



# The United Sludge-Free Alliance

## The Basics

Sewage sludge – a.k.a. biosolids - is the solid remains of everything that goes down the drain of homes, businesses, industries and hospitals to waste water treatment plants.

The function of waste water treatment plants is to release water back into the community, not to turn our modern, toxic waste into “fertilizer”.

Over eight million tons of sewage sludge is annually land applied as a “fertilizer” to farms, parks, playgrounds and sold as bagged fertilizer.

Thousands of chemicals, pathogens, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, and bacteria are compressed into sludge but the EPA only requires testing for nine elements to declare sludge “safe”.

Sewage sludge has never been tested for human safety and the National Academy of Sciences panel warned “....sewage sludge is such a complex and unpredictable mix of biological and chemical wastes that its risks, when used for farming, can not be reliably assessed.”

When sewage sludge is applied to the land where our food and water come from plants, animals and water carry contaminants into our food source.

Communities and citizens where sewage sludge is applied have limited ability to halt the use of sludge, regardless of concerns of health, safety and property value.

Alternative uses for sewage sludge include creating a renewable resource fuel source.