Soil Carbon:
Why is it important?

Project Highlight

Whole Cycle Revisited

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2019 FALL NEWSLETTER

As we start the Fall season we look back on a year full of challenges as well as new opportunities. The Spring kicked off with plenty of rain across the northeast which then brought warmer temperatures into the Summer months and beyond. New products, services, and resources have been keeping our team busy, but we still managed to find time for team building and having fun. Below you will find an article discussing soil carbon, why it is important, and how it relates to the composting process and the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We will also discuss a recent project that highlights the benefits and uses of our manufactured soils, as they relate to Stormwater Run-Off and pollution prevention for existing waterways. We will also revisit our Whole Cycle Initiative and discuss its benefits as we move along for the remainder of the Fall.

Check us out on Twitter (@Agresource_Inc), Facebook and Instagram (@wholecyclemgmt) for daily updates on what we and the industry as a whole are up to. Discover more about Agresource anytime at www.agresourceinc.com AGRESPORT at www.agresport.com and Whole Cycle at www.wholecyclemgmt.com

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What is Soil Carbon and Why is it Important?

Increasing concerns about climate change in recent months has brought renewed attention to soils as reservoirs of carbon. Carbon is released into the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and oil.

This atmospheric carbon (in the form of carbon dioxide) can be removed from the atmosphere by plants through the process of photosynthesis. Although planting trees can offset carbon dioxide that is lost by burning fuels, the amount of carbon that is fixed in the plant biomass is smaller than that which is held in the soil. It is estimated that carbon in the soil, both in the form of soil organic matter and inorganic carbonates, is the third largest source of carbon on earth (the oceans and carbon held as fossil fuels are the only larger sources of carbon).

The addition of compost and other organic amendments adds carbon to the soil. Because the volume of soil is so large, just small increases in soil organic matter can have substantial impacts on the amount of carbon that can be stored. In addition, the nutrients that are added to the soil with the carbon in the compost improve plant growth and the removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

By composting organic residues such as leaves and yard debris and biosolids generated at our wastewater treatment facilities we can add carbon to the soil. In contrast incineration of these organic residuals results in the loss of carbon back to the atmosphere.

More information can be found in the article “Connections between Compost, Soil Carbon and Climate Change” posted on the Agresource Web site.

https://www.agresourceinc.com/articles

Project Highlight

Bioretention and Planting Soils used in the parking lot of the redeveloped Greylock Works in North Adams, MA.

Greylock Works is a 240,000 SF former fine cotton spinning facility located in North Adams, MA and Berkshire County. The existing mill space has been redeveloped into a mixed use facility that includes Co-Working Space, Art Studios, an Event & Conference Center, and a Craft Distillery.

During the Summer of 2019 Agresource supplied Bioretention and Planting soils for the project. Over 1200 CY of material was imported to the site as part of the project, which utilized these soils as planting and filter media for island planting strips and a bioretention basin adjacent to a large parking area where stormwater run-off, plant health, and curb appeal were a concern to the project owners. Agresource was able to work with the Project Owners and Architects to develop four individual specialty soil blends that met challenging specifications, and were both functional and cost effective.

Bioretention Soils aide in filtering pollutants and unwanted nutrients from stormwater run-off as it is captured in basins and planting areas within the built environment. Stormwater is typically diverted from these impervious areas (paved parking lots) to areas where it can be captured and filtered before it slowly infiltrates back into the groundwater, rather than being deposited directly into existing waterways or surrounding landscapes.

These soils which are a mix of sand, soil, and compost at specified ratios are a valuable tool in managing stormwater pollution prevention, erosion control, and nutrient overload to a particular waterway. When used as a planting media for trees, shrubs, and perennials these soils can also help to enhance the surrounding landscape.

Whole Cycle Management

Since 1984, Agresource Inc. has been a leader in finding beneficial uses for organic residuals including: municipal biosolids, leaf and yard waste, food processing residuals and food scraps. We consider these wastes as valuable resources that are used in a variety of products from compost to engineered soil blends.

Whole Cycle is tool to help our customers with the management of green wastes such as leaves/grass, brush, stumps, and clean excavated soils. The goal of Whole Cycle is to complete the cycle by collecting, hauling, processing, manufacturing and distributing finished material back to the original generator of the waste.

The finished product, in the form of compost or compost amended soil, can be used back on the property where it was collected creating a sustainable approach to waste/grounds management.

The Whole Cycle Swap program utilizes roll off containers (10, 15, 20, 30 cubic yards), or our fleet of tractor trailers, to deliver finished material and pick up green waste (leaves, grass, brush). A roll off container filled with an ordered product (generated from previously collected “wastes”) will be delivered to your site, once unloaded the empty container is available to be filled with green waste. When the container is full, place another order for the material that is needed. The material is unloaded, leaving the empty container and collecting the container filled with green waste to be hauled and processed at one of our facilities.

The material you are receiving back will contain recycled/processed materials, completing the whole cycle. Reduce your carbon footprint (and haul charge) by using one truck instead of two to deliver product and remove waste.

For questions and more details about the Whole Cycle approach please reach out to Mike Carignan (mcarignan@agresourceinc.com 978-270-9132), or Dana Spaulding (dspaulding@agresourceinc.com 978-992-2795). We are excited about the opportunity to work together and all be a part of...Whole Cycle.

WHOLE CYCLE
organic waste recycling