



Environmental Science Graduate Program Student Seminar Series

Understanding Student Perceptions of Biosolids in Central

Logan Rance

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Zoom Meeting ID 515-427-066

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/515427066>



Abstract

Every year the US produces roughly eight million dry tons of treated sewage sludge, or “biosolids” (EPA 2014). Research has shown that biosolids have the potential to be a viable and sustainable agricultural resource. However, negative stigmas and a general lack of understanding regarding the waste treatment process may prevent this resource from gaining more widespread adoption among farmers and gardeners. To expand this practice, it is crucial to understand these stigmas and develop tools to reduce them. Developing sustainable agricultural practices is becoming increasingly important in light of issues like population increase, aging waste management infrastructure, and nutrient loss in soils. This project aims to understand student perceptions of biosolids to better assess their acceptability of use in agricultural systems. The student body can provide a diverse sample and is an accessible population. In addition to their accessibility, students at OSU are potentially the next generation of farmers, gardeners, and biosolids consumers. Understanding how this group perceives biosolids can provide new insight that may be used to shape biosolids policies and adoption strategies in Central Ohio.