

SUSTAINABLE REMEDIATION FORUM

SURF Break | October 2025



Standing Room Only at SURF Session During AEHS East

The room was packed during last week's SURF session at the AEHS (Association for Environmental Health and Sciences Foundation) East Coast Conference in Amherst, Massachusetts. The session, Sustainable Remediation Best Practices, featured five technical presentations ranging in content from climate change resilience planning to sustainability metrics to functional landscaping. Click [here](#) to access the program. At the SURF meeting, participants discussed how they could integrate sustainability considerations into remediation planning. Contractors provided examples of input data to include in an updated sustainability assessment tool to increase contractor use.



Dive In! Overcoming Challenges of Green Remediation in Africa

Beatrice Omonike Otunola and Paidamwoyo Mhangara from the University of the Witwatersrand performed a literature review of green remediation case studies in Africa to identify the challenges associated with green remediation implementation. The authors discuss the complexities of identified challenges (e.g., limited funds, lack of awareness, lack of frameworks and guidelines for implementation, and limited infrastructure and skillsets) and recommend strategies for integrating green remediation into policies and regulations. Click [here](#) to read the article in the *Remediation Journal*.



Did You Know? Bubble Curtains Used for Plastic Waste Collection

A big thank you to SURF's Vice President, Sylvia Rathmell (Woodard & Curran), for tipping us off on how bubble curtain technology typically used to contain oil spills is being modified and used globally as a barrier for plastic waste. In Amsterdam, a bubble barrier in a canal has removed 180 tons of pollutants since its installation in 2019. How does it work? Perforated rubber tubing is placed at the bottom of a waterway at an angle with the current. The tubing is connected to a pump that pushes air into the tube and creates bubbles 24 hours/day, seven days/week. The bubbles come to the surface with plastic waste and trash, which is directed to a catchment area and picked up by barges every day. This design has been replicated and installed in the Ave River in a town along the northern coast of Portugal. Click [here](#) to learn more about this design.

Other designs are being applied at various locations around the globe, including a planned installation in the Grand River in Lansing, Michigan (click [here](#)). In South Australia, a bubble curtain has been installed as a "just-in-case" measure. The hope is that the deployed curtain will protect over 50,000 cuttlefish eggs and hatchlings from an existing algal bloom moving toward the area. Click [here](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events

SURF Events

SURF Sponsorship Payment Window Opens November 1, 2025

Become a 2026 sponsor of SURF!

Important Dates:

January 1, 2026: Sponsor benefits begin for sponsors whose payment has been received.

February 28, 2026: Last day to accept payment for sponsorship period.

Sign up [here](#) or email president@sustainableremediation.org for more information.

Other Events

The 30th Florida Remediation Conference

November 3-5, 2025

Orlando, FL

Click [here](#) for more information.

2025 Global Summit on Environmental Remediation

November 4–6, 2025
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Zoom
Richland, WA
Click [here](#) for more information.

***Advancing Remediation: Lessons Learned and Innovative Approaches at
Federal Facilities***

November 17, 2025
Federal Remediation Technologies Roundtable Meeting
Click [here](#) for more information.

JOIN SURF