

SURF Break | July 2025



SURFers Reflect on Boston Battelle Remediation Symposium

Didn't go to the Battelle Remediation Symposium in Boston last month? We've got you covered – SURF members who attended shared their experiences and perspectives with us. A summary is provided below.

Many sessions at the Battelle Remediation Symposium included specific project examples of how sustainable concepts were integrated throughout the remedial project life cycle. While sustainability sessions featured case studies of solar-powered soil vapor extraction systems, coastal resiliency assessments, and low-footprint project strategies, other presentations about remedial strategies, bioremediation, and emerging contaminants also included sustainability elements. Speakers showed how:

- Sustainability tools like SiteWise™ and SEFA (Spreadsheets for Environmental Footprint Analysis) are used to assess the environmental impact of remedial options.
- Dehalococcoides-based bioremediation can be a more sustainable option than many conventional remediation methods due to its low energy requirements and minimal site disturbance. However, the need for bioaugmentation and repeated amendment injections can reduce these sustainability benefits, depending on site-specific conditions and implementation practices.
- In situ remediation methods often generate less greenhouse gas emissions than other approaches.
- Integrating sustainable practices into remediation efforts can often lead to cost savings, as sustainability emphasizes reducing resource consumption and improving operational efficiency.

While presentations of sustainability and climate resilience applications in remediation projects were prevalent, the “given” of continuing these practices in 2025 seemed uncertain. Feedback from various consultants, commercial industries, and regulators varied considerably. Overall, the consensus was to increase focus on efficiency and cost savings when presenting applications of sustainable resilient remediation practices. This topic was further discussed at a SURF member happy hour. The conversation sparked new ideas, including the launch of a technical initiative (see Dive In! article) and strategies for maintaining momentum around sustainability amid political uncertainty.

The Seventh International Symposium on Bioremediation and Environmental Biotechnology was held June 23-26, 2025, in Boston, Massachusetts.



Dive In! SURF Happy Hour Sparks Creation of New Technical Initiative

When SURF members get together, there's always enthusiasm and synergy – the SURF member happy hour last month was no exception. SURFers attending the Battelle Remediation Symposium walked to a nearby Irish pub to meet each other in person (some for the first time!) and chat. After a couple of hours and a plate of nachos, a SURF technical initiative was born and was approved by the SURF board a couple weeks later. SURF members working on this initiative will create a SURF-owned tool for conducting simplified site impact assessments at remediation sites to quantify the resource, social, and economic impact of remedial actions, with an initial focus on electricity usage impacts. The Remedial Evaluation and Screening Tool for Optimization and Resource Efficiency tool (RESTORE) will provide practitioners with an objective, simple-to-use interface using the most current widely accepted quantitative methods. Interested? Click [here](#) to learn more.

SURF/REMPLEX SEMINAR

The Hidden Costs of PFAS Remediation:
Energy, Waste, and Long-Term Viability



Tuesday, August 19, 2025 | 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. EDT

Did You Know? RemPlex and SURF Co-Hosting PFAS Seminar

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) management presents many challenges, from uncertainties about human health risks and contaminant behavior to the effectiveness of treatment technologies and the demands of evolving regulatory frameworks. As practitioners, regulators, and stakeholders work through these complexities, it is essential to consider the environmental footprint of selected remedies. SURF and the Center for the Remediation of Complex Sites (RemPlex) are co-hosting a seminar, The Hidden Costs of PFAS Remediation: Energy, Waste, and Long-Term Viability on August 19, 2025 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT (click [here](#)). This seminar will explore the environmental footprint of treating PFAS contamination. SURF At-Large Trustee Evan Starr will moderate the session. Presenters, including SURF President Paige Molzahn, will discuss the energy demands, waste generation, and broader environmental impacts of PFAS treatment technologies, offering insights into how these factors—alongside the regulatory context—should shape decision-making around remediation.

SURF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

SYLVIA RATHMELL, SURF VICE PRESIDENT, WOODARD & CURRAN

"Mindful choices today mean a greener tomorrow" -- that's my mindset when it comes to sustainability. I carry this belief as an Engineer in Woodard & Curran's Middletown, Connecticut office, where I specialize in database management, scripting, ArcGIS mapping, and 3-D modeling. On one of my recent projects, I helped implement a data-driven soil management strategy that supported redevelopment and significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions. In my free time I like to travel, paint, play piano, and do ballroom dance and yoga.

SURFER SINCE: 2024

LINKEDIN LINK: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sylvia-rathmell/>

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A SURF MEMBER?

The sense of ownership and the vibrant, collaborative spirit of the organization. As soon as I became involved, I've felt a strong sense of belonging and have since volunteered to manage the website. SURF is a unique platform where you can make a meaningful impact, connect with like-minded individuals, and stay at the forefront of sustainable remediation practices.



Upcoming Events

SURF Events

The Hidden Costs of PFAS Remediation: Energy, Waste, and Long-Term Viability

Co-Hosted by SURF and RemPlex

August 19, 2025

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EDT

Click [here](#) for more information.

SURF Sessions and Meeting at AEHS East Coast Conference

41st Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy

October 20-23, 2025

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

Click [here](#) for more information.

Other Events

2025 National Brownfields Training Conference

August 5-8, 2025

Chicago, IL

Click [here](#) for more information.

RemTech Europe 2025

September 15-19, 2025

Ferrara, Italy

Click [here](#) for more information.

RemTEC & Emerging Contaminants Summit

October 14-16, 2025

Westminster, CO

Click [here](#) for more information.

ecoforum 2025 – From Contamination to Restoration: Protect, Sustain, Thrive

October 28-30, 2025

Brisbane, Australia

Click [here](#) for more information.

2025 Global Summit on Environmental Remediation

November 4–6, 2025

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Richland, WA

Submit abstracts by June 6; click [here](#) for more information.