

## Best practices for PFAS waste disposal

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is an emerging contaminant that is becoming a more prevalent issue in organic waste processing. PFAS is a class of synthetic compounds used in a wide variety of consumer products due to their water and stain repellent properties and thermal resistance.

In the absence of regulations on PFAS waste management and disposal, generators of PFAS waste are questioning what the most appropriate methods of treatment or disposal for solid and liquid waste are. The properties of PFAS that make these compounds an ideal consumer product also make these compounds difficult to treat and dispose of properly. The potential risks and liabilities associated with PFAS means generators are taking a conservative and expensive approach to disposal.

Even though incineration is not required by law – since US states and Canadian provinces do not currently regulate disposal of PFAS waste – many generators have elected to incinerate their waste at a permitted hazardous waste incineration facility due to the difficulty of treating PFAS waste. This is problematic and prohibitively costly for generators that have large volumes of impacted media (e.g., soil) and many of these generators are managing these media by temporary storage or containment. There also are a number of PFAS treatment technologies in the early stages of development (e.g., soil washing and electrochemical treatment), however, these technologies require further development to demonstrate technical merit and commercial feasibility for use.

GHD continues to advance their understanding of the presence, toxicity, and potential impacts of this emerging contaminant. Read our latest updates at <https://www.ghd.com/en/about-us/best-practices-for-pfas-waste-disposal.aspx>.

