

Clean Solutions for a Dirty Problem

Core Projects Group

Core Projects is a South Texas Environmental Company that specializes in solving contamination problems on a large scale.

250+ Acres Remediated

Core Projects used an innovative solution to solve remediating soil on a large scale by using local mulch produced from Hurricane Harvey cleanup and bacteria that occurred naturally in local soils. 65,000+ tons of material was treated.

Problems solved:

- Dig and haul to landfill was costing \$45.00 per ton
- Trucks on roads posed safety risk
- Clean fill had to be trucked in to replace dig and haul soil

Benefits:

- Bioremediation was \$8.50 per ton- a savings of \$36.50!
- No replacement soil needed
- Carbon emissions reduced



Repurposing on a large scale saves the environment

The old De Gussa plant located on Rockport Terminals property was arguably the dirtiest industrial site in the region.

De Gussa produced carbon black by burning heavy crude oil in an oxygen poor environment to create soot, very black soot! This soot is key to providing color, strength and UV protection to rubber tires, plastic, woven fabrics, paints and just about anything man made and is colored black. It's everywhere.

The plant produced an immense amount of heat and black smoke. Fisherman used the black plume in the sky for navigation when they were operating in the Gulf of Mexico. Neighbors as far away as 3 miles reported their trees, cars and even animals had a black tinge. Although this black soot was a nuisance, it was not toxic or harmful due to its inert molecular properties. The real problem was the crude oil that leaked from the old tanks that have now been demolished. This is where Core Projects Group staff used their experience and lateral thinking to solve an environmental problem while helping the local community solve a Hurricane Harvey problem.

Standard clean up methods for affected soils normally include digging and hauling to a landfill. This is expensive and only transfers the problem to another location. Core Projects Group worked with an Australian Government affiliated firm to design a remediation method using mulch that allowed the soil to be treated on site.

Aransas County had almost 1,000,000 cubic yards of mulch from Hurricane Harvey and they needed help disposing of it. The landfill sites were filling up and it was costing a fortune in trucking and landfill fees. Core Projects staff travelled to Australia with mulch and soil samples and conducted pilot tests to prove the concept.

The results were surprisingly good so Core Projects took delivery of the Hurricane mulch. The mulch mixed with soil turned into compost and the bacteria digested the crude oil in the soil. The end result is healthy mulch which is then spread out on site to encourage vegetation growth.

2 problems solved by combining them together.



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