

CASE STUDY

ANGLIAN WATER: FROM SEWAGE TO SOIL HEALTH

This case study outlines how Anglian Water has used circular thinking to take its waste products and turn them into a commodity for another sector – creating sustainable results and reduced costs for consumers at the same time.

What was the issue?

Dealing with waste and by-products is a major challenge for many businesses. Anglian Water has found an innovative approach which deals with this problem at scale whilst also contributing to soil health – an increasing area of concern in farming and agriculture.

What did Anglian Water do?

Anglian Water produces around 350,000 tonnes of biosolids (treated sewage sludge) annually, as a by-product of the water recycling process. Biosolids are rich in crop nutrients (in particular nitrogen and phosphate) and organic matter, providing farmers with a sustainable alternative to conventional fertiliser. Biosolids are a slow-release source of nitrogen that accelerates with rising spring-time temperatures in alignment with crop growth.

By recycling its sewage sludge for land use, Anglian Water can sell its biosolids under the Nutribio brand. This reduces customer bills whilst simultaneously reducing the carbon impact of its operations. Production of Anglian Water's biosolids and recycling to agricultural land is certified under the [Biosolids Assurance Scheme](#), providing assurance to food chain stakeholders, farmers, and consumers that the practice is safe and sustainable.

32,000 tonnes

of CO2 emissions are saved annually due to the biosolids recycling scheme

IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES

- Increased soil health is achieved through the rich organic matter present in biosolids.
- The long-term application of biosolids to the land increases the natural capture of carbon dioxide (carbon sequestration) which reduces global warming.

What did Anglian Water learn?

- A circular approach will have multiple benefits including, as in this case, being able to pass cost savings onto customers and reduce input costs for farmers.
- Creation of the Biosolids Assurance Scheme, under the Nutribio brand has created strong market demand for the product.

**A SURPLUS PRODUCT OF ONE SECTOR
CAN BE A VALUABLE RESOURCE FOR
ANOTHER ONE.**



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