



## Valuable fertilizer for local agriculture

Metrogro supports plant growth and soil fertility in crop production. The product supplies nitrogen and phosphorus to meet crop needs, as well as organic material to improve soil health.

And, the Metrogro team works closely with farmers and regulators to ensure field applications conform to all needs and standards.



*A program of*

**Madison Metropolitan  
Sewerage District**

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## Metrogro: Sustainable Local Fertilizer



## Metrogro: The sustainable choice

Biosolids are the solid portion of wastewater that undergoes treatment at facilities like Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. Wastewater treatment plants like the District have three options for reuse or disposal of biosolids: landfill, incineration, or land apply.

Our biosolids product, called Metrogro, contains nutrient-rich material that can be recycled to farmland as valuable fertilizer.

By reusing biosolids in agriculture, our District reduces environmental impacts and saves taxpayer dollars over disposal through other less sustainable methods. Metrogro also helps farmers and landowners reduce their reliance on commercial, chemical-based fertilizers.





## Sampling and analysis

Metrogro is applied to more than 5,000 acres each year and we document and report every load to the fields with WDNR.

We sample and analyze Metrogro biosolids weekly for phosphorus, nitrogen, potassium, solids content, and metals. Bacteria samples are also taken during hauling season.

## Standards and guidelines

Federal and state government agencies heavily regulate Metrogro biosolids, including the EPA and WDNR. These regulations are in place to protect communities and the environment while also recovering valuable resources from biosolids.



## Site evaluation

Metrogro staff evaluate all fields to meet Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) administrative code NR204, surveying soil types, depth to bedrock, groundwater levels, distance to wetlands or waterways, and other characteristics. Application follows safety protocols and strict setbacks from homes, wells, schools, and recreation areas.

## Application and soil injection

Metrogro is incorporated into agricultural fields at a 6-8" depth, offering many benefits over land spreading, including:

- Greater precision during application
- Improved uptake by the crop
- Reduced soil disturbance from low disturbance injection bar
- Increased visual appeal
- Decreased undesirable odors

Equipment setup is carefully considered to minimize field compaction and crews are careful to leave the fields in good condition.



## High-quality product

Our District takes pride in its efforts to mitigate pollutants before they reach the treatment plant.

Metrogro outperforms concentration standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for exceptional quality (EQ) biosolids. Recent data offers a snapshot of our outstanding performance (well below EPA limits and thresholds) for selected metals.

Parameter	Concentration (mg/kg)	EPA EQ Limit (mg/kg)
Arsenic	4.2	41
Lead	16.1	300
Mercury	0.4	17
Nickel	26.4	420
Zinc	718	2800

## Treated for safety

Before any land application takes place, Metrogro biosolids undergo treatment to control pathogens, bacteria such as E. coli, or other organisms capable of transporting disease.

## Minimal PFAS

The District is a national leader in PFAS sampling and analysis among wastewater facilities. Current data reveals very low PFAS concentrations in our area, likely reflecting historical uses and background levels persisting in local land and water. Specifically for Metrogro, PFAS analysis shows combined PFOA and PFOS levels below WDNR guidelines for land application of biosolids. View the reports at [madsewerpfasinitiative.org](http://madsewerpfasinitiative.org).