



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 13, 2023

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City of Albany Receives LOC's Excellence Award

EUGENE, Ore. – During its 98th Annual Conference Friday, the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) presented its 2023 Award for Excellence to the city of Albany for its “Biosolids Composting” program. The award recognizes progressive and innovative city operations and services. This year, the Award for Excellence was presented to co-recipients, with the cities of Monmouth and Independence also winning for the “M-I Trolley” service.

About the Biosolids Composting Program

The Albany-Millersburg Water Reclamation Facility had been disposing of 20 dumpsters of biosolids per week at the local landfill at a cost of more than \$700,000 per year. This created a significant workload for staff and impacted local neighborhoods, both with truck traffic and odors. It was economically and environmentally unsustainable.

After an extensive analysis, a composting process was selected that transformed solids into Class A Exceptional Quality compost; a proven technology that made a positive environmental impact. Completed in January, Albany's composting facility was designed to treat 25% of biosolids and will eventually compost up to 100% of the biosolid load. Construction utilizing inexpensive materials helped to limit costs and provide flexibility.

The system now produces Class A product that meets stringent EPA requirements, and can be applied anywhere, including home vegetable gardens, without the restrictions associated with Class B biosolids. The compost has been used at city parks, stormwater facilities, and given away to partners.

Albany will continue to develop its biosolids program, expanding its composting facilities to provide even greater cost savings and environmental benefit.

About the League of Oregon Cities

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon's incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance and publications.

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