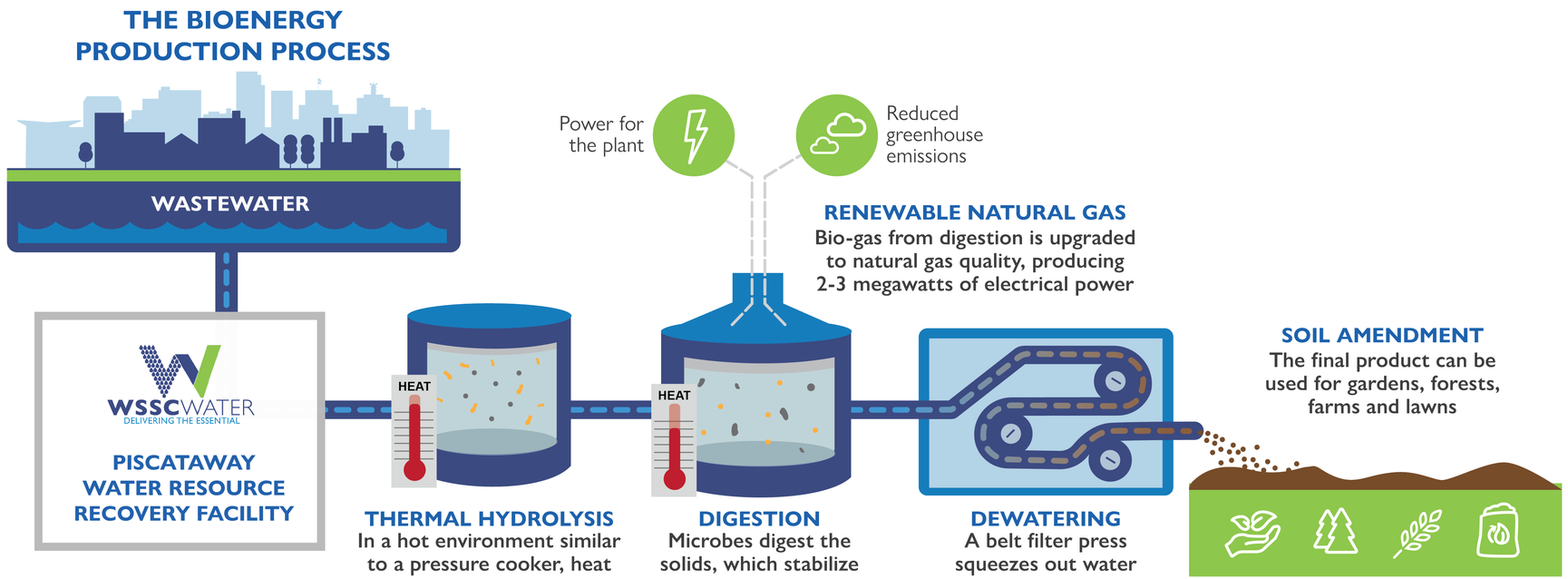
INTRODUCING BIOENERGY

WSSC WATER
DELIVERING THE ESSENTIAL

WSSC will transform wastewater biomass into renewable energy at the Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility (formerly known as the Piscataway Wastewater Treatment Plant).



Why Bioenergy?

SUSTAINABLE

Bioenergy production will enable WSSC Water to produce Class A biosolids with such high quality they can be used as a soil amendment to help gardens, forests, farms and lawns. This innovative project will reduce WSSC Water greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the Chesapeake Bay.

SAFE

Bioenergy production is becoming increasingly popular among water/wastewater utilities nationwide. Class A biosolids are held to the strictest industry standards, regularly monitored, and safe enough to use as a soil amendment to help gardens, forests, farms and lawns.

GREEN ENERGY

Using cutting-edge “green” technology, WSSC Water will transform sewage into renewable fuel and produce energy to help run the plant. This new process produces methane gas, which is captured, cleaned and used as a fuel source to run generators that create electricity. This provides Piscataway WRRF with a reliable green power source and reduces dependence on fossil fuels.

COST SAVING

WSSC Water is spending now in order to save going forward. Significant cost savings over the long term will come from reducing power consumption from fossil fuels and reducing disposal costs. Piscataway WRRF will become WSSC Water's showcase for achieving optimal value by investing in a green future.

For more information: wsscwater.com/bioenergy

WHAT ARE CLASS A BIOSOLIDS?

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Class A Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from the wastewater treatment process that can be used as a soil amendment to help gardens, forests, farms and lawns.

Who else is producing Class A biosolids?

WSSC Water joins a growing list of water/wastewater utilities nationwide using bioenergy to create Class A biosolids. Within our own region, consumers can already buy DC Water's Bloom to use in their gardens.

How can Class A biosolids help gardens and green spaces?

Biosolids are soil amendments – a product that's added to soil to improve its physical qualities. Class A biosolids can help plant and turf establishment and topsoil blending, and can even be used as a potting soil blend. Class A biosolids can be useful to everyone from home gardeners to large-scale forest and park managers.

Are Class A biosolids safe?

Yes! The National Academy of Sciences concludes that "the use of [biosolids] in the production of crops for human consumption, when practiced in accordance with existing federal guidelines and regulations, presents negligible risk to the consumer, to crop production and to the environment." The technical innovations and high heat process used by WSSC Water to remove pathogens transforms waste into sustainable and useful soil amendments.

Are there different types of biosolids?

There are two types of biosolids: Class A and Class B. WSSC Water's Piscataway Water Resource Recovery Facility will be producing Class A biosolids. Class A biosolids are held to the strictest industry standards, regularly monitored, and safe enough to use as fertilizer in home gardens. They have virtually no pathogens and contain very low levels of metals.

Do Class A biosolids have an odor?

Like most soil conditioners (such as compost and fertilizers), biosolids have an earthy smell.

Sign me up!

WSSC Water is still determining how our Class A biosolids will be used. Options we're considering include allowing it to be sold on the open market (as DC Water's Bloom is), private sale to another utility, or private sale/donation to garden and park organizations.

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