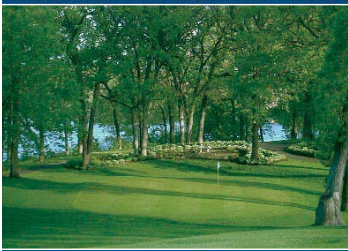


Overcoming Adversity for Biosolids Reuse

City of Hutchinson, Minnesota

This innovative Biosolids Drying Facility uses heat drying to convert wastewater solids to a Class "A" biosolid, which are then processed into pellets. The pelletized product offers several advantages over traditional heat-only drying products. The pellets are clean, odorless, and more appealing to the public for use as a fertilizer.



As a test project, the pellets were applied to the Crow River Country Club's golf course with exceptional results. The City is developing a sales and marketing plan to expand the use of the product.

One complex aspect of this project was the integration of the highly mechanized pelletizing operation, typically used for grain feed and other applications,

into the biosolids process. Hutchinson's facility is the only known wastewater facility in the Upper Midwest to produce a pellet product.

An equipment fire during construction delayed initial startup. "Donohue's communication and leadership through a difficult construction phase was very instrumental in this project's successful implementation," stated Randy DeVries, Hutchinson's Director of Water/Wastewater.

In the past, drying facilities have not been considered feasible for smaller communities. This project demonstrates that a mid-size community can implement biosolids drying facilities and produce a Class "A" reuse product with considerable market appeal.

"I didn't know what to expect at first, but the fertilizer worked wonderfully. It made an unbelievable difference on our fairways, greens, and tees. The improvements were really noticeable in a short amount of time. I can't say enough good things about it."

KEVIN FROEMMING
Superintendent
Crow River Country Club



Sheboygan, Wisconsin

