

## Biosolids Award

The Biosolids Award recognizes beneficial biosolids reuse efforts. Generally, such efforts focus on the agricultural application of biosolids or energy recovery; however, other innovative biosolids reuse projects are encouraged to apply!

### Who Should Apply

This award is open to:

- Wastewater treatment facilities (any size)
- Researchers and academic institutions
- Consultants (with client support)
- Public and private utilities
- Any organization advancing biosolids beneficial reuse

**No minimum project size or budget required.** Small facilities implementing significant improvements are strongly encouraged to apply!

Awards may be presented in the following categories:

- **Capital Projects:** Wastewater treatment plant capital projects that enable new or substantially improved biosolids reuse programs.
  - **Ideal Candidates:**
    - Operational full-scale projects.
    - Projects incorporating public education and community engagement.
    - Innovative approaches that can inspire and guide other facilities.
  - **Examples:**
    - A small community launching its first land application program.
    - Installation of anaerobic digestion systems for energy recovery.
    - New processing equipment enabling expanded beneficial reuse.
    - Facility upgrades that significantly improve biosolids quality or processing efficiency.
  - **Please Note:** This award recognizes projects that materially change biosolids reuse practices. Routine equipment replacements without program changes may be better suited for other recognition categories. Past award recipients are welcome to apply if demonstrating substantial new investment or significant program expansion.
- **Research Activities:** Studies that have advanced understanding of biosolids practices, improve public acceptance, or develop new technology.
  - **Ideal Candidates:**
    - Research conducted in Indiana or with significant Indiana connections.
    - Published, peer-review studies.
    - Applied research demonstrating practical applications.
    - Studies addressing public perception and acceptance.
  - **Examples:**
    - Long-term studies on agricultural biosolids application outcomes
    - Research on emerging contaminants and treatment methods
    - Public perception and communication effectiveness studies
    - Innovative biosolids processing technology development

- Other Innovative Projects: Impactful biosolids-related activities that don't fit the categories above.  
We welcome:
  - Educational and outreach programs.
  - Collaborative initiatives between multiple facilities.
  - Novel partnerships (e.g., with farmers, universities, or industry).
  - Unique approaches to biosolids challenges.

## **How to Apply**

### **Application Requirements:**

- Brief project description (1 page preferred, 2-3 pages maximum).
- Key outcomes and benefits achieved.
- Supporting data or documentation (if available).
- Contact information for all parties involved.
- For consultants: Letter of support from client.

### **What We're Looking For:**

- Demonstrated environmental or economic benefits
- Innovation and creativity
- Potential to inspire other facilities
- Community engagement and education efforts
- Measurable results and data

**Submission Deadline:** May 1st at 5:00 PM

**Submit Applications To:** [Awards - Indiana WEA \(https://indianawea.org/awards/\)](https://indianawea.org/awards/)

**Questions?** We're happy to help! Contact us at [staff@indianawea.org](mailto:staff@indianawea.org) to discuss whether your project is a good fit.

### **What Happens Next**

- Award recipients will be recognized at the IWEA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.
- Winners receive publicity opportunities and networking with fellow innovators.

**Don't hesitate to apply!** We value innovation at all scales and encourage facilities of all sizes to share their accomplishments.