



# Forging a Path to a Livable Future

**THE ELIMINATION OF PETROCHEMICAL PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS FOR THE COMMON GOOD**

**ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY | JULY 2023-JUNE 2024**

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## Science Supporting Action

Our *Daily News* tracks the latest science on pesticides, policy issues, and organic practices, informing our audacious goal of eliminating petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use in the U.S. by 2032. Our databases, *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management* (tracking 400 pesticide active ingredients), *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database* (following 1,739 epidemiologic and laboratory studies), and *What the Science Shows on Biodiversity* (with over 375 studies), are effective tools for action.

**T**he uncertain times in which we live call on us to work together to nurture and sustain life in the present and for the future. To meet the existential health, biodiversity, and climate crises, we provide real-time support to people and organizations, from local to global, with up-to-date scientific findings, policy critiques, and timely initiatives—empowering strategic action with knowledge on:

- **The current and looming threats to human health and ecosystems** and the dire consequences of inaction or measures that fall far short of what is necessary; and
- **The path forward to eliminate the use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers**, including the constellation of toxic materials used in food production and the management of homes, gardens, parks, playing fields, and schools.



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## Cultivating Organic as a Universal Social Good

We are pushing for the universal adoption of organic across all land management—and recognize that defined, enforceable organic practices are a social good—one that we must invest in—for our future; a necessity, not a luxury. We distinguish certified organic from “regenerative,” “sustainable,” and “integrated pest management,” all without a strict petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use prohibition.



Rawild Your Campus

## Continuing Hands-on Model Demonstration Sites

Now in nearly 60 municipalities nationwide, we exemplify the benefits of organic land management in parks and on playing fields and open space. Communities added this year include Lakewood, Golden, and Colorado Springs (CO), Summerlin (NV), and Kansas City (MI), Excelsior (MN), and Newport Beach (CA), as we continue to provide ongoing support to dozens of others.

- **Growing a Stronger Organic**  
Seeking continuous improvement with a detailed critique, we called on the National Organic Standards Board to strengthen restrictions on all ingredients in allowed substances, including compost, eliminate plastics in production and packaging, end nonorganic ingredients in processed foods labeled organic, and improve access to organic seeds.

## Corporate Accountability

- **Fighting Industry on Preemption, Immunity from Liability, and False Claims**  
With local, state, and national groups, as well as local elected officials, we



are fighting industry campaigns to: 1) prohibit in the next Farm Bill states' authority to allow their local jurisdictions to adopt pesticide restrictions more stringent than the state, and 2) enshrine in state laws immunity from "failure to warn" lawsuits, used to sue Bayer/Monsanto for cancer associated with Roundup/herbicide exposure.

**■ Holding Companies Accountable**

With our litigation, we successfully negotiated an agreement with a major food company to remove from its frozen berry products the false claim that their products are "natural."



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**Action of the Week**

We advance systemic change, advancing land management policies and practices to change the underlying conditions that contribute to the existential health and environmental threats. In this context, we issue an Action of the Week throughout the year that targets opportunities to integrate this thinking into the public policy debate at the local, state, national, and international level. While we comment on specific chemicals and actions before regulatory agencies, we characterize them as poster children for what is wrong with toxic pesticide and fertilizer dependency.

- **Our network sent 311,238 messages on critical issues:** biodiversity, organic policy and practice, chemical regulation policy and health, preemption and democracy, worker protection, climate action, marketplace change, environmental justice, and chemical

**Publications and Communication**

Our journal issue, *Meeting Existential Challenges: Empowering Action for Change with Science*, focused on issues in the scientific literature we tracked over the year—from breast cancer to Parkinson's disease, disproportionate effects of pollution, disease transmission through pesticide-resistant insects, soil health in climate debate, and organic pilot sites in New York City parks. Our website had 443,339 page views across 210 countries. See *current and back issues*; go to [bp-dc.org/resources/journals](http://bp-dc.org/resources/journals).



resistance. We point to the unreasonableness of harm allowed, given the availability of organic alternatives.



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**41st National Pesticide Forum: Imperatives for a Sustainable Future**

We brought together a scientist linking fossil fuel-based pesticides to endocrine disruption with the author of the recently released book, *Food Crash: Why Organic Is the Only Way Forward*—followed by roundtable discussions with advocates for farmworker health, preventing breast cancer, organic farming and retail, and improved restrictions. A recording of the Forum sessions is available at [bp-dc.org/Forum2024](http://bp-dc.org/Forum2024).

**For the complete Annual Report, see [bp-dc.org/AnnualReport23-24](http://bp-dc.org/AnnualReport23-24).**

**Biodiversity: An Emergency**

- **Endocrine Disruption Testing**  
In a detailed scientific and policy assessment, we told EPA its policy proposal does not fulfill statutory mandates and Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee advice.
- **Massachusetts Biodiversity Conservation**  
We urged the state, in developing its Biodiversity Conservation Goals, to adopt a broad government-wide strategy across all programs.
- **Challenging Compromises on Pollinator Protection**  
With states acting because EPA has not, we call for sweeping pesticide bans based on scientific findings.
- **We critiqued EPA's assessment of 11 rodenticides**, expressing strong disagreement with the categorical "no effect" determinations for all aquatic vertebrates. Anticoagulant rodenticides, contrary to EPA's assertions, can be transported to the aquatic environment (freshwater and marine)—with findings in raw and treated wastewater, sewage sludge, estuarine sediments, and suspended particulate matter which transfers poisons via the food web to various susceptible animals, including mammals.



**GIVE TODAY**  
for a sustainable future without toxic pesticides and fertilizers!  
[beyondpesticides.org/donate](http://beyondpesticides.org/donate)  
All donations are tax-deductible.



**BEYOND PESTICIDES**

701 E Street SE ■ Washington, DC 20003  
info@beyondpesticides.org ■ beyondpesticides.org  
202-543-5450

