Safe sludge drying and energy optimization
The BioCo® Dryer

A BioCo sludge drying plant is especially designed for drying of dewatered sludge from municipal and industrial wastewater treatment plants. BioCo sludge drying plants are furthermore CE marked and comply with current EU and national rules, regulations and directives. BioCo is a dual-belt low temperature dryer designed to be one of the safest dryers on the market while maintaining easy and efficient operations. BioCo uses innovative sludge feeding system within the dryer to deposit thin strings of dewatered sludge on the first drying belt. The sludge feeding system ensures a large evaporation surface area while the circulated drying air evaporates the water from the sludge. BioCo operates with a drying air temperature range from 170-120°C on the first belt to 80-100°C on the end belt. The sludge residence time in the dryer is more than 60 minutes and the dried sludge meets the US EPA requirements for Class A pathogen reduction.

Efficient Drying Without Odour

Energy is supplied indirectly by a heat exchanger to heat the drying air. A circulation fan provides the necessary air velocity around the sludge strings to ensure the water evaporation from the sludge. To remove the moisture and particulate matter from the wet drying air a certain amount of the drying air is taken into the condensing air loop and sent through the condenser before returning to the drier. As the entire dryer unit is kept at a low negative pressure by the vacuum air fan and the drying air as well as the condensing air loops are enclosed cycles the system ensures an odourless operation.

Sludge into the Dryer

From the sludge cake buffer silo any combination of primary, secondary or digested sludge is pumped into the BioCo dryer. To ensure effective depositing on the belt the dried solids content in the dewatered sludge should be between 10% and 30% DS. The BioCo depositor system creates a large evaporation surface in the sludge strings which allows the drying process to operate at:
- Low drying temperature
- Short retention time
- Elimination of back-mixing

The BioCo drying plant is designed for intermittent as well as 24/7 operation. The BioCo drying plant is fully monitored and controlled by the SCADA system which allows unattended operation also outside normal working hours.

Features and benefits

- Safe operation due to low drying temperature and minimal dust emission.
- Flexible in regards to energy and heat source
- No odour release to surroundings due to negative pressure drying air system
- Designed for intermittent as well as non-stop operation
- Low operation and maintenance costs
- Delivers disinfected and granulated dried biosolids. The end product meets the US EPA Class A requirements
- Easily expanded with BioCo Energy Recovery System (BERS)
- Easily expanded with BioCo Energy Exchange System (BEES)
Operating principles

BioCo® Energy Recovery System (BERS)

The BioCo Energy Recovery System (BERS) reduces the total output of the plant to 5-10% of the original sludge cake quantity.

BERS provides thermal energy for the drying process. BERS will be self-sufficient regarding thermal energy at 20-25% DS content in sludge cake.

The BioCo Energy Recovery System includes a movable grate furnace for burning of the dried sludge, a heat exchanger for flue gas/drying air and a compact dry flue gas treatment system. The installation for flue gas treatment consists of equipment for dosing of bicarbonate and activated carbon and a bag filter for residuals.

BioCo® Energy Exchange System (BEES)

Sludge digestion combined with the BioCo Energy Exchange System (BEES) provides an essential reduction in the need for external energy supply.

BEES utilizes the opportunity for energy transfer between the dryer condensing air and the sludge digestion heat system. Frequently sludge digestion and BEES will turn out autothermic.

Flexible Energy Sources

The flexible BioCo dryer uses several energy sources to provide the needed heating fluid for the drying air heat exchanger.

Heating fluids

The simple BioCo dryer enables flexibility in choice of heating fluids as:

- Hot air
- Steam
- Hot oil
- Hot oil/hot water

Combinations

The simple and flexible BioCo® dryer operates in easy combination with:

- Gas Engine
- Boiler
- Steam Generator
- Air Heater
- BioCo Energy Recovery System (BERS)
- BioCo Energy Exchange System (BEES)