



WEAO AWARD PROGRAM FOR EXEMPLARY BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE

The purpose of the awards program is to recognize significant contributions in the development and implementation of cost-effective, environmentally safe and publicly acceptable biosolids management practices. This program will help the WEAO to promote, and collect and disseminate information on the exemplary management of biosolids in Ontario.

AWARD STRUCTURE

Two awards will be given per year when suitable nominations are available: one per category of small projects (≤ 5 dry tonnes per day {DTPD}) and large projects (> 5 DTPD). (Note: Categorization is based upon the actual average daily biosolids production and not the design capacity).

AWARD CATEGORIES

Nominations will be accepted for recognition of excellence in a wide range of activities that have demonstrated or promoted exemplary management of biosolids. Awards will recognize excellence demonstrated by biosolids practitioners in one or more of the following categories:

- # **Operating Projects.** Outstanding, full-scale, exemplary management technologies.
- # **Technology Development Activities** Significant technological improvements developed and fully proven at the operational level; these may be pilot or full-scale activities.
- # **Research Activities.** Studies that have substantially contributed to an improved understanding of biosolids management practices, reduced risks and costs, improved public acceptance, and/or have advanced the technology.
- # **Public Acceptance Activities.** Significant local, regional, and national activities that have increased public acceptance of biosolids management practices.



NOMINATION AND AWARD INFORMATION

- # **For consideration in the WEAO Awards Program, completed nomination packages (see specified format pages 5-6) must be submitted in duplicate. THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS IS THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2010. Nominations should be submitted to:**

**WEAO
P.O. Box 176
Milton ON
L9T 4N9
Phone: (416) 410-6933**

Couriers should be addressed to the WEAO at:

**295 Alliance Road,
Suite 1H,
Milton, ON
L9T 4W8**

- # **Nominations for awards may be submitted by anyone including the nominee, WEAO members, municipalities, consultants, researchers, or other interested parties.**
- # **Nominated entries may include both individuals and groups from either private or public organizations that demonstrate excellence in the area of biosolids management. This includes but is not necessarily limited to producers, land appliers, researchers and farming organizations.**
- # **As these nomination packages are prepared, it is important to tell the story in a manner that clearly shows the benefits of exemplary management, including how the activity reduced public concern. This information can often be utilized locally in press releases, brochures and other outreach activities.**
- # **Previous first-place winning projects or activities will not be considered as candidates for a five-year period. Unsuccessful nominees for awards may apply for an award the very next year**
- # **Nomination packages will be reviewed by a panel consisting of representatives from WEAO, MOE, OMAF and other groups using the**



evaluation criteria (see pages 3-4). The panel recommends winning activities to the WEAO which, in turn, will make final selections.

- # **Winning projects must be in full compliance with applicable regulations.**
- # **Awards consisting of a certificate and plaque will be presented at the WEAO Annual Conference. Because of fiscal constraints, WEAO is unable to pay for travel to the awards program. While we hope that you will attend the Awards Ceremony, provisions will be made to present awards to those unable to attend.**
- # **Short articles describing award winning exemplary management activities will be developed by WEAO for publication in WEAO's newsletter. Subsequent publications describing the award-winning activities will be encouraged. Photographic prints and analysis of both winning and non-winning entries will be used in WEAO publications that encourage exemplary biosolids management practices. Please send photographic prints and not color zerox, as zerox copies cannot be used in publications.**

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Biosolids Exemplary Management Award candidates will be evaluated against the following criteria:

FOR OPERATING PROJECTS

- # **Sustained full-scale, proven operation over several years.**
- # **Consistent, cost-effective operation.**
- # **Public acceptance.**
- # **Compliant with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.**
- # **Reduced risk.**
- # **Conservation of natural resources (e.g., nutrients, organic matter, and energy) and control of pollutants and nuisances like odor, dust and traffic.**
- # **Excellence in project management, and particularly management that fosters close communication and co-ordination among all biosolids stakeholders including the generator, end-user where applicable, project neighbors and public.**



FOR TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION OR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

- # Sustained excellence in advancing our knowledge of technologies that manage biosolids (e.g., improved design criteria or operational practice).**
- # Technology with potential for use elsewhere.**
- # Operational proof of performance.**
- # Resolved previous biosolids management or utilization problems and have helped gain public acceptance.**

FOR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- # Greatly improved our understanding of the environmental effects associated with biosolids management.**
- # Contributed substantially to development improved design and operation.**
- # Generated key information for the development of improved biosolids regulations and guidance, e.g., for use in the new EMS now being developed for biosolids.**
- # Provided quality information from well-designed studies with wider applicability and statistical merit.**

FOR PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE

- # Demonstrated increases in both public acceptance and public demand. The term “public” is meant to include regulatory agencies, agricultural organizations, water quality professionals, public health officials, environmentalists, academic institutions, and the news media as well as the general public. Indicators of “demand” include such factors as waiting lists and users paying for biosolids.**
- # Dedicated and successful individual and team efforts.**
- # Demonstrated willingness to share information and approaches for improving practices, reducing risks and thereby gaining public acceptance.**
- # Successful approaches for working with the press and other groups, explaining the benefits of the chosen biosolids management activity,**



- # Excellence in local information transfer and training efforts that have made a positive local difference, (e.g., on-site demonstrations and collaborative efforts involving municipalities, citizens, universities, and others).
- # Characterized by managers who work with all stakeholders to identify and utilize critical control points for ensuring sound management and community-friendly practices.

NOMINATION FORMAT

The information described in the Nomination Format should be supplied in the nomination package. The completeness of information provided and the manner in which the nomination addresses the Evaluation Criteria in both the Executive Summary and the text is especially important.

All nominations must be submitted in duplicate in the following format to the WEAO

1. IDENTIFYING INFORMATION (See sample front page form on page 7)

Name, address, affiliation, telephone and fax numbers, and the spokesperson for the project or activity. Please also provide the name and the addresses of your government officials so they may be notified should your entry win an award (see form on page 7).

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (2 pages or less)

Describe the project and how you believe it meets the evaluation criteria.

3. FACILITY/ACTIVITY INFORMATION (4-5 pages)

Provide the following relevant information, if applicable, to adequately support the nomination.

(a) Biosolids type, quantity (expressed as tonnage of dry solids processed per day, week or year), quality (nutrient and pollutant concentrations compared with regulatory requirements, processing information, and other details relevant to the exemplary management practice or activity. Be specific regarding the unit processes, including biosolids production and processing details. Account for the types and amounts of biosolids going to each beneficial use and/or disposal practice.

(b) Duration and size of the project or activity; extent of ability to operate at design level; and cost and effectiveness information.

- (c) **Description of the project-monitoring program as it determines compliance; keeps the public informed of biosolids transport, use or disposal; evaluates performance; and helps modify practices.**
- (d) **Description of the contributions of the co-operating parties to the biosolids management project or activity.**
- (e) **Provision of sufficient information so that the awards judges can assure compliance with applicable regulations.**
- (f) **Description of important project management activities that maintain and promote excellence and maximize the benefits of sound biosolids management, (e.g., hold down costs; improve biosolids quality; use a written code of good practice or other means to promote compliance with rules, manage nutrients and minimize odors and other nuisances; and promote acceptance via working with allies, press and the public).**
- (g) **Description of training activities that have improved operations, performance, and public acceptance.**
- (h) **Description of the effectiveness of the local pre-treatment program that has resulted in better quality and easier management of biosolids.**
- (i) **Description of special innovative practices or activities.**
- (j) **Discuss how obstacles (technical, political, public acceptance, or other) have been overcome as a result of the nominated activity.**
- (k) **Give evidence of the enhanced benefits that have resulted from the activity, such as lower costs for biosolids management; lower energy consumption, fewer public health and environmental risks; greater national adoption of practice; improved public acceptance; and, where applicable, user payments for biosolids, enhanced soil properties, better crop productivity and quality, enhanced plant disease resistance, and increased demand for biosolids products.**

4. ATTACHMENTS

Supporting materials may be attached. The attachment should include a short cover index page that lists the various supporting materials and gives about a 4 – 6 line description of each item.



Photographs of the activity are strongly encouraged. Actual photographic prints are better than Xerox copies, since only the photographic prints are suitable for publications. WEAO and others would like to use your prints in publications that illustrate and provide greater recognition of your activity. Note: Sheer bulk of information is not necessary or definitive. Be concise and attach items that truly substantiate the importance and relevance of the beneficial use project or activity. Please do not send materials that you wish to have back. They cannot be returned.



SAMPLE FRONT PAGE (Biosolids Management Awards Program)

1. Proposed Award Category (Small vs Large) _____

11. Facility Identification Name

a) Official Name and Address of Award Entity to be Engraved on Plaque and Certificate

**b) Type of Ownership _____
(e.g., corporate, private or public, university, etc.)**

c) Contact Person Regarding the Nomination _____

Their Title, Address, Telephone and Fax No. _____

111. Award Notification

a) Name, Title, Address and Telephone and Fax Numbers of Local Officials (e.g., Mayor, Authority Board President, Corporate President, Department Chairman, etc.) of the person to be notified:

b) Provincial Member of Parliament _____

c) Other _____

1V One Sentence Description

Lists the most significant noteworthy features of the operation/activity.