

# SUSTAINABLE REMEDIATION FORUM

May 2024 Newsletter

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According to the Institute for Environment and Human Security at United Nations University, groundwater aquifers supply drinking water to over 2 billion people and about 70% of withdrawals are used for agriculture.

## **Tackling the Ripple Effects of Groundwater Depletion**

The amount of time you spend thinking about groundwater likely depends on where you live...or your profession. Regardless, the impacts of declining groundwater levels can affect nearly every part of our lives: the water we drink, the food we eat, and our livelihoods (to list a few). In December 2023, the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) held a public session to understand the complexity and scope of groundwater depletion and discuss potential solutions (click [here](#) to listen). Now, PCAST has

launched a working group and wants public input on specific questions. Eventually a report will be published to advance government-wide action on America's groundwater. Click [here](#) for the list of questions and details about how to submit your ideas. Submissions are due no later than July 1, 2024.

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### **Dive In! Publication Trifecta**

The mint julep at the Derby and the infield at Preakness put us in a social mood, so we're highlighting three articles that provide information about the social considerations of sustainable remediation:

- *How to Get to Know Communities and Cultures: Methods for Remediation, Removal, and Redevelopment Projects* (click [here](#)) outlines how to take a culturally informed approach to cleanup and redevelopment and uses social science as its basis.
- *Building Trust and Relationships in Cleanup Community Engagement, from Theory to Practice* (click [here](#)) explains the science behind

community engagement and provides insights from social-science research with EPA personnel.

- *Centering Equity in the Development of a Community Resilience Planning Resource* (click [here](#)) shows how human-centered design was used to develop the EPA's Equitable Resilience Builder tool.



### **Did You Know? NICOLE Foundation Tackles Global Challenges**

Imagine volunteering your time as a remediation professional, working with other organizations worldwide to deliver sustainable solutions to communities where no other feasible options exist. It's this type of partnership that's the heart of the NICOLE Foundation, a nonprofit organization and separate entity from NICOLE (formerly known as the Network for Industrially Contaminated Land in Europe). The Foundation focuses on transformative partnerships to

expedite problem solving, foster innovative solutions, and build enduring relationships among individuals, communities, and organizations. To learn more about the NICOLE Foundation and their recent projects, click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events

### SURF Events

#### ***Short Course: SURF Guide to Sustainable Resilient Remediation Tools***

Sunday, June 2, 2024 - Battelle's 2024 Chlorinated Conference in Denver, CO  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MDT

Click [here](#) for more information.

#### ***SURF Webinar: Contamination Control and Sustainable Remediation Using Active Geocomposite Technology***

June 11, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT

**Registration link coming soon!**

Learn:

- The primary constituents and applications of an active geocomposite mat
- The four performance factors required to implement the technology
- The primary design requirements for using active mats
- How active mats contribute to a more sustainable remediation strategy

### Other Webinars

#### ***Tribal Wisdom on Nibi and Ecosystems: Manoomin and the Circle of Life***

June 4, 2024

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

#### ***Not MI Species: Invading Classrooms—Empowering Students to Take Action on Invasive Species***

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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