



SURF Break | January 2025

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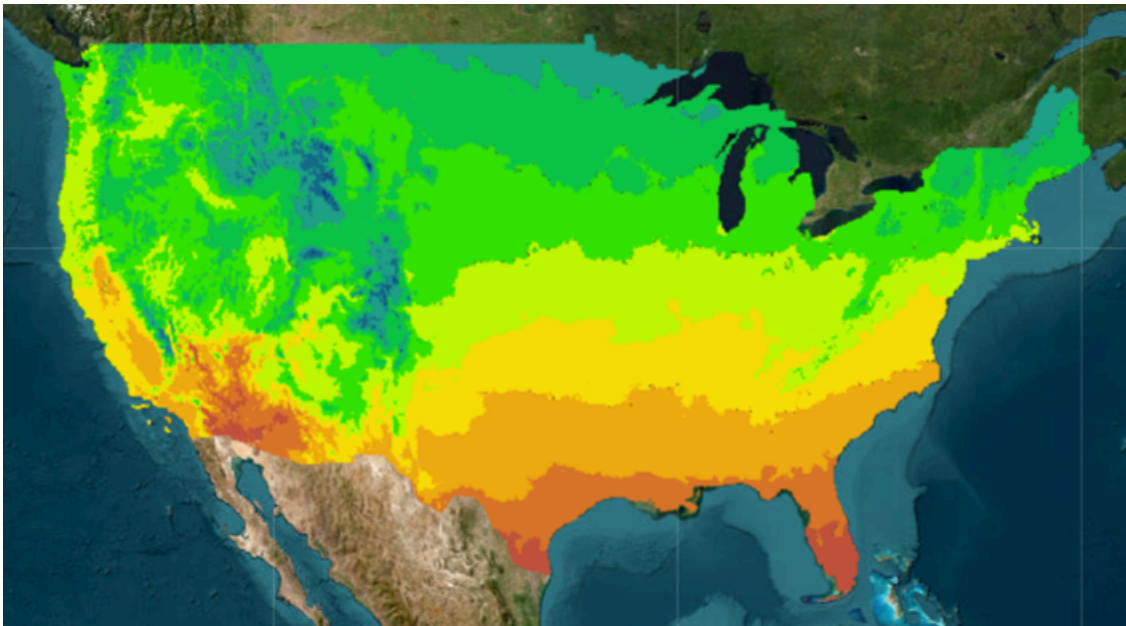


### **Using Your Expertise to Make a Difference**

At the end of the year, we tend to take a step back and think about the big picture. Sometimes, our contemplation leads to inspiration and then action. That's what happened when Ann Rosecrance, retired 45-year environmental chemist, attended SURF's December webinar. During the webinar, Al Hannum

(Nicole Foundation Board Member) described the Foundation's current projects in Ukraine, Cuba, and Syria. Hearing about the projects allowed participants to better understand how the organization tackles contaminated "sites" where there is (1) limited funding, (2) limited technical capability, and sometimes (3) no commercial impetus for remediation. Ann said "I was so astounded by the challenges presented and the need for technical assistance that I was inspired to volunteer. I emailed AI, attached my CV, and expressed my interest. As it turned out, they needed a chemist for an asbestos project with the United Nations Environment Programme in Ukraine." The country has over 250,000 war-damaged or destroyed structures, of which 70% contain asbestos, and Ann is reviewing a Ukraine laboratory asbestos testing and analysis plan. Remediation practitioners in many disciplines (e.g., project management, communications, technology and development, GIS) are needed and, just like Ann's work, many tasks can be accomplished without leaving the comfort of your home office. Click [here](#) to watch a recording of the webinar.

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## **Dive In! New USGS Tools for Assessing and Restoring Mine Lands**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has released a suite of complementary tools and information with the goal of making it easier to assess and track mining activity, monitor mine land conditions, and plan restoration and reclamation projects:

- Science-Based Hazard Assessment and Restoration of Mined Lands: Decision Support Tool (click [here](#) to access this mapping tool)
- USGS BIL (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) Mined Lands Data Catalog (click [here](#))
- *Remote Sensing for Monitoring Mine Lands and Recovery Efforts* (click [here](#))



### Did You Know? The Marathon that is Sustainathon

Around the world in 80 days? How about 24 hours?! Last Fall, RemTech Europe hosted Sustainathon 2024, *Sustainability: The Road to Global Value*, a 24-hour string of presentations featuring speakers from around the world. The virtual baton pass occurred from country to country, time zone to time zone, with speakers presenting what their countries are doing to achieve the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs). Sustainathon attendance increased; a few highlights are listed below.

- Africa – Ghana's efforts to increase food production
- Central Asia – Discussions of water scarcity

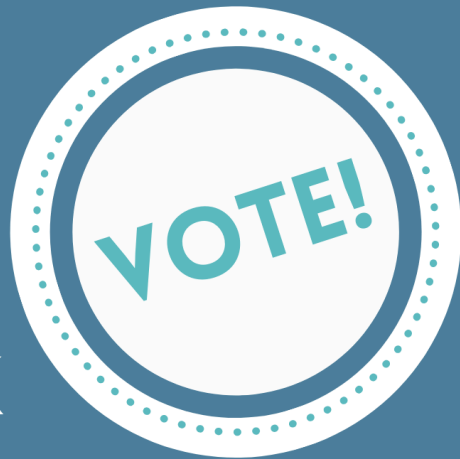


- North America – Mexico’s work on managing wastes from petroleum exploration and production
- South America – Sustainable mining in Peru and Buenos Aires’ approach to the circular economy and its pre-cycling efforts

A big thanks to Nicola Harries (CL:AIRE) for providing information to help create this article. If you’d like to help sponsor or present during Sustainathon 2025, contact [Roy Thun](#).

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# Elections close in one week



Voting for the 2025 Board of Trustees ends on January 30, 2025 at midnight EST.

Want to vote but don’t know how? Read below. Contact Kathy Adams ([kathy.adams@sustaineremediation.org](mailto:kathy.adams@sustaineremediation.org)) with questions.

## **HOW DO I CAST MY VOTE?**

Step 1: Confirm that your SURF membership is in good standing.

Step 2: Before midnight EST on January 30th, log into the SURF website Member Portal.

Existing SURF members: The email address you used when signing up as a SURF member is your username.

Input it, click “Forgot Password?” and follow instructions to complete login.

Step 3: Click the large blue button (“Click to Vote!”) to access the ballot.

Step 4: Select your candidates and click the “Submit My Vote” button.

## **HOW DO I RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP SO I CAN VOTE?**

Only SURF members in good standing (i.e., membership dues up to date) are eligible to participate in Board of Trustees elections. (Note: Student members do not have voting privileges.) If you have not yet renewed your membership this year – or want to join SURF – go to [www.sustaineremediation.org](http://www.sustaineremediation.org).

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## Upcoming Events

### SURF Events

#### ***AEHS West Coast Conference: 34th Annual International Conference on Soil, Water, Energy, and Air***

It sure seems like March 18th is **SURF DAY** at the AEHS West Coast Conference!

In one day, SURF will be hosting two technical sessions and a SURF meeting.

**That's SIX HOURS in ONE DAY!**

Join us! **For more information or to register, click [here](#).**