



COVID-19 PPE Waste a Reminder to Reassess

Before the pandemic, seeing a disposable mask tossed on the ground was a curiosity and knowing the acronym “PPE” depended on whether you wore it at work. A few years later, our perspective and vocabulary have changed. Words like “unprecedented” are clichéd and overused but fitting when considering the increased generation, use, and disposal of PPE during COVID-19. The World Bank Group’s *[More Growth, Less Garbage](#)* (2021) paints an updated picture of waste generation—and it’s growing. What can remediation practitioners do to slow the growth?

- Consider more sustainable ways to manage single-use PPE waste. Click [here](#) to learn how Brewers Collective, part of Anheuser-Busch, is partnering with TerraCycle to recycle masks and gloves into a composite material.
- Prevent the waste from the start. Replace sampling methods with no-purge technology like passive diffusion bags, Snap Samplers, and HydraSleeves. Click [here](#) to read a SURF case study (#015) that implemented this change, avoiding about 1,500 gallons of purge water per year and eliminating the use and disposal of about 15,000 feet of tubing per year.



Dive In! A Fresh Perspective on Science

The end of summer often signals the end of fun in the sun and a return to routine. September and the change in season remind us of fall and the fresh perspective that comes with a new school year. We're hitting the reset button here at *SURF Break*. Click [here](#) to listen to Hamish Jolly's Ted Talk about a shark-deterrent wet suit and a new way of looking at science.



Did You Know? Sustainable BMP Tool for Climate Change Available

Wondering how to build or adapt a sustainable and climate impact–resilient environmental remediation site? Check out the downloadable, Microsoft® Excel®-based tool in ITRC's guidance, *Sustainable Resilient Remediation* ([click here](#)). The tool is designed to help practitioners identify and prioritize sustainable best management practices (SBMPs) for extreme weather events or wildfires and can be used at any stage of a remediation project—from vulnerability assessment and site investigation to the 30th year of operation, maintenance, and monitoring of a remedy. The SBMPs included in the tool are categorized by the following applicable climate change effects: wind, snow and hail, fluctuating groundwater elevation levels, flooding, bank and shoreline erosion, pre- and post-wildfire, sea-level rise, evapotranspiration, storm surge, and permafrost thaw. A detailed description of each SBMP allows users to determine the applicability of SBMPs to a specific site. By filtering the resulting information, users can create a site-specific summary of SBMPs and document if specific SBMPs are applicable, prioritize SBMPs, and track implementation. For more detailed information and additional resources, click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

RemTEC & Emerging Contaminants Summit

October 4-6, 2022

Westminster, CO

For more information, click [here](#).

SURF Webinar: Beede Oil Sustainable Remediation Case Study

October 5, 2022

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. ET

Registration link will be coming soon!

38th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy

October 17-20, 2022 (early registration deadline: September 26th)

Amherst, MA

For more information or to register, click [here](#).