



### **SURFers Collaborate and Provide Foundation for Others**

Steve Jobs once said “...we have always been shameless about stealing great ideas.” We at SURF are going a step further and encouraging you to steal shamelessly. For over six years, SURF has partnered with several 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. Since then, members of our Climate Change and Resilience TI have worked with others to deliver resources and tools to help remediation practitioners in this area. An article, “Resilient Remediation: Addressing Extreme Weather and Climate Change, Creating Community Value” (click [here](#)), presents the findings of over two years of collaborative research. A hazardous waste site vulnerability screening tool (click [here](#) for report and [here](#) for webinar) and a vulnerability assessment checklist (click [here](#)) were also created collaboratively, the former with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, EcoAdapt, and Boston University and the latter as part of the LSP Association (LSPA) Climate Change Subcommittee. Although these tools are specific to Massachusetts, they provide a template for how other local and state communities can evaluate

climate vulnerabilities in their area and develop action plans. So, steal away and build a sustainable, resilient future!

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## **Dive In! Research Provides GHG Data and Considerations for PFAS Policy Makers**

Most remediation practitioners acknowledge that treatment technologies for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water are energy intensive. Intuitively, the push for PFAS treatment seems at odds with climate change initiatives. But where's the data and what are the policy implications? SURFer Ben McAlexander (Trihydro, SURF Silver Sponsor) recently co-authored an article entitled "Estimated Greenhouse Gas Emissions from PFAS Treatment of Maine Drinking Water" (click [here](#)) to answer these questions. Ben and his co-authors filled in the data gap by conducting a greenhouse gas emissions inventory of an example private residential and public water supply. Methods and results are presented, as well as five considerations for policy makers as they develop appropriate target PFAS concentrations for drinking water. The article is featured in Maine Policy Review, which is issued jointly twice a year by the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine.

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## Did You Know? U.S. EPA Publishes EJ Action Plan and Creates New Office

On September 30, 2022, the U.S. EPA published the final EJ Action Plan: Building Up Environmental Justice in EPA's Land Protection and Cleanup Programs (click [here](#)). The plan highlights projects, tools, and practices and lays out four main goals: (1) strengthening compliance with cornerstone environmental statutes (e.g., developing a "Good Governance" process and referral list to help address follow-up actions on communities' environmental concerns); (2) incorporating environmental justice considerations during the regulatory development process; (3) improving community engagement in rulemakings, permitting decisions, and policies; and (4) implementing President Biden's Justice40 Initiative.

A week before the EJ Action Plan was published, the U.S. EPA created the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights to ensure that actions described in the plan comply with federal civil rights laws. In its enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Office will prohibit discrimination by applicants for and recipients of federal financial assistance from the U.S. EPA. The Office also includes the Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center, which is the agency's primary resource for services and expertise in alternative dispute resolution, environmental conflict resolution, consensus-building, and collaborative problem solving. To learn more about the Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, click [here](#).

## Upcoming Events

***ITRC Sustainable Resilient Remediation***

Live Webinar Training

Thursday, November 17, 2022

1:00 p.m - 3:15 p.m. EST

**To register, click [here](#).**