

# SUSTAINABLE REMEDIATION FORUM

SURF Break | September 2024

---



## United Nations Fights Gloom and Doom with Action – You Can Too!

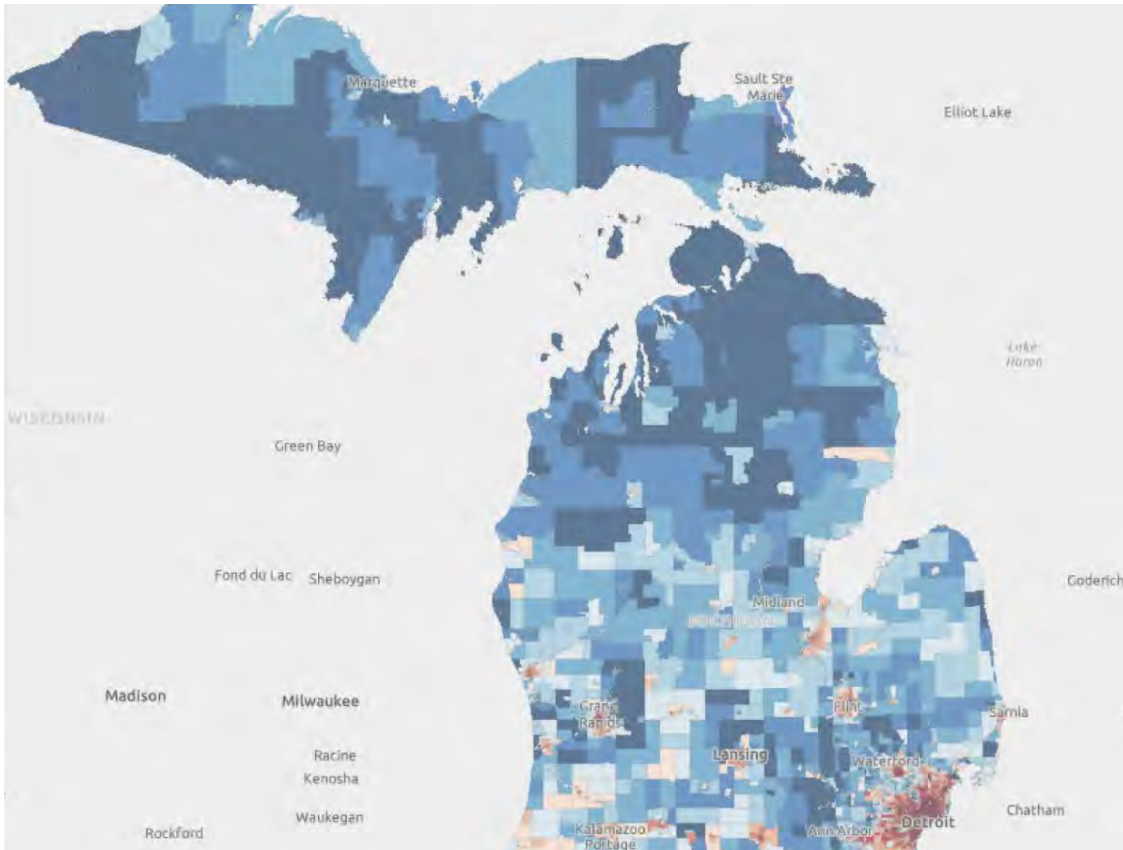
In July, the United Nations reported that “only 17% of SDGs [sustainable development goals] targets are on track to be achieved, nearly half are showing minimal or moderate progress, and progress on over a third has stalled or even regressed.” Tomorrow through Monday (September 20-23, 2024), world leaders will gather in New York City to try to change that. The goals of the United Nations’ [Summit of the Future](#) are two-fold: accelerate efforts to meet existing commitments and take concrete steps to respond to emerging risks and opportunities. Sounds like a busy long weekend to me (!) – but they’re not starting from scratch. Revision 4 of the [Pact for the Future](#) outlines 58 actions that are being negotiated and endorsed by countries before and during the Summit. The first action involves taking “...bold, ambitious, accelerated, just, and transformative actions...” to achieve SDGs. What if we, as remediation practitioners, did the same? Just like the United Nations, we wouldn’t be starting from scratch. These case studies (click [here](#) and [here](#)) have shown how broad SDGs can be tailored to a remediation project. Or plug data into Ramboll’s SURE tool (freeware available [here](#)) to generate a sustainability assessment that links remedial options to SDGs and shows how much each remedial option contributes towards or supports the SDG.

---



## **Dive In! EPA New Label Program Defines “Clean” Construction Materials**

According to the EPA, the production of construction products and materials accounts for more than 15% of annual global greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. In addition, federally funded government purchases account for more than 50% of all concrete poured in the U.S. every year. In August, the EPA announced the details of its new label program, which will define what constitutes “clean” construction materials so that federal purchasers can identify more climate-friendly construction materials for federal building, highway, and infrastructure projects. The program prioritizes steel, glass, asphalt, and concrete. The public will have access to the list of materials and products that earn the label so that private companies and other interested parties can identify and purchase the materials. Information about Product Category Rule Criteria, Environmental Product Declarations, and EPA’s phased approach is available [here](#).



## Did You Know? Michigan Releases New EJ Screening Tool

Last month Michigan rolled out MiEJScreen 1.0, an interactive screening tool that identifies stressors within communities that may impact environmental conditions or the public health of residents. Released in draft form in 2022, the new tool incorporates public input and showcases new data sets in a user-friendly format. A technical report provides detailed information about the purposes of the tool, as well as intended uses, caveats, and limitations. The Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate in Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy developed the tool. Click [here](#) to access MiEJScreen 1.0 or the technical report.

---

**Upcoming Events**

## **SURF Events**

### ***SURF Webinar: Sustainable Remediation in Washington State – Combining Climate Change Resiliency and Green Remediation***

October 1, 2024

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. EDT

Click [here](#) to register.

### ***SURF Meeting @ AEHS East Coast Conference (open to all)***

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

3:30 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT

All AEHS conference attendees are invited to join SURF for a deep dive into three timely remediation topics. Attendees will break into groups to brainstorm and discuss possible ways forward.

Click [here](#) to register for the conference.

### ***AEHS East Coast Conference: 40th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments***, October 21-24, 2024

Amherst, MA

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

SURF is chairing two sessions during the conference. Presentations address:

- Climate Change Resilience During Remedy Selection
- Groundwater Monitoring Programs in Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Projects
- Impacts from Sea Level Rise at Vapor Intrusion Sites
- Range and Value of Available Sustainable Remediation Tools
- Environmental Justice in Natural Resource Restoration Decisions
- Remedy Selection Reevaluation: Risk, Environmental Footprint, and Environmental Justice
- Colloidal Activated Carbon Barriers
- Sustainability Assessment Tool for Remediation Technology Selection at Gasoline Sites

**JOIN SURF**