isomers -- under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as the "Superfund" law. PFOA and PFOS are the two compounds that have been taken out of production in the United States, but the retroactive nature of Superfund enforcement is still a concern. On August 25th, EPA Administrator Michael Regan signed a pre-publication notice of the proposed rule, with a preview of the Federal Register Notice including justifications for the action as this is the first time EPA has exercised its authority under Section 102(a) of CERCLA.

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### New Data and Reports Available on U. S. Biosolids Management, Use & Disposal

## United States Biosolids Use & Disposal 2018 (dry metric tons, %) Total: 5,823,000



The National Biosolids Data Project, led by the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA) has concluded and now the national data and reports are available at [www.biosolidsdata.org](http://www.biosolidsdata.org). Previously only state-level data was available.

The new data provides details about biosolids management in the United States, The NBDP estimates that, in a typical recent year, the U.S. uses or disposes of 5,823,000 dry metric tons of biosolids. More than half (53%) are treated and recycled to soils as biosolids fertilizers and soil amendments. The other 47% are placed in landfills or incinerated.

The new data and supporting information are available online at a new website created for the project: <https://www.biosolidsdata.org>.

[Read more](#)

### Landfill Capacity for Biosolids in the Northeast Needs Attention

The COVID pandemic brought out some vulnerabilities of relying on landfilling to dispose of sewage sludges. Not to mention the climate impacts! One of the major issues during COVID was the lack of bulky wastes needed to stabilize wet materials such as sludges. Construction and demolition (C&D) debris is the majority of material used to mix with biosolids. Generally, four parts C&D waste to one part sludge is needed to prevent slumping/instability, odors, and drainage problems.

At a [webinar](#) in April, hosted by the Environmental & Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech), Rhonda Forrester, P.E. with Sevee & Maher Engineers of Cumberland, Maine, explained the concerns with receiving sludges from the landfill operator's perspective. In Maine, they are looking to put a lot more biosolids into landfill as a result of [LD1911](#), which passed the Maine legislature back in April and became law in early August.

Simultaneously, [LD1639](#) eliminates waste generated out of state and will reduce bulking materials effective February 2023. Maine generated approximately 20,000 to 25,000 tons of sludge annually, and although there has already been a significant shift to landfill disposal (see [NBDP/Maine](#), at least 10,000 tons will need to go somewhere. Ms. Forrester predicted limited sludge acceptance at landfills depending on the availability of bulking materials.

### Figure 3: Solid Waste Disposed By Facility Type

(35,206,375 tons)

Note: 2018 for CT, NH, NY, & RI & 2019 for ME, MA, NJ, & VT



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### Regional Biosolids Management Facility Study Gets Underway

As reported back in January, three major New England wastewater utilities have teamed up to study the potential for a Regional Biosolids Management Facility which would address their future solids handling needs. Back in March, the Narragansett Bay Commission (NBC), Upper Blackstone Clean Water, and the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding that paved the way to move ahead with the study. It will be financed equally by the three water utilities. The study is being driven by a lack of biosolids end-use and disposal capacity in the region, with all four facilities looking at solids management equipment and process replacements in the near future, as well as service contracts that are expiring.

In June of this year, the three project partners executed a contract with Stantec of Boston. The Stantec team includes CDM Smith, Kleinfelder, and several private consultants. Per the original [Request for Qualifications/Proposals](#), in Phase 1 of the project, the Stantec team will be charged with "determining the value proposition" of a regional facility, examining numerous aspects of the issue and providing the project partners with enough information to decide if further investment is justified.

[Read more...](#)

## En Bref -- In Brief

### Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model (BEAM\*2022) Launches in September

The long-awaited updates to the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions calculator -- the Biosolids Emissions Assessment Model -- is ready and available for downloading at [www.BiosolidsGHGs.org](http://www.BiosolidsGHGs.org). The Excel spreadsheet and associated User Guide are intended for the average utility user interested in impacting its GHG emissions. Updating the work of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment from 2010, BEAM\*2022 uses the latest emissions factors, default values and assumptions based on the most recent research, to calculate net GHG emissions and sinks for different biosolids treatment and end use options. BEAM\*2022 includes additional unit processes and users can now compare up to 10 scenarios side-by-side. To learn more about BEAM\*2022, its history, the 2022 updates, and current uses, see recent [presentation](#) at the Canadian Residuals & Biosolids conference or check out the website. BEAM\*2022 is available for download from the website for a fee, based on a sliding scale recommended donation to support the ongoing annual reviews and website hosting. You will find all sorts of resources on the website; there is space for sharing results, tips, and examples of how BEAM\*2022 and its outputs have been used.

### WEF 2023 Residuals & Biosolids Conference in Charlotte, NC -- Abstracts due October 25th

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) has announced that the 2023 [Residuals and Biosolids Conference](#) will be held May 16th through the 19th in Charlotte, North Carolina. WEF has posted a [Call for Content](#) and is now accepting abstracts, workshops, and session proposals for the conference. If you would like to submit content for this conference, you can do so [here](#). Key themes continue to be innovations and sustainability. Papers are especially welcomed on the topic of Land Application and Biosolids Markets, Sustainability and Resource Recovery, and Managing Biosolids in the Carolinas, which has been made especially difficult and costly due to PFAS. The deadline for submitting content is [October 25](#).

### PFAS Focus in Maine

Effluent sampling is set to begin in October for Maine water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) per the requirements of LD1911, the legislation that also banned the use of biosolids and other residuals in soil amendment products. In correspondence to the WRRFs dated September 14th, Gregg Wood, Director of the Division of Water Quality Management at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) detailed the requirements and responsibilities of WRRFs. DEP held a series of 4 training sessions for WRRF personnel tasked with collecting the samples for analysis. DEP will be covering the initial costs of sampling containers, transport, analyses and reporting for the first 10 months using federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Results from the effluent sampling will eventually be posted online at [PFOA and PFOS, Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#). In related news, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry recently kicked off a [study](#) of PFAS contamination in Fairfield. And specific to biosolids, [DEP launches its Tier II PFAS investigation earlier than expected](#). ([govdelivery.com](http://govdelivery.com)).

### EPA Biosolid Program Staffing Updates

Dr. David Tobias is the acting EPA Biosolids Team Lead following Liz Resek's retirement. Tess Richman, who had been working on the Biosolids Team for some time as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow, was hired as a biologist effective August 1st. Dr. Lisa Weber was hired as a physical scientist effective August 15th and Elisa Davey started as an ORISE fellow on the Biosolids Team effective August 29th. The EPA Biosolids Program falls under the Ecological Criteria Division, Office of Science & Technology in the Office of Water. The Biosolids Team continues to lead the risk assessment for PFAS in biosolids, expected to be presented to EPA's Science Advisory Board very soon.

## CHECK IT OUT!!

Need a PFAS Laugh? Watch this funny John Oliver [segment](#) (HBO). **Warning: R-Rated Language!**

Prefer satire? Read "Scientists Announce Earth's Sewage No Longer Drinkable" ([theonion.com](http://theonion.com))

[Meet Malasur, villain of web show on poop management | Mumbai News - Times of India \(indiatimes.com\)](#)

[Yokohama's "Manhole Actress" becomes spokesperson for city's sewage system | SoraNews24 -Japan News-](#)

["It's aliens!": Sewer technology tooting causes mysterious music in Salt Lake City homes, toilets | KSL.com](#)

Book Review:



## Upcoming Events

- October 20:** Connecticut Water Environment Association's [Fall Workshop](#)
- October 20:** A Day Without Water -- [sign up](#) to participate.
- October 21 (Noon - 1:30 pm):** NEBRA Annual Membership Meeting (see draft [agenda](#) and meeting materials)
- October 28: [Lunch & Learn](#)** about Reed Bed Systems for Sludge Treatment
- November 1-2:** NEBRA/NEWEA [Residuals & Biosolids Conference](#) (Portsmouth, New Hampshire) -- **Registration is Open!**
- November 2-3:** North East Recycling Council Fall [Conference](#)
- November 11:** Green Mountain Water Environment Association Fall [Conference](#) & Tradeshow
- November 18:** [Lunch & Learn](#) about Hydrothermal Liquefaction

For a complete listing of Events, go to [www.nebiosolids.org/events](http://www.nebiosolids.org/events).

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