



Dr. Paul T. Kostecki
(October 4, 1950 - November 20, 2021)

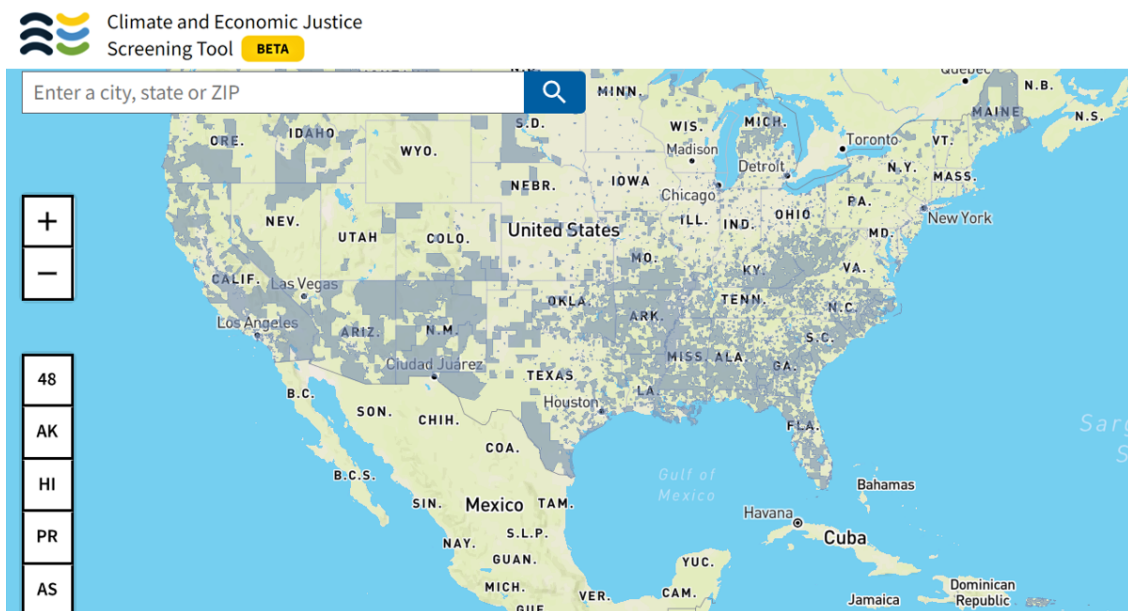
Legacy of Dr. Paul Kostecki Lives On in Friendships Forged and AEHS Conference

As many of you may have heard, Dr. Paul T. Kostecki passed away after a year-long illness on November 20, 2021. Paul was a co-creator of the AEHS (Association for Environmental Health and Sciences) Foundation. For over 30 years, his conferences in Amherst, MA and San Diego, CA on Contaminated Soils, Sediments, and Water attracted over 10,000 environmental professionals from over 50 countries. SURF has been a proud partner of AEHS since Fall 2017 when we began co-locating our meetings in conjunction with AEHS conferences. Of course, the partnership made sense on paper, but over the last four years under Paul's leadership, it has evolved into something more than just a logo on a website.

It's personal in the best way possible. For those who knew Paul, that shouldn't be surprising. Paul Hadley, co-founder of SURF, said he knew Paul "...first as someone who came to the conference, then working with him as a member of the AEHS West Coast Conference Science Advisory Board, sharing the experiences of being a father and later a grandfather, as a fellow fisherman who got to go out with him a couple of times, and above all as a friend." The

AEHS Foundation will continue to carry on Dr. Kostecki's professional and entrepreneurial legacy. The 31st Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air will be held virtually from March 14–17, 2022. The Paul Kostecki Founders Legacy Scholarship has been established to continue Paul's mission of research, education, and training in the field of environmental contamination.

To donate, click [here](#). Paul leaves his beloved wife Ann Marie; his daughter, Anina (Tom); son, James (Sarah); cherished granddaughters, Lucia and Olivia; and loving sister Elaine (Arthur). For a full obituary, click [here](#).



Dive In! Beta Version of Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool Available

The U.S. Council on Environmental Quality has created a Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool to help federal agencies identify disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. The tool identifies disadvantaged communities through publicly available, nationally consistent datasets and provides socioeconomic, environmental, health, and climate information to inform decisions that may affect these communities. The current version of the tool is in a public beta form and will be updated based on feedback and research.

For more information about the tool and how to provide your feedback, click [here](#).



EA Engineering, Science, and Technology, Inc., PBC

Thermal Treatment of Soils to Achieve “Irreversible Destruction” of PFAS

Unless you’ve been living under a rock the past few years, you’ve noticed an increase in focus on PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). These synthetic chemical compounds are in consumer products ranging from textiles and paper to cosmetics and are highly resistant to biological and chemical degradation. Since 2011, the U.S. Department of Defense [through its Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) with the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] has been funding research to gain a better understanding of PFAS. Current research focuses on identifying degradation processes and developing new remediation technologies to treat these compounds.

EA Engineering, a SURF Silver Sponsor, recently performed a successful proof-of-concept pilot study with funding from SERDP. The study evaluated the effectiveness of indirect thermal desorption coupled with thermal oxidation to treat investigation-derived waste contaminated with PFAS. The project achieved “irreversible destruction” of PFAS in soil and EA is currently performing a full-scale, on-site demonstration study to further refine the technology and validate the proof-of-concept pilot results. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense environmental technology demonstration and validation program called ESTCP (Environmental Security Technology Certification Program).

The long-term goal of the study is to meet unrestricted use criteria so the treated soil can be reused on-site. EA will optimize the system and model the costs of scale up to develop cost-competitive approaches for using the

technology in on-site mobile treatment applications. EA also provides PFAS research and development support to the EPA's Office of Research and Development.

Upcoming Events

SURF Membership Meeting (open to members and non-members)

March 15, 2022

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. EDT

Registration link is coming soon!

SustREM2022 at AEHS

March 14 – 17, 2022

VIRTUAL

To access the conference program or register, click [here](#).

ITRC Sustainable Resilient Remediation

March 15, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. EDT

To register, click [here](#).

Membership Renewal Time!

SURFers, it's time to renew your membership! Click the "Join SURF Today" button below to renew now.

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