# MUSINGS FROM A BIOSOLIDS NETWORK PLAYBOOK



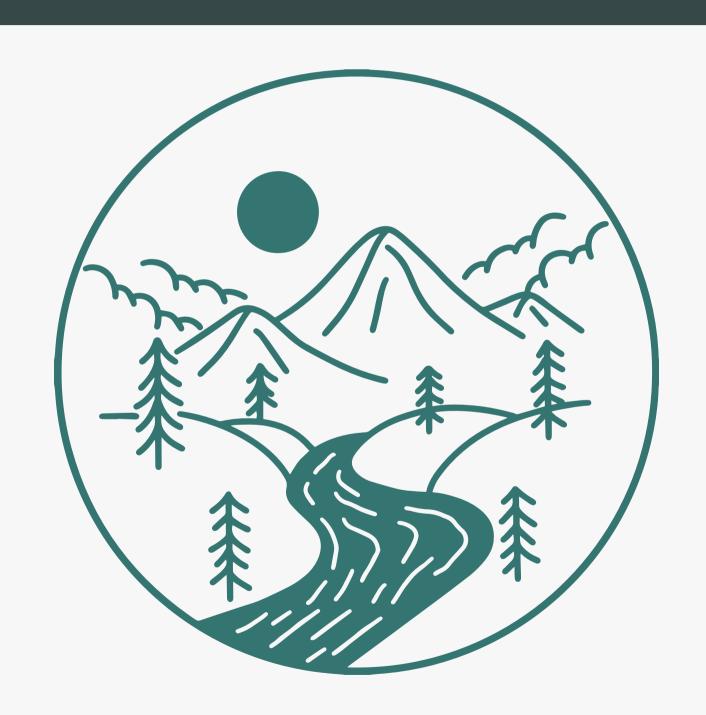
Maile Lono-Batura

Director of Sustainable

Biosolids Programs

Water Environment Federation

# KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM NW TREK



### 35 Years Growing Strong

- Key observations
- What we know for sure
- Strategic moves
- Future sights

# IN GOOD COMPANY





# NORTHWEST BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# GREATER PURPOSE



# NOTICE POTENTIAL







# UNIFIED FRONT



25th Anniversary BioFest Lunch in Roslyn, WA. Image credit: Northwest Biosolids



PFAS Congressional Hearing Image credit: Jim Dunbar

# ROOTED IN RESEARCH



Bioaerosol sampling - King County Forestry Image credit: Northwest Biosolids



Research tour at WSU-Puyallup Extension Image credit: Northwest Biosolids

# REPRESENT THE RESOURCE



Sunflower grown in TAGRO Image credit: TAGRO



Natural Selection Farms Compost Image credit: Northwest Biosolids



Tour in Abbotsford, BC Image credit: Northwest Biosolids

# BE ALTERNATIVE

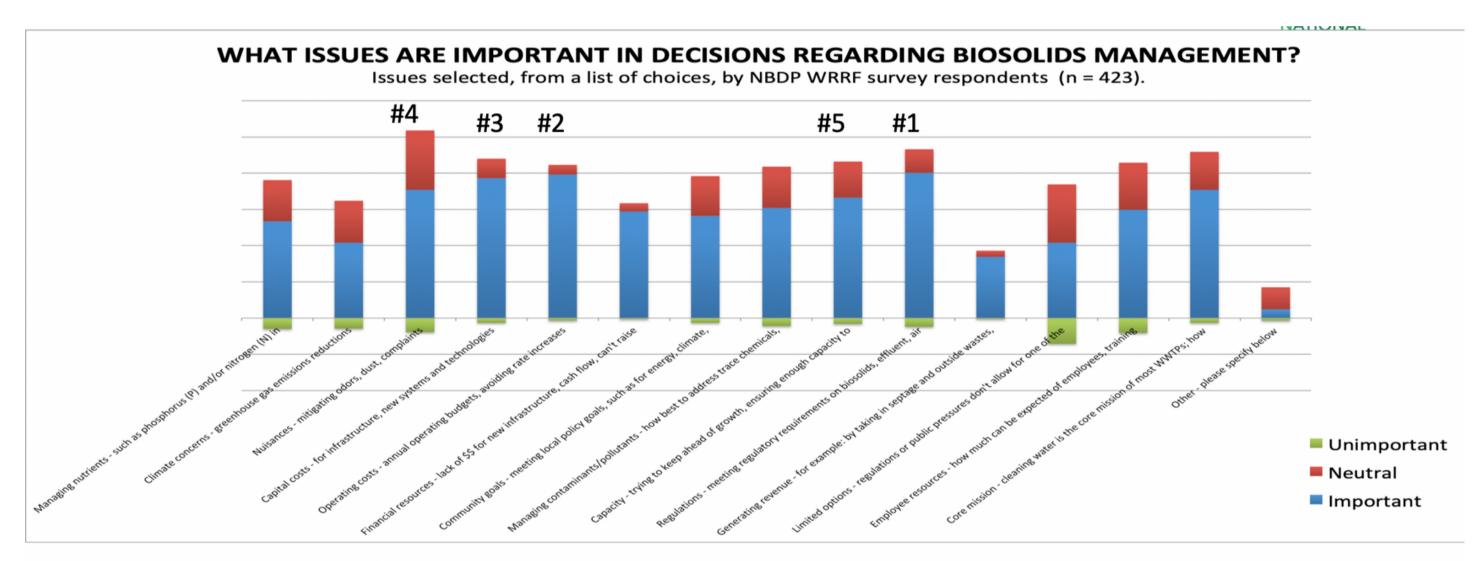


Canola crop in Central Washington Image credit: King County



Forestry application
Image credit: King County

# BY THE BOOK



#### **Most important:**

- 1. Meeting regulatory requirements
- 2. Operating costs
- 3. Capital costs
- 4. Nuisances
- 5. Ensuring enough capacity

#### Most <u>un</u>important:

- 1. Limited options regulations or public pressures don't allow for one of the 3 options
- 2. Employee resources how much can be expected of employees, training
- 3. Nuisances

www.biosolidsdata.org

# INSPIRE - MODEL BEHAVIOR



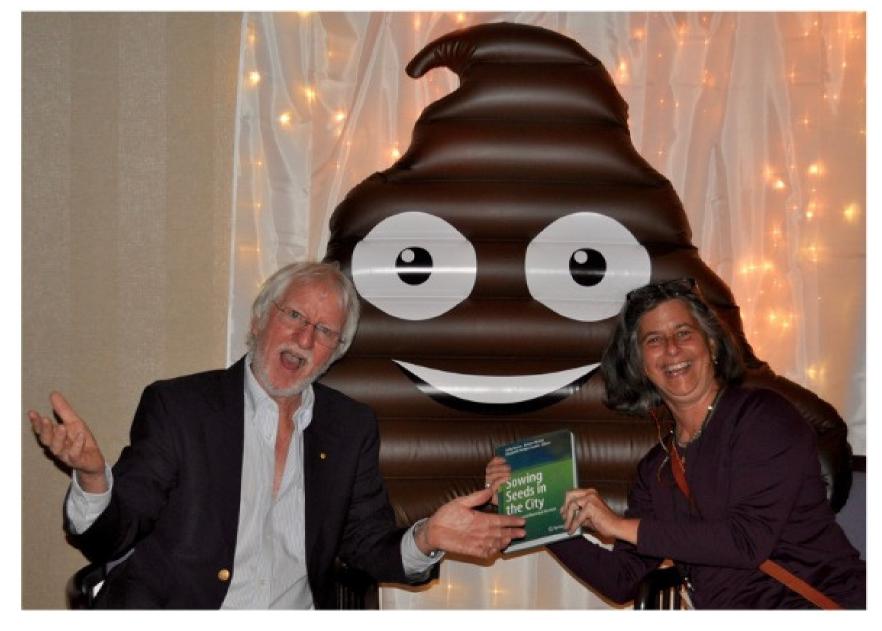
**Crop Yield Comparison Image credit: King County** 



PBS Filming at DC Water Image credit: WEF

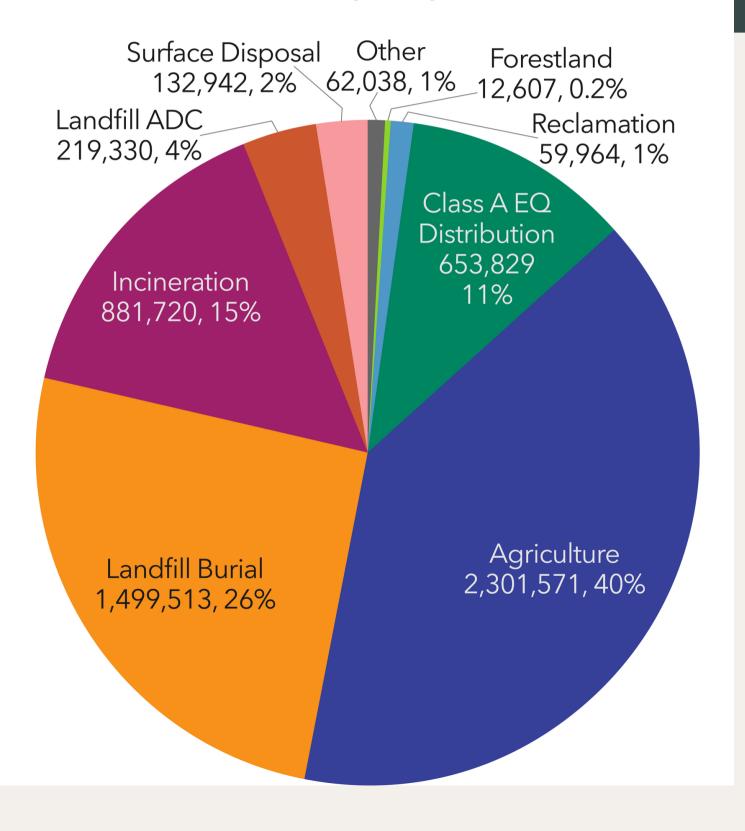
# LAUGH · HAVE FUN



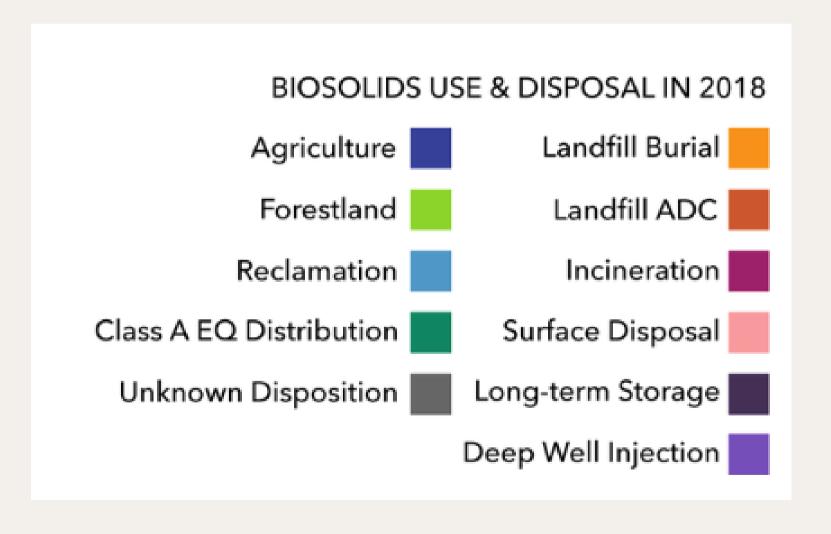


30th Anniversary BioFest Banquet in Portland, OR Image credit: Northwest Biosolids

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



# BIOSOLIDS END-USE



www.biosolidsdata.org

# WHAT WE KNOW



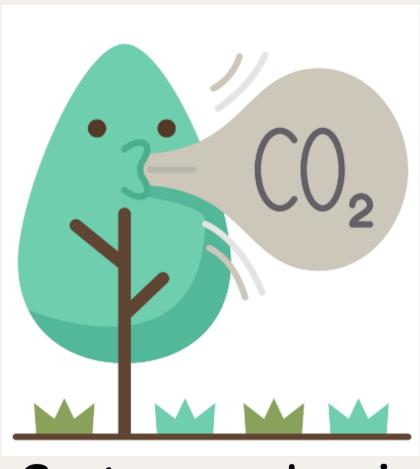
Crop yields matched or increased



Builds soil organic matter



Affordable alternative to chemical fertilizer



Captures carbon in soil

# WHAT WE KNOW



Recover heat and energy



Closed loop resource



Retains water to reduce soil erosion



Water to sustain plants

# WHAT WE KNOW



**Pollution persists** 



Nonstick chemicals



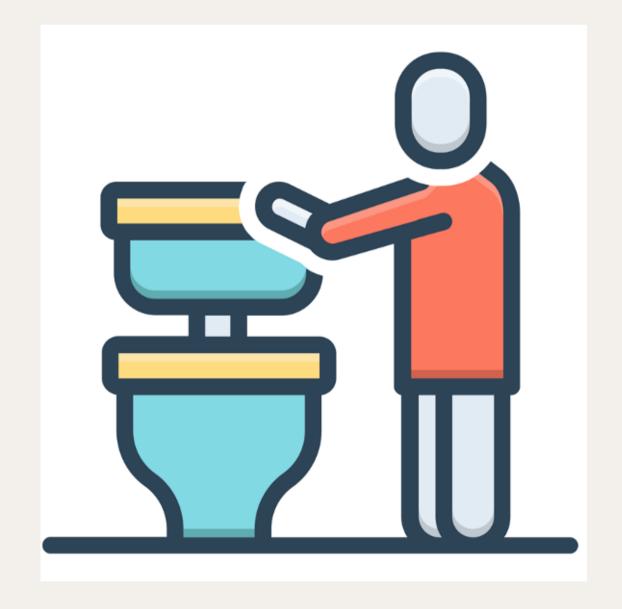
**Antibiotics** 



Research is key

# WHAT WE ALSO KNOW

### **Narratives Matter**



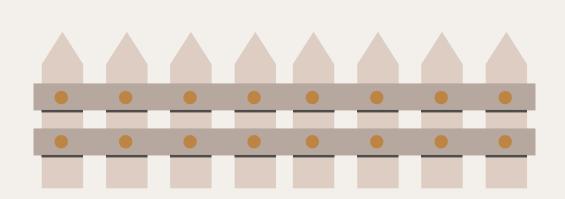


# WHAT WE ALSO KNOW

### **Narratives Matter**

### **External**

- Flush and forget
- Utility creates it
- Not in my backyard







### Internal

- Arrow off the map
- Under the radar
- Non-association





# UNIQUE APPROACH



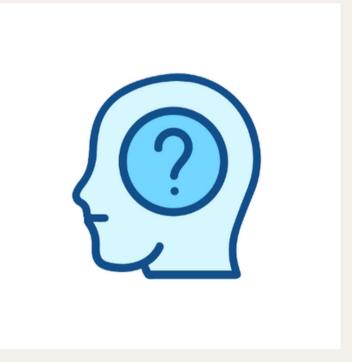
Our Role



Leaders



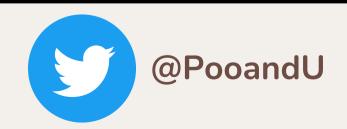
Humor



Intrigue



### yearofpoo.org





@Poo And You



@PooandU

# ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES







# ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES



# FUN FECAL FACT

# 

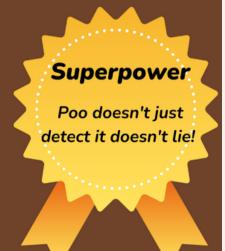
London is host to the Royal Family,
Thames River, London Loo Tours, and a
creature of gigantic proportions beneath
the city - a 130-ton fatberg slopped
together from grease and wipes.
Encountered in 2017 and estimated to
possibly be the largest on record. A crew
harnessing fatberg blasters, had to work
around the clock to de-chunk it bit by bit.

WHAT
SECRET
WEAPON
WOULD YOU
WIELD TO
BLAST THE
FATBERG?

### FUN FECAL FACT



Did you know that poo has played a starring role during the COVID pandemic? Wastewater-based epidemiology has become an early alert system for viruses. If you have COVID-19, "wastewater surveillance" can detect it. SARS-CoV-2 RNA can be counted in post-flush samples to see if cases are increasing or decreasing in communities.





### FRIDAY FLUSH



### Questions

- Introduce yourself and your organization
- How did you happen upon the fascinating world or poo? When and why did you choose to lift the lid and make poo a part of your repootoire?
- If you had to pick one key floatable nugget of wisdom to share with flushers about your work - what would it be?
- If poo could talk, what would it tell us?



CAUTION: THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW SERIES MAY CATCH YOU OFF GUARD AND EVEN CAUSE YOU TO FALL OVER LAUGHING. TOILET TALK CAN ALSO SURFACE CONTENT THAT MAY BE HIGHLY HUMANIZING OF POO.

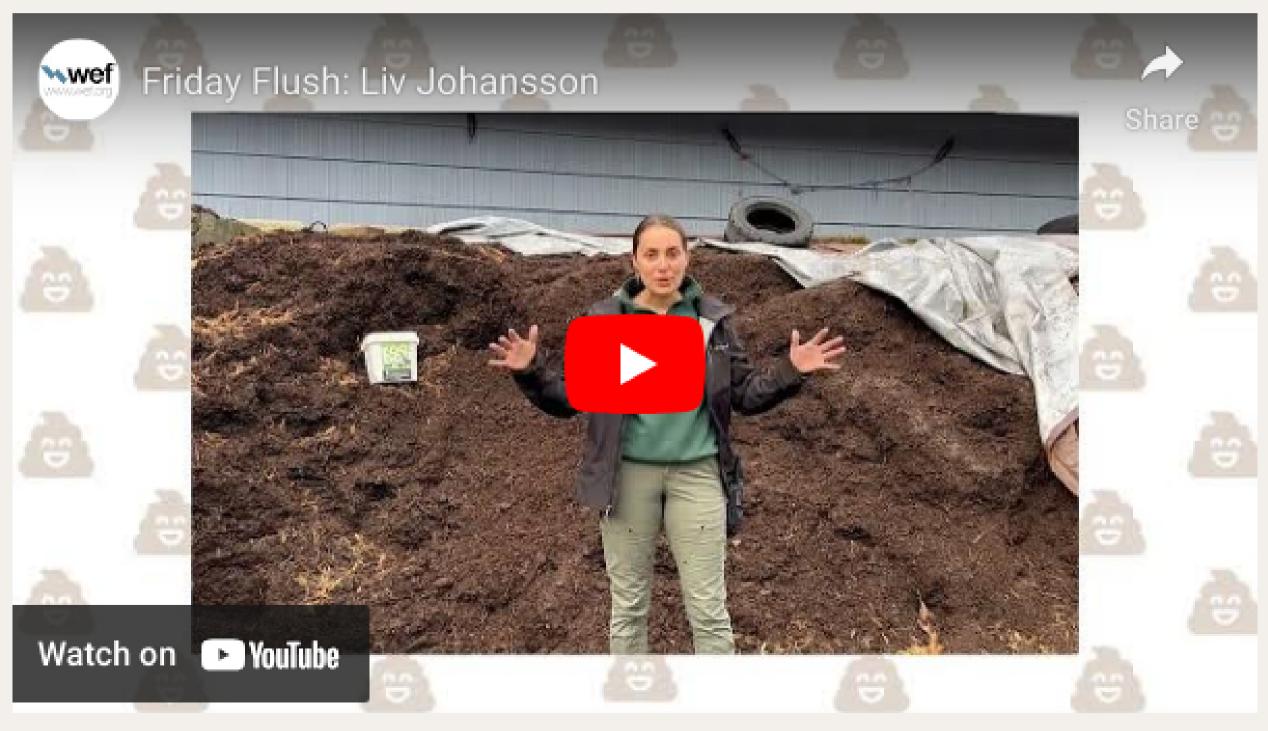


### LINA ZELDOVICH, THE OTHER DARK MATTER





### LIV JOHANSSON, WOODLAND PARK ZOO





### CODY DIEHL, POLK COUNTY (FLORIDA)





#### **30 Movement Makers**



- ANCHORAGE WATER & **WASTEWATER UTILITY**
- ATKINSRÉALIS
- BIOCYCLE MAGAZINE
- ENGLOBE
- EPIC CLEANTEC
- FLUSH LLC
- FLUSH: THE REMARKABLE **SCIENCE OF AN UNLIKELY TREASURE**
- INSTITUTE FOR SYSTEMS **BIOLOGY**
- JACOBS
- LONDON LOO TOURS
- POINT OF SHIFT
- RON ALEXANDER & USCC
- OCEAN SEWAGE ALLIANCE
- POINT OF SHIFT
- THE POOP PROJECT
- PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
- POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA

- RAIN INCUBATOR
- RARE CENTER FOR BEHAVIOR & THE **ENVIRONMENT**
- ROGUE WATER
- SH\*T SAVES THE WORLD
- CITY OF TACOMA TAGRO
- TOILET BOARD COALITION
- THE OTHER DARK MATTER
- UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
- UNKO MUSEUM
- WEF STUDENTS & YOUNG **PROFESSIONALS**
- WOODLAND PARK ZOO
- WORLD TOILET ORGANIZATION
- XYLEM

### Scaled-up Flusher Engagement



#### **Thank Before You Flush**

"GALLONS OF GRATITUDE"

CITY RESIDENTS BUILD BATHROOM SHRINES
TO THEIR LOCAL WATER TECHS

#### **OUTCOMES**

- 1) HUMANIZATION
- 2) EDUCATION
- 3) RESPECT

#### **MESSAGE**

ELEVATING THE HIDDEN FIGURES OF THE PROFESSION



#### **Pipeline Products**

"POOP DE LOOP"

RESOURCE RECOVERY EXPERTS

SEE GOLD IN CITY PIPES

#### **OUTCOMES**

- 1) HUMANIZATION
- 2) EDUCATION
- 3) RESPECT

#### **MESSAGE**

TURNING CONSUMERS INTO REGENERATORS



#### **Adult Potty-Training**

"LIFE AFTER FLUSH"

CHILDREN ASK GROWN-UPS IF THERE'S A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE (PVC) TUNNEL

OUTCOMES

1) EDUCATION

**MESSAGE** 

FLUSHING OUR IGNORANCE



"2022 - POO & YOU"

LIFTING THE LID ON THE POWER
BEYOND YOUR FLUSH

#### **OUTCOMES**

- 1) HUMANIZATION
- 2) EDUCATION
- 3) RESPECT

#### **MESSAGE**

UNCOVERING HOW EVERYDAY CHOICES CAN

AFFECT YOUR POO-PRINT



# FLUSHER ENGAGEMENT VIEWPOINT



### PBS VIEWPOINT - BIOSOLIDS













THE **SPECIAL FEATURE** RELEASED NOV. 7 TO PUBLIC TELEVISION AFFILIATES NETWORKS CAN PLAY SEGMENT FOR **ONE-YEAR** 

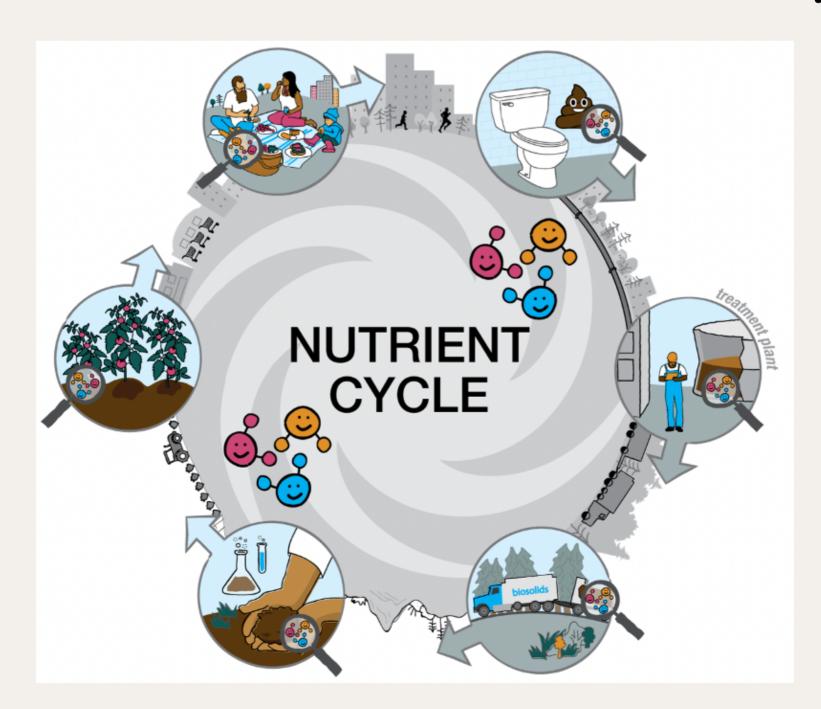
COMMERCIAL 400 TIMES REGIONALLY > 50+ MILLION HOUSEHOLDS

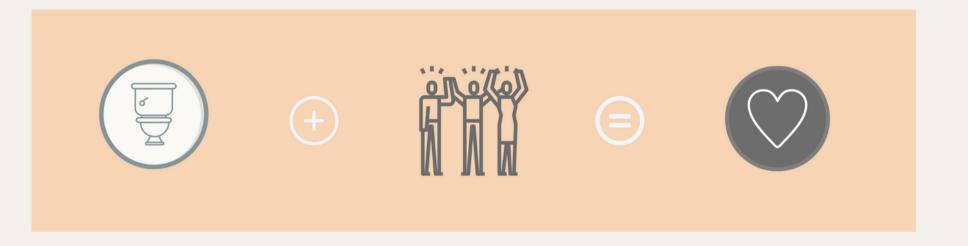
NATIONALLY ON FOX BUSINESS > 93,000,000 HOUSEHOLDS WEEKLY

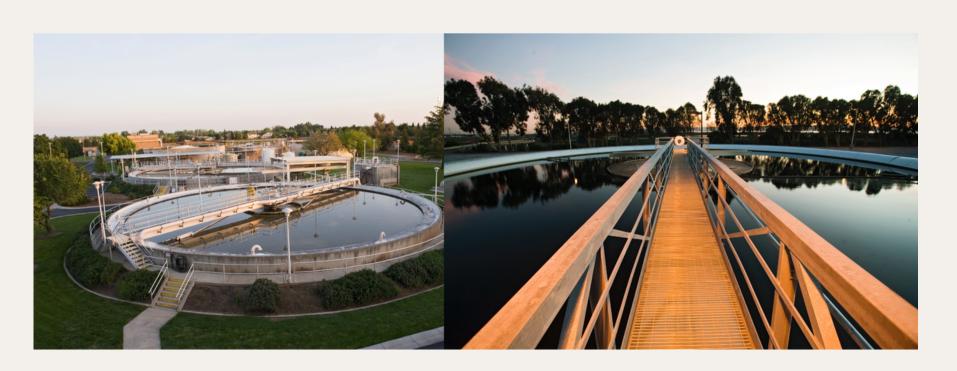
EMAIL CAMPAIGN > SENT TO 1,000,000 SELECT RECIPIENTS

## NEW CHARLES OPPORTUNITY

### Power Beyond the Flush





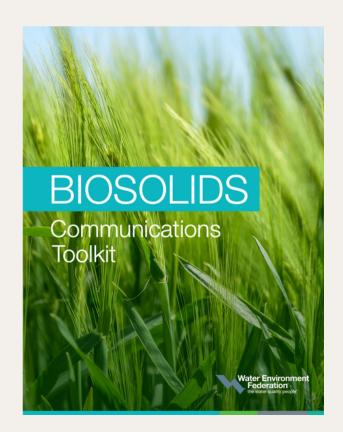




# GET ENGAGED



Biosolids Communication Toolkit





Tour a Biosolids
Project





Flush and Follow



@PooandU





yearofpoo.org

wef.org/pbs



# RESOURCES



BIOSOLIDS COMMUNICATION TOOLKIT



WEF CIRCULAR
WATER ECONOMY
SUMMIT
7/15/24-7/17/24



FLUSHER ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN



PBS VIEWPOINT
BIOSOLIDS SPECIAL
FEATURE