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NEWS RELEASE

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Construction of new biosolids facility reaches milestone

The key component in Fort Worth's new biosolids processing facility arrived Thursday afternoon after a long journey.

It took about one year to design, procure, fabricate and manufacture the 150,000-pound drum dryer. The trip to Fort Worth started Feb. 15 in Graz, Austria. It traveled by truck to Linz, Austria, where it was loaded onto a barge for Antwerp, Belgium. There it was loaded on a ship bound for the Port of Houston.

On Thursday, the drum dryer reached its final destination at the Fort Worth Biosolids Dewatering and Processing Facility in east Fort Worth.

The dryer is 14 feet in diameter and 52 feet long. Two massive cranes lifted the drum from the truck and moved it into place in the new building, which is under construction on Greenbelt Road.

Fort Worth contracted with Synagro of Texas-CDR to design, build and operate the drum drying facility, which should be operational in July 2022. Until then, Synagro is managing the existing biosolids program using belt presses for dewatering to produce Class AB biosolids.

The new drying facility will process the biosolids produced by the city's Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility (VCWRF) as Class A biosolids. This is about 2,300 dry tons each month.

The current belt-press dewatering process produces a moist, compost-like material. The drum dryer will produce a hard, pelletized product that has most of the moisture content removed. This will reduce the total amount of product managed by over 70 percent.

The new process will produce a higher quality product and reduce operating costs, odors, trucking and regulatory risk.

The construction cost of the new facility is \$59 million, financed with a low-interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan from the Texas Water Development Board.

[Watch the drum dryer's arrival and placement.](https://youtu.be/QN-bShC4W7s) (Link: <https://youtu.be/QN-bShC4W7s>)