

Green Remediation

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What is "Green Remediation"?

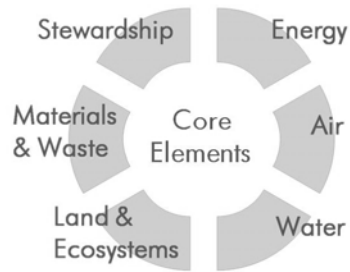
Green Remediation - The practice of considering the environmental effects of a remediation strategy (i.e., the remedy selected and the implementation approach) early in the process, and incorporating options to maximize the net environmental benefit of the cleanup action.



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Opportunities to Increase Sustainability in Site Cleanups

- ◆ Apply to all cleanup programs
- ◆ Exist throughout site investigation, design, construction, operation, and monitoring
- ◆ Address core elements



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Core Elements: Energy Requirements

- ◆ Optimized passive-energy technologies, with little or no demand for external utility power
- ◆ Energy-efficient equipment operating at peak performance
- ◆ Periodic evaluation and optimization of equipment with high energy demand
- ◆ Renewable energy systems to replace or offset grid electricity



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Core Elements: Air Emissions

- ◆ Optimal use and proper maintenance of heavy equipment
- ◆ Use of cleaner fuel and retrofit diesel engines for heavy equipment
- ◆ Modified operations to reduce operating & idle time
- ◆ Minimized dust export of contaminants



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Soil erosion

No till

Plant growth – photosynthesis – permanent vegetative cover can store CO₂ as organic carbon; land cover is greatly effected by land use/management

Soil disturbance – removes carbon from soil carbon pool --- erosion, tilling are major factors in soil degradation and loss of OM. Significant amounts of CO₂ are lost after tillage

Core Elements: Water Requirements and Resources

- ◆ Minimum fresh water use and maximum reuse during treatment and site operations
- ◆ Reclaimed treated water for beneficial use or aquifer storage
- ◆ Native vegetation requiring little or no irrigation
- ◆ Prevention of water quality impacts such as nutrient-loading



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Core Elements: Land and Ecosystems

- ◆ Minimally invasive in situ technologies
- ◆ Passive energy technologies as primary remedies or “finishing steps”
- ◆ Minimal soil and habitat disturbance
- ◆ Adopt ecorestoration and reuse practices
- ◆ Reduced noise and lighting disturbance



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Core Elements: Material Consumption and Waste Generation

- ◆ Technologies designed to minimize waste generation
- ◆ Reuse and recycling of materials, including C&D debris
- ◆ Minimized extraction and disposal of natural resources
- ◆ Passive sampling devices producing minimal waste



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Core Elements: Long-Term Stewardship

- ◆ Reduced emission of CO₂, methane, and other greenhouse gases
- ◆ Adaptive management approach integrated into long-term actions and redevelopment
- ◆ Renewable energy systems for long-term cleanup and future economic benefit
- ◆ Leverage of remedy infrastructure for reuse



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Carbon & Energy Footprints of Superfund Cleanup Technologies

Technology	Estimated Energy Annual Average (kWh*10³)	Total Estimated Energy Use in 2008-2030 (kWh*10³)
Pump & Treat	489,607	11,260,969
Thermal Desorption	92,919	2,137,126
Multi-Phase Extraction	18,679	429,625
Air Sparging	10,156	233,599
Soil Vapor Extraction	6,734	154,890
Technology Total	618,095	14,216,209
Annual Carbon Footprint (MT CO₂)		
Sum of 5 Technologies	404,411	



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Green Remediation Profile: Ferdula Landfill, Frankfort NY

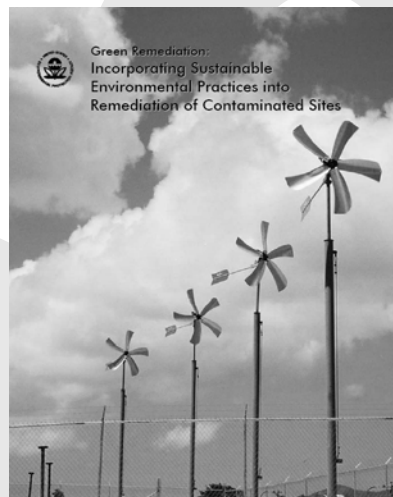
- ◆ Soil vapor extraction relying on wind power to draw vacuum from landfill vents
- ◆ Exclusively off-grid operations providing a pulsed effect and carbon removal of VOCs
- ◆ VOC concentrations in soil reduced over 90% in five years of operation



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EPA Green Remediation Primer

- ◆ Provides introduction to best practices with examples of how and where they are used
- ◆ Focuses on remedy implementation across regulatory frameworks
- ◆ Released April 2008, available at;
<http://clu.in.org/greenremediation>



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