



Climate Change and Resilience

In 2021, there is a renewed focus by the federal government on reestablishing climate change resilience as a goal and review criteria for remedies under Superfund, including environmental justice concerns and initiatives. The 2020 wildfires in U.S. western states identified new public health concerns, particularly for vulnerable communities, and the Biden Administration has prioritized quantifying the social impacts of climate change and building social capital.

Since 2016, SURF has partnered with a number of federal and state government agencies and internationally recognized nonprofits to share the importance of and develop principles and best practices for climate resilient sustainable remediation and redevelopment. This issue of *SURF Break* recognizes five years of work by SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative (TI) and hits the high points.

The next steps in this TI effort will promote SURF's expanded vision (see **January 2021 issue**) while aligning with the federal government's renewed focus on climate change resilience and environmental justice and social equity at Superfund and Brownfields sites.

Please email **Cathy Rockwell** or **Barbara Maco** for more information or to share your ideas and help continue the success of this TI.

Check us out on:



Did You Know?

In 2019, SURF partnered with the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC) to update the ITRC's 2011 Green and Sustainable Remediation documents. SURF members chaired or co-chaired three of the six working groups: Importance and Value (Paul Favara), Integration into the Remedial Project Lifecycle Framework (Cathy Rockwell), Sustainable Best Management Practices (Betsy Collins).

The new guidance, *Sustainable Resilient Remediation* (Spring publication), satisfies key objectives of SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative with state-by-state and federal programs summaries and 40 case studies.



Dive into SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Resources

SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative (TI) evolved from lively discussions at SURF 31 in March 2016.* Since then, members of SURF's Climate Change and Resilience Technical Initiative (TI) have been busy researching and delivering comprehensive resources to help remediation practitioners:

- In late 2018 after 2½ years of collaborative research, the team published *Resilient Remediation: Addressing Extreme Weather and Climate Change, Creating Community Value* (click **here** to read).
- From 2018 to 2020, the TI team collaborated with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, EcoAdapt, and Boston University to develop a hazardous waste site vulnerability screening tool.* Although the tool is specific to Massachusetts, it provides a template for other local and state communities. For more information, watch SURF's webinar about the topic **here**.

* SURFers can access SURF 31 meeting notes and the vulnerability screening tool through the Member Portal on the SURF website **here**. Once logged in, select the "Member Resources" menu, on left side under "Document Folders" click the folder icons next to "Technical Initiative Documents" then "Climate Change and Resilience."