

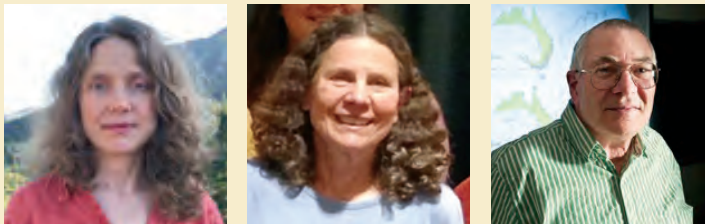
Forging a Path to a Livable Future

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



BEYOND PESTICIDES

Protecting Health and the Environment with Science, Policy, and Action
Annual Report | July 2023–June 2024 | beyondpesticides.org



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The *July 2023–June 2024 Annual Report* highlights Beyond Pesticides' major programs in the context of our strategic goal to transition away from toxic, petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers to meet the existential public health, biodiversity, and climate crises of our time. For more details on Beyond Pesticides' programs, visit beyondpesticides.org. Our website contains our ongoing efforts and campaigns to protect health and the environment with science, policy, and action.

beyondpesticides.org

A Message from Leadership

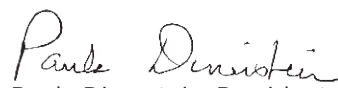
The uncertain times in which we live call on us to work together to nurture and sustain life in the present and for the future. In this context, Beyond Pesticides' mission intersects with a range of challenges, from crisis intervention on pesticide applications and associated harm to strategic planning for the adoption of practices and policies that protect the health of people, communities, and the environment.

Many of those who contact us have been diagnosed with cancer, among other dreaded diseases. In the case of a cancer diagnosis, often enough is known to classify the illness as mostly tied to genetics or instead induced by exposure to some nonspecific toxicant. In the vast majority of cases, the diagnosis will be an undefined environmental cause, very often one affecting the endocrine system. Nearly two million people annually are immediately immersed in crisis management to stop or slow their cancer, while being given a warning of the treatments' "side effects" or frightening limitations of the "cure." It must be noted that people of color are disproportionately affected.

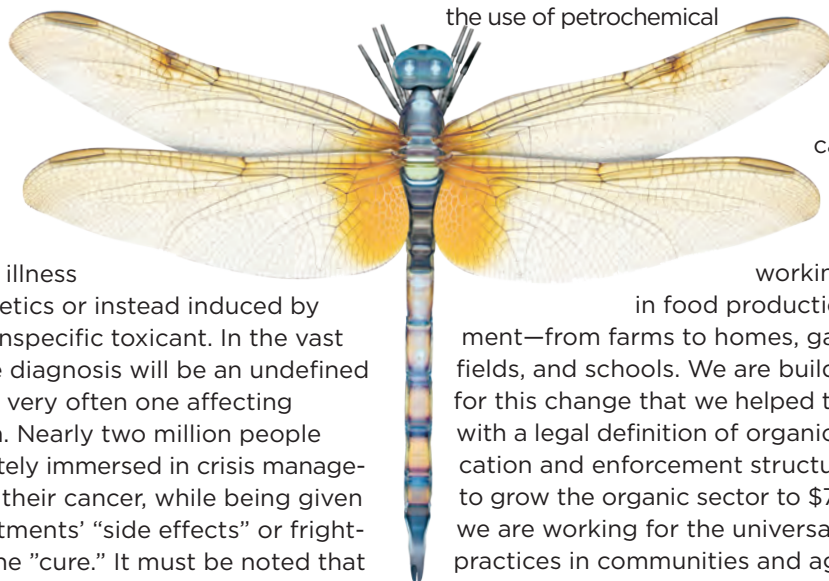
Meanwhile, the scientific literature that we track every day in our *Daily News* and our databases on pesticide-induced diseases—including endocrine disruptors causing cancer and a host of diseases—identify the health threats associated with the daily pesticide assault through air, land, food, and water.



Jay Feldman, Executive Director



Paula Dinerstein, President

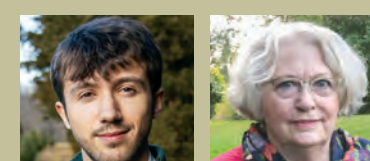
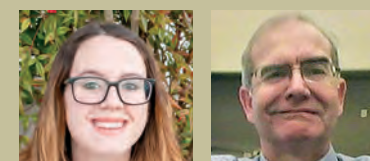


The same is true for biodiversity collapse with the facts on the deadly effects of pesticides up and down the food web. On climate, these petrochemicals release greenhouse gases and undermine soil's ability across all land management to draw down atmospheric carbon, contributing to escalating climate disasters, including floods, fires, and drought.

Beyond Pesticides is charting a path forward to stop the use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, linking across a broad spectrum of advocates, as we advance a solution with the adoption of organic practices. We are working for holistic change in food production and land management—from farms to homes, gardens, parks, playing fields, and schools. We are building on a foundation for this change that we helped to create in the 1990's with a legal definition of organic in law and a certification and enforcement structure, and then helped to grow the organic sector to \$70 billion. And now, we are working for the universal adoption of organic practices in communities and agriculture. Our program envisions and implements at the community and farm level an investment in organic land management as an essential need for the common good. We can do this together, knowing that individuals and small groups have tremendous power to effect change, starting close to home.

Thank you for your support of Beyond Pesticides!

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Supporting Strategic Action

A strategy for curtailing threats to health, biodiversity, and climate

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-based pesticides and fertilizers**, including the constellation of toxic materials used in food production and the management of homes, gardens, parks, playing fields, and schools.

Beyond Pesticides has had an active period of supporting local efforts that both seek to eliminate pesticide dependency and move to organic systems. Our keystone partnerships with communities to transition their land management remains the centerpiece of our efforts to show through demonstration sites that organic practices are effective and cost competitive. At the same time, we contribute to efforts in agriculture that build the organic sector to become universally adopted through our cross-cutting work and campaign, *Keeping Organic Strong*—bridging consumer, farmer, environmental, and marketplace

interests, and pressing for continuous improvement in organic land management standards.

Science Supporting Action

Our daily work through the publication of *Daily News*, which tracks the science on adverse effects of pesticides, policy issues, and the effectiveness of organic practices, informs our audacious goal of eliminating petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use in the U.S. by 2032. The underlying scientific literature and policy tracking populate our relational databases, including our *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management*, *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database*, and *What the Science Shows on Biodiversity*—which are important tools for the advocates who align with our mission and vision. With our outreach through *Daily News* distribution, social media, and various media outlets, we continue to grow the reach of our work.

Organic Land Management Models Nationwide

Our work on model organic land management sites in communities across the country and the continued growth of the organic agricultural sector are central to informing our 2032 goal. While we believe strongly in working in local, state, national, and international coalitions to achieve our goal, our role continues to be one of leadership in moving from the pesticide “reduction” and single

chemical campaigns to a clear call for a strategy of toxic chemical “elimination” in holistic management strategies. In this context, we consistently challenge practices that use loosely described terms, such as integrated pest management (IPM), “sustainable,” or “regenerative,” which maintain a dependency on petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers to different degrees, either implicitly or explicitly.

Criteria for Meaningful and Necessary Change to Meet Existential Crises

Through our daily work, we have developed a set of criteria by which we measure the meaningfulness of campaigns to change policy and practice, incorporating: 1) clearly defined standards to eliminate petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers; 2) systems plans for building resilience; 3) a list of allowed and prohibited substances; 4) certification and compliance enforcement; 5) public participation and full transparency in the standard setting and ongoing review; and, 6) funding to ensure implementation.



Getty/sozialstock

Supporting Local Campaigns

While we support the elimination of specific pesticides that are the target of numerous local and state campaigns —such as campaigns to ban neonicotinoid insecticides or glyphosate/Roundup, we stress that these chemicals are merely the “poster children” for broader problems associated with a federal and state system for registering and evaluating pesticides that are harmful and not needed. At a time of growing and intersecting public health, biodiversity, and climate crises, we urge the end of various chemical classes causing immense harm; yet, we more broadly urge an approach that incentivizes sustainable practices (defined as organic) that do not necessitate these chemicals in the first place.

Fighting Industry Efforts: Preemption, Immunity from Liability, and False Claims

We have prioritized opposing two key chemical industry campaigns for which we have taken a leadership role with local, state, and national groups, as well as local elected officials: 1) ongoing attempt to adopt in the next Farm Bill a prohibition on states’ authority to allow their local political subdivision to adopt pesticide restrictions more stringent than the state, and 2) push to enshrine in state laws immunity from “failure to warn” litigation that victims of pesticide poisoning have successfully used to sue Bayer/Monsanto for cancer associated with exposure to Roundup. While the preemption issue is a continuing threat that emerges with every Farm Bill and as stand-alone legislation, the protection against liability has emerged in the face of huge jury verdicts against Bayer/Monsanto.

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.” This is part of our ongoing effort to stop product manufacturers from fraudulently claiming that their products are “natural” or “sustainable” when their product ingredients are grown with or utilize pesticides, thereby misleading people in the marketplace and downplaying the importance of organic practices.



Getty/StephenRadick

What We Do

- Track the science and regulation to support toxic pesticide elimination through our *Daily News*, extensive databases, and tools for change.
- Regulatory advocacy.
- Hands-on technical support for transitioning to organic land management.
- Network for change.
- Protect those with elevated risk factors who are disproportionately affected.
- Hold corporations accountable for misleading and harmful practices.
- Protect local authority to restrict pesticides more stringently than state law.
- Uphold the integrity of organic standards under federal law.

Taking Action

Raising voices for meaningful change

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We advance systemic change, advancing policies and practices to change the underlying conditions associated with land management that contribute to the existential public health, biodiversity, or climate 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. In these actions, we point to the unreasonableness of the harm that is being allowed by policy and regulatory decisions, given the availability of organic alternatives.

BIODIVERSITY

We advance holistic land management in sync with nature. Pesticide product labels identify target pests without consideration of the whole ecosystem we share with all living organisms. The chemical-intensive approach that we challenge focuses on disrupting the target pest—and in so doing creates secondary pests, pest resistance, eliminates food for other

species with the serious decline of nontarget insects, contaminates soil and water, and disrupts aquatic and soil food webs.

Actions: 01/17/2023 — **Adequate Resources Are Needed to Protect Endangered Species**; 05/27/2023 — **EPA Needs To Get Serious About Endangered Species**; 06/03/2023 — **Bring Back Butterflies**; 07/01/2023 — **Forget the Pesticide Spray—Attract Birds To Eat Mosquitoes**; 09/09/2023 — **Stop Industrial Aquaculture in Our National Wildlife Refuges, Protect Ecosystems**; 09/30/2023 — **Tell EPA To Protect Biodiversity**; 10/20/2023 — **Take Action Today: Tell EPA To Transition Away from Pesticide Dependency, Endangered Species Plan Is Inadequate**; 11/18/2023 — **Thank Mother Earth This Thanksgiving**.

ORGANIC POLICY AND PRACTICE

We identify the efficacy, productivity, and profitability of organic land management as it intersects with food production and the stewardship of parks, playing fields, playgrounds, landscapes, and schoolyards—land managed at the local, state, and national level. As a coalition partner in the establishment of the USDA certified organic policy, we have a strong

stake in the integrity of the organic standards and rally public support for allowed practices and products subject to continuous improvement.

Actions: 02/27/2023 — **California Needs a Better Destination for its Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap**; 03/20/2023 — **Organic Must Lead the Way!**; 04/01/2023 — **Your Voice Is Critical to the Future: Last Chance this Spring to Tell the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) To Uphold Organic Integrity!**; 04/15/2023 — **Take the Ladybug Pledge, Support Beyond Pesticides, and Bring Organic Landcare to Your City**; 06/10/2023 — **Support Opportunities in Organic Agriculture**; 06/17/2023 — **Save Organic Dairy**; 08/26/2023 — **Safer Fertilizer Products Need To Be Labeled Safer Choice—Comments Due to EPA by Sep 11**; 09/23/2023 — **Do You Want Organic Food To Be Held to the Highest Standards?**; 11/04/2023 — **Join NFL Players in Calling for an End to Artificial Turf**; 11/11/2023 — **We Cannot Rely on EPA To Protect Us from Pesticides, so States and Communities Must Act**; 12/09/2023 — **Tell USDA and Congress Not To Promote Hydroponics as Organic**.

CHEMICAL REGULATION, POLICY, AND HEALTH

In the context of the threats to health, biodiversity, and climate, we maintain a rigorous program of regulatory action, policy, and scientific literature monitoring on health effects associated with practices reliant on toxic pesticides and fertilizers. Much of this information is tracked in the organization's *Daily News*, critiqued in public comments to agencies, and used in our advocacy with decision makers.

Actions: 01/09/2023 — [Meaningful Change Requires the Biden EPA To Reform Pesticide Regulation](#); 02/21/2023 — [Toxic Transport: EPA Needs To Consider the Whole Toxic Picture](#); 03/13/2023 — [Don't Let the Oceans Die](#); 04/08/2023 — [Restore Scientific Integrity and Eliminate Corruption at EPA](#); 04/29/2023 — [Elevate U.S. Geological Survey Monitoring of Pesticide Contamination of Waterways and Require EPA Action](#); 05/13/2023 — [Turn Off the Tap on Forever Chemicals](#); 07/22/2023 — [Keep Toxic Biosolids Out of Food Production and Parks](#); 07/29/2023 — [Ban Pesticides that Cause Involuntary Spontaneous Abortions—Miscarriages](#); 08/14/2023 — [Help Strengthen Current Pesticide Law](#); 08/19/2023 — [Tell EPA that Substituting Chemicals, without Organic Practices, Is Not the Safer Choice](#); 09/16/2023 — [All Synthetic Chemicals in Organic Must be Examined—Including "Inerts;"](#) 10/07/2023 — [Tell EPA To Encourage, Not Harm, Indigenous Agriculture and Landcare](#); 10/27/2023 — [Tell EPA Not To Register Genetically Engineered Pesticide Without Complete Data](#); 11/25/2023 — [Tell Congress To Protect Our Water](#); 12/16/2023 — [Tell California's Pesticide Regulators To Provide Exact Locations of Proposed Applications](#); 12/23/2023 — [EPA Must Not Revive Aldicarb Use](#).

PREEMPTION/DEMOCRACY

In absence of adequate protection at the federal and state levels of government, we work closely with communities nationwide to put in effect policies and practices that shift away from the use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. This is done in the context of chemical companies and

the service industries in lawn care and pest management pushing to take away, or preempt, local authority to restrict pesticides or squelch the ability of those who have been harmed to sue companies that produce or use these chemicals. For example, we are commenting on efforts by the industry to preempt local jurisdictions in draft language in the Farm Bill.

Actions: 05/06/2023 — [Protect Local Authority To Restrict Pesticides; Stop Congress from Preempting Local Ordinances](#); 06/24/2023 — [Don't Allow the Farm Bill to Ban Local Pollinator Protection!](#); 07/15/2023 — [Tell Congress To Support Organic Agriculture and Democratic Process in the Farm Bill](#); 10/13/2023 — [Defend Communities Right To Protect Public Health and the Environment](#).

WORKER PROTECTION

Those who handle pesticides, including farmworkers and landscapers, are the first in line of exposure. The laws governing their protection are weak and ineffective. We shine a spotlight on the deficiencies in policy and the regulatory decisions that permit elevated harm to workers, despite the availability of nontoxic practices and products.

Actions: 01/03/2023 — [Help Stop the Use of Highly Toxic Fumigants in Food Production To Protect Farmworkers](#); 03/06/2023 — [Protect Farmworkers and Migrant Workers](#); 05/20/2023 — [Protect Farmworkers From Highly Toxic Fumigants](#); 09/02/2023 — [This Labor Day, Support Workers Who Produce Our Food](#); 12/02/2023 — [Enforcement Guidance Needed to Protect Pregnant Farmworkers from Pesticides Under New Law](#).

OUR NETWORK IS ACTIVE

WEBSITE STATISTICS

443,339
PAGE VIEWS IN
210 countries

ACTION OF THE WEEK SUBMISSIONS

311,238 messages



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CLIMATE ACTION

We are connecting the use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers in chemical-intensive land management to climate effects, as the resulting catastrophic weather events are now widely seen and experienced. Since pesticides and fertilizers are manufactured with the use of fossil fuels—oil, gas, and coal—and their use results in greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane, we can substantially contribute to the climate solution by eliminating their use with organic land management. We advance soil management practices that eliminate petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers and draw down atmospheric greenhouse gases, which experts say must be reduced by 50 to 52 percent or greater below 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero no later than 2050.

Actions: 04/22/2023 — **This Earth Day, Let's Fight Climate Change through the Farm Bill and with Organic**; 01/23/2023 — **Take Climate Change Seriously.**



Ceily/Althong



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MARKETPLACE CHANGE

Responsible corporations play an important role in eliminating the marketing of hazardous petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers and producing and selling organic-compatible products that protect people and the environment. To this end, we rally the public to ask retailers to take specific steps to not only remove hazardous pesticides from their store shelves, but stock organic compatible alternatives.

Actions: 03/17/2023 — **Take Action Today for Clean Water on which All Life Depends**; 03/27/2023 — **Tell Lowe's and Home Depot To Go Organic.**

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Disproportionate harm to people of color from toxic petrochemicals is a continuing crisis and can only be solved when we transition away from dependency on them and use stops. The manufacture of petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides also creates a major environmental injustice for predominantly Black and Brown communities where production facilities are often located and in land management where farmworkers and landscapers experience disproportionate harm.

Actions: 02/06/2023 — **Getting Serious about Environmental Justice**; 02/13/2023 — **Reform Federal Pesticide Law.**

CHEMICAL RESISTANCE

Resistance to toxic pesticides is increasingly threatening public health and crop productivity. Mosquitoes have become increasingly resistant to synthetic pyrethroids, in addition to other classes of insecticides, such as carbamates and organophosphates. Because antibiotics and fungicides are widely used in agriculture (except organic), they contribute significantly to the increasing efficacy problems with antimicrobial (antibiotic and antifungal medicines) use in health care, contributing to a growing crisis. According to Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, World Health Organization Director-General, "Antimicrobial resistance undermines modern medicine and puts millions of lives at risk."

Actions: 01/30/2023 — **Don't Undermine the Effectiveness of Important Medicines**; 08/05/2023 — **Regulatory Allowance of Toxic Pesticides Threatens Health by Promoting Mosquito Explosion.**



Getty/Hilaris Mhedeke

Independent Science, Accessible to Communities

Unique databases that inform action

Our daily work through the publication of *Daily News* (every week of the year), which tracks the science on adverse effects of pesticides, policy issues, and the effectiveness of organic practices, supports our land management and policy goal of eliminating petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use. The underlying scientific literature and policy tracking populate our relational databases, including our **Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management**, **Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database**, and **What the Science Shows on Biodiversity**, which become important tools for the advocates who align with our mission and vision. These key databases, accessible on our website, track 400 pesticide active ingredients, 1,739 epidemiologic and laboratory studies on pesticide-induced diseases, and over 375 studies on ecological threats. Our outreach through *Daily News* distribution, social media, and various media outlets continues to grow the reach of our work.

Science of Concern, Empowering Action

Our review of the science in 2023, *Meeting Existential Challenges: Empowering Action for Change with Science*, brings attention to the scientific literature that we tracked over the year on a daily basis, including:



Toxicology—Human Health Threats, includes studies on breast cancer and other cancers, disruption of the endocrine system (leading to health decline), reproductive effects, Parkinson’s disease, liver damage, metabolic disorders, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, obesity, shingles, pregnancy and reproductive complications, developmental effects in children, nervous system disruption, seizure disorders, gut-brain and behavioral effects, asthma and respiratory disorders, mast cells impact (immune system regulators), pregnancy and fetal effects, PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination linked to cardiovascular risks, and indoor air contamination, highly destructive accidents, and questions of scientific integrity, conflicts of interest, and pesticide dangers at golf courses.



Disproportionate Harm, includes studies that address global malnutrition linked to pollinator decline with highest threat to low-income people, governmental support of environmental justice to ameliorate disproportionate effects of pollution and climate change, history of disproportionate harm on Juneteenth, neurodevelopmental disorders, effects to farmworker pregnancy, and indigenous people’s knowledge applied to protecting biodiversity.

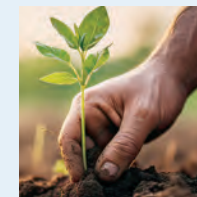


Threatened Biodiversity and Ecosystems, includes studies on limits of restrictive measures to protect pollinators, degradation of color discrimination in pollinators, fungicide linked to adverse brain effects, impacts on bee gut micro-

biota, adverse impacts on birds, butterfly decline, insect decline, waterway contamination, dying oceans, threatened endangered species, and bee-toxic pesticides.



Pest Resistance and Failed Efficacy, includes studies on disease transmission through pesticide-resistant mosquitoes, bed bug resistance, resistant Colorado potato beetle attacked with genetically engineered pesticides, incomplete data on RNAi (interference), antibiotic resistance, glyphosate causing reduced crop yields and climate effects, organic compared to glyphosate on yields and climate, EPA failure to conduct pesticide efficacy reviews, and crop failure with genetically engineered plants.



Organic Transition and Nontoxic Practices, includes studies on soil health in climate debate, perennial crops to fight biodiversity collapse, crop diversification and Intercropping, cultivating natural predators, organic pilot sites in New York City parks, NFL call for end to synthetic turf, strengthened USDA organic enforcement exceeds chemical-intensive agriculture, National Organic Standards Board issues, challenging hydroponic organic, strengthening EPA’s Safer Choice with organic compatible practices and products, and weaknesses in California Roadmap for alternatives.

Images: Top left: iStockphoto/Xaviar Arnau; Middle left: © Association of Farmworkers Opportunity Programs; Bottom left: Getty/Withering; Top right: Getty/Oleg Marchak, Olko1975; Bottom right: Getty/Yauhen Akulich

Hands-on Transformational Work with Communities

Eliminating petrochemical pesticides, fertilizers, and products

We focus on foundational change through our community-based work to move communities away from toxic petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, as we put in place organic practices—a viable and cost-effective path forward.



Rewild Your Campus

CONTINUING HANDS-ON DEMONSTRATION SITES

We continue to advance our goal of effecting a wave of actions, now in nearly 60 municipalities across the country, to exemplify the benefits of organic land management in parks and on playing fields and open space, and establish these successes as a springboard for wide adoption of ecologically sound practices. We support communities in leading the way with the successful adoption of models for change. Communities added this

year include Lakewood, Golden, and Colorado Springs (Colorado), Summerlin (Nevada), and Kansas City (Missouri), Excelsior (Minnesota), and Newport Beach (California), as we continue to provide ongoing support to dozens of others as they continue to transition to organic management.

MULTI-DIMENSIONAL CHANGE

Our program recognizes the interconnectedness of the health, biodiversity, and climate crises, the common denominator with synthetic toxic chemicals being fossil-fuel based feedstocks—oil, gas, and coal—and many exposures resulting in endocrine disrupting effects. A crosscutting organic solution recognizes that a siloed approach to challenging petrochemicals does not meet the urgency of our times.

OVERSIGHT AND ADVOCACY FOR ORGANIC INTEGRITY

Organic requires continuous improvement that tracks new scientific understanding. To this end, we work to bring science to the oversight of the organic program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture through our comments to the National Organic Standards Board and activating the millions



istockphoto/ThankK

of people who are now investing in organic through their purchasing power and practices. We advance a precautionary approach, starting with the premise that we do not need toxic chemicals to achieve food productivity goals, beautiful landscapes, or consumer goods.

CULTIVATING ORGANIC AS A SOCIAL GOOD

The bright spot is organic. Those practicing and supporting this holistic, ecological approach to land management lead the way forward. We are pushing for the universal adoption of organic across all land management—and recognize that the defined, enforceable organic practices necessary to tackle the crises are a social good—one that we must invest in—for our future.

REGENERATIVE MUST REQUIRE ORGANIC CERTIFICATION, AT A MINIMUM

We distinguish certified organic from “regenerative,” “sustainable,” and “integrated pest management,” which all avoid a strict prohibition on petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use. Organic, however, eliminates the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide and nurtures soil health with greater atmospheric drawdown of carbon dioxide, which is critically necessary to keep temperature increases within the planetary boundaries. With its proposal to define regenerative, we are urging the California Department of Agriculture to require, at a minimum, that the definition requires organic certification.



Getty/David Arment

Keeping Organic Strong

Key issues before the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

Organic represents what must become universal and replace chemical-intensive practices that are destructive of life—not as a luxury, but as a necessity.

RAISING VOICES FOR STRONG ORGANIC STANDARDS

Over the year, we helped to generate nearly 3,200 comments submitted to two NOSB meetings. We are increasing public engagement with the NOSB, organic standard setting, and advocacy to ensure a commitment to a rigorous review process, research, and continuous improvement—all essential to the growth of the organic market. While commenting on dozens of issues and allowed substances, we highlighted for the public six key issues of concern for organic integrity:



BUILDING ORGANIC INTEGRITY

Review “inert” ingredients used in organic production. We urge the evaluation of each synthetic “inert” ingredient (can be biologically and chemical active, but not in formulations to target organisms) in accordance with standards of organic law, ensuring substances used in organic production are: (1) not harmful to human health or the environment, (2) necessary for organic production, and (3) consistent with organic farming and handling.

Strengthen compost regulations. We urge that compost feedstocks not include synthetic substances unless on the National List, rather than allow a “de minimis” amount of synthetic material that has not been defined in regulations.

Ensure full technical reviews of synthetic substances. We opposed a petition to allow the use of the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for livestock without an independent technical review.

Make elimination of plastic in organic a research priority. We are pushing to eliminate plastics in organic production, handling, and packaging, urging research within USDA on replacement strategies, as microplastics (fragments less than five mm in size) are of increasing concern because of adverse effects to humans and other organisms throughout the environment.

Eliminate nonorganic ingredients in processed organic foods as a part of NOSB’s sunset review. Utilizing the provision (7 CFR 205.606) of the regulations to remove allowed synthetics (up to five percent) from the National List when organic ingredients become available incentivizes organic production. We are urging that the five-year sunset process for allowed synthetics be used, as intended, for continuous improvement and growth of organic.

More organic seed and starts. We are pushing to prioritize the availability of more organic seeds in a growing market that is forced to use conventional, untreated non-genetically engineered seed subject to a delinting process with sulfuric acid.



Getty/Melamorworks

Framing the Issues that Inform Action to Protect Health

Challenging disproportionate harm and upholding environmental justice

When EPA banned the weed killer Dacthal or DCPA (dimethyl tetrachloroterephthalate) this summer, it exercised its “imminent hazard” authority for the first time in 40 years and acted to protect farmworkers. EPA identified serious concerns about fetal hormone disruption and resulting “low birth weight and irreversible and life-long impacts to children [impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills] exposed in-utero” and finds that there are no “practicable mitigation measures” to protect against these hazards. It set a precedent that we are using to advance our campaign to end pesticide use across all agency decisions.

Environmental Injustice Is an Imminent Hazard

Not only are farmworkers and landscapers experiencing disproportionate risk as the first in line of exposure to pesticides, the manufacture of petrochemical fertilizers and pesticides also creates a major environmental injustice for predominantly Black and Brown communities where production facilities are often located. Our campaigns to end the use of petrochemical pesticides, which are often endocrine disruptors, will have the greatest benefit in people of color communities where there are health inequities.

Updating EPA’s Scientific Integrity Policy

Without scientific integrity, disproportionate harm is felt most in communities of color. During a public comment period on EPA’s scientific integrity policy, we urged EPA to consider the following: 1) incorporate independent and emerging science into its chemical reviews; 2) update protocol to keep pace with new science; 3) address vulnerabilities of those at highest risk, including those

with preexisting health conditions; 4) consider safer alternatives in calculating unreasonable risk; 5) disclose uncertainties associated with agency science or data gaps; and, 6) establish criminal penalties for EPA staff integrity violations.

Pesticides as Poster Children for Failed Regulation

On the weed killer paraquat, linked to Parkinson’s disease, we submitted comments and alerted our network to legislation in California to ban paraquat, which follows our ongoing work and 2019 legislation in the U.S. Congress. In submitting additional comments, we used the opportunity to not only address the hazardous nature of the individual pesticides, like the drift-prone herbicide dicamba and the highly neurotoxic insecticide acephate, we raised issues on the limitation of the EPA’s risk assessment and other inadequacies in the agency’s review.

Broad Support Across the States

The range of our support is broad, from information on legislation on broad pesticide use notification in Michigan to deliberation on a local pesticide ordinance in Falmouth, Maine. Our message seeks better understanding of the need to protect those at greatest risk—children, pregnant individuals, those with preexisting health conditions, essential workers, and landscapers. We urged action in Maryland on pesticide active ingredients containing PFAS, with health risks including developmental and endocrine system disruption, reproductive harm, cancer, and damage to the liver, kidneys, and respiratory system.

The Threat to Biodiversity: An Emergency

Advocating a more protective regulatory response

In the face of federal stagnation on biodiversity protections, the leadership of state and local governments are critical. With local organizations across the country, we bring critical information to highly charged debates on protecting biodiversity.

Action for Pollinator Week

We used the occasion of pollinator week to campaign for the adoption of organic land management on state lands that generated 2,286 personal letters to governors nationwide. We encouraged communities to develop an integrated rights-of-way management program for roadside management with: 1) mechanical means and grazing animals to eradicate unwanted vegetation, and 2) the establishment of wildflower programs.

Broader Scope for Endocrine Disruption Testing Needed

In a detailed scientific and policy assessment, we told EPA that limiting the scope of the Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program to humans, certain pesticide active ingredients only, and a narrow type of data does not fulfill statutory mandates and Endocrine Disruptor Screening and Testing Advisory Committee advice.

Massachusetts Biodiversity Conservation Goals

We urged the State of Massachusetts, in developing its Biodiversity Conservation Goals, to adopt a broad government-wide strategy that establishes biodiversity protection and enhancement as a basic

tenet for all programmatic decisions. In this context, the following issues, among others, stand out as emblematic of issues that require attention under the goals: 1) Ecologically-based mosquito management requirements; 2) aggressive efforts and chemical restrictions to protect pollinators and stave off the “insect apocalypse” and wildlife decline; and, 3) organic land management practices for all state lands in accordance with defined practices and substances.

EPA Ignores Danger to Endangered Species from Rodenticides

We critiqued EPA’s assessment of 11 rodenticides, expressing strong disagreement with the categorical “no effect” determinations for all aquatic vertebrates. Anticoagulant rodenticides (AR), 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. One anti-coagulant rodenticide, brodifacoum, has persisted (greater than three years) in a marine environment,

iStockphoto/Kosolovsky



raising broad concerns about secondary poisoning in fish and aquatic reptiles and invertebrates (e.g., insects, mollusks, and annelid worms) that transfers poisons via the food web to various susceptible vertebrate fauna.

New York State Acts Then Pulls Back on Pollinator Protection

With states acting because EPA has not, we call for pesticide bans based on scientific findings. State legislative language still falls short. For example, the major difference between the originally enacted *Birds and Bees Protection Act* in New York and the governor-amended law is the stripping out of unequivocal statutory mandates that are intended to force institutional change to meet the biodiversity crisis, rather than defer to agricultural agencies that have a history of advancing pesticide dependency.

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Democracy and Accountability to Health and Environmental Protection

Protecting the right to stronger local policies and corporate accountability for harm

We have prioritized educational campaigns on two key Farm Bill issues for which we have taken a leadership role with local, state, and national groups, as well as local elected officials: 1) continuing industry efforts to adopt in the next Farm Bill with a prohibition on states' authority to allow their local municipalities to adopt pesticide restrictions more stringent than the state and federal government, known as preemption, and 2) nationwide chemical industry effort to enshrine in state and federal laws immunity from "failure to warn" litigation that victims of pesticide poisoning have successfully used to sue Bayer/Monsanto for damages associated with exposure to Roundup/glyphosate. With inadequate regulatory protection of the public's health, the ability of those harmed to sue for a company's failure to warn about the possible adverse effects of their products and services is a critical disincentive to market poisons.

Fighting Preemption

Our goal is to stop the federal government from taking away local authority—as we build local campaigns to protect the health and environment at the community level. This issue emerged after the chemical industry lost the 1991 U.S. Supreme Court Case, *Wisconsin Public Intervenor v. Mortier*, affirming the rights of local jurisdictions to restrict pesticides on all property under their authority.



Most state legislatures, with the notable exception of Maryland and Maine and four others, stepped in with preemption law. We are working with some states, like Colorado, to educate on efforts to reinstate local authority. U.S. Senator Cory Booker and 20 Senators circulated a Dear Colleague letter calling for the strengthening of local democracy and community leadership in establishing toxic pesticide bans.

Protecting the Right to Sue

The industry campaign to stop litigation through state legislation is part of the industry playbook to go to the states when it fails at the federal level, having lost in most attempts to overturn jury verdicts against Monsanto/Bayer on appeal, including a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to deny certiorari. Knowing the history of industry campaigns against local authority in state houses after failing to prevail at the federal level, we launched a campaign through a coalition effort and our *Action of the Week* to support local efforts to quash this industry campaign. To date, we have been successful in close votes rejecting industry legislation in three states (Idaho, Iowa, and Missouri). Efforts are being undertaken in collaboration with environmental groups, the American Association of Justice, and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators.

Publications & Communications

Tools for action

Beyond Pesticides' communications strategy continues to provide people, organizations, and influencers in their community with the information that is needed to effect change. We view our information channels and the issues we cover as an opportunity to engage with our approach to eliminating petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers and advancing the adoption of organic practices and products. To ensure that we provide the most up-to-date information, we are continually tracking the science on adverse effects and alternatives, updating our databases on hazards and safe practices, and developing materials that empower action. (See back cover for list of databases.)

Pollinator Week

In recognition of the importance of pollinators and biodiversity to a healthy environment and healthy people during National Pollinator Week, Beyond Pesticides announced a week of activities and actions!



Natural Grocers and the Ladybug Love Pledge

We collaborated with Natural Grocers' (165 stores in 21 states) Ladybug Love Pledge to never use chemicals that harm ladybugs or other beneficial insects and to support 100% organic produce. Deliverables created included an action landing page. The page was featured on our social media platforms and on the homepage banner in April—and 12,137 people signed the 2024 pledge and raised funds for our Parks for a Sustainable Future Program.

Beyond Pesticides' Website

For cutting-edge resources on science, policy, and action, including the Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database and the Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management.

BeyondPesticides.org



Visit Our Website

For cutting-edge resources on science, policy, and action.

Pesticides and You

Special issue, *Meeting Existential Challenges: Empowering Action Through Change with Science*, a companion to complete the trilogy to *Transformative Change: Informed by Science, Policy, and Action* and *Retrospective 2021: Call to Urgent Action*, which serves as a breath-taking warning from the science community that our laws are not protecting us and a shift away from toxic pesticides is urgently needed.



Collaborating on Organic Parks

Press conference with New York City Parks Department on our work to transition parks to organic practices—with The Black Institute, Grassroots Environmental Education, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Voters for Animal Rights.



Earth Day—Taking Action in Your Community

With over 160,000 views in May alone of our Earth Day Daily News post, we generated support of reform legislation to ban carcinogenic pesticides, citing concern for the health of the next generation—as childhood cancer continues to be a leading cause of death among diseases affecting children.

Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information

41ST NATIONAL FORUM: Imperatives for a Sustainable Future—
Reversing the existential crises of pesticide-induced illness,
biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency

There is an increasing understanding that we must urgently reverse existential threats to health, biodiversity, and climate for which petrochemical-based pesticides and fertilizers, among other products, are major contributors—at the same time that solutions are currently available and operational. The threats are real and scientifically defined, and so are the solutions. The goal of the Forum is to contribute to the adoption of a holistic worldwide strategy to mitigate the existential crises in the production of our food and the management of land and ecosystems.

The 41st National Forum, *Imperatives for a Sustainable Future*, offers us an opportunity to elevate our understanding of the petrochemical threats and the critical need to adopt practices and policies that eliminate one of the major sources of the problem, petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. Among the significant changes that are taking place, but must occur at an accelerated pace, is the transition to organic land management, from agriculture, landscapes to playing fields, as part of a holistic strategy that recognizes the multidimensional nature of the problem and solution.

The Center and Forum Program Informs Science and Action

The activities of the Center, which houses the Forum and our information and advocacy services, are aimed at both empowering local action, by defining the problems associated with petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use, and implementing solutions. The Forum contributes to Beyond Pesticides' library of talks by those whose expertise supports the imperative for action, from local to global. We empower people as advocates, elected and government officials as decision makers, and land and building managers as practitioners in defining why action is so critical and how solutions can be put in place.

The Forum brings people together to create cross-collaboration about scientists, policymakers, advocates, land managers (from gardens, parks, playing fields to farms) to unify around the common denominator of our work and create a more powerful voice for the urgent change that is necessary. Both of the Forum sessions began with a prominent keynote speaker, followed by a roundtable discussion with remarkable panelists who reflected on the issues raised, while bringing their background, experience, and expertise to a strategic conversation.

Session 1



KEYNOTE

Felix Löwenstein, PhD

We began the Forum Series with an agronomist who has been farming organically on his family farm in Germany since the 1990's, bringing a wealth of hands-on experience that informs the technical information that transformational change requires. In Dr. Löwenstein's book, *Food Crash: Why Organic Is the Only Way Forward*, just released in the United States by Acres USA, the case is made that organic land management with "ecological intensification" provides society with a social good, as opposed to chemical-intensive (conventional) practices that have externalized health and environmental costs. The book's thesis on the organic imperative is rooted in the facts about the adverse impacts of chemical-intensive industrial agriculture on human health, food sovereignty, the environment, animal welfare, soil erosion, and soil health.

With it being widely understood that reducing greenhouse gases must be accompanied by the drawdown of atmospheric carbon, Dr. Löwenstein explains the importance of eliminating petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, and the essential role of soil in sequestering carbon. The history of the failed Green Revolution and continuing efforts of multinational chemical/seed companies to advance monoculture farming systems, genetically engineered seeds, and dependency on synthetic fertilizers are juxtaposed with the success of diversified organic production practices, which utilize on-farm composting, the natural cycling of nutrients, and rotations with leguminous plants such as clover, alfalfa, and beans. Most importantly, Dr. Löwenstein is focused on "What To Do," taking urgent action with at least three objectives: 1) require cost of harm to be internalized to the polluter;

A recording of the Forum is available at bp-dc.org/Forum2024 and is a part of Beyond Pesticides extensive library of prominent scientists, policymakers, land managers, and advocates.

2) incentivize organic production and consumption with tax policy; and, 3) elevate consumer knowledge and awareness about the personal and societal benefits of organic.

Dr. Löwenstein's passion for organic transition has grown from his life as an agricultural scientist, farmer, and international agricultural aid worker. He took over management of his family's 400-acre farm in 1986, converting it to organic in 1992. Dr. Löwenstein has been a board member of Naturland—a global network of organic producers in 60 countries, working to merge organic and social principles, was the chair of the Federal Association of Organic Food Producers (Germany) for 19 years, and serves on the board of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.

Roundtable

Transitioning to Universal Adoption of Organic Land Management

The conversation continued after Dr. Löwenstein's talk with a roundtable among organic farmers, marketing experts, policy advocates, and the Forum audience, as we explore strategies underway to scale up organic land management to become universally adopted in the next decade. The roundtable discussants bring a wealth of experience in building the organic movement to confront the existential health, biodiversity, and climate crises of our time.

PANELISTS



Alan Lewis
Vice President, Advocacy & Governmental Affairs, Natural Grocers, CO



Linley Dixon, PhD
Co-director of the Real Organic Project, Organic Farmer, CO



Colehour Bondera
Organic farmer, Kānalani Ohana Farm, HI

Session 2



KEYNOTE Tracey Woodruff, PhD, MPH

Our featured speaker was the Alison S. Carlson Endowed Professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and

Reproductive Sciences and the director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment, and EaRTH Center, School of Medicine, at the University of California San Francisco. Dr. Woodruff's work focuses on uncovering and addressing environmental determinants of disease and health inequities and has written groundbreaking material on endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Dr. Woodruff's research studies the harmful effects of chemicals and pollutants on health, pregnancy, and child development. She leads efforts to translate scientific information into actionable change in the clinic environment and through public policy. Previously, she has served as a senior scientist and policy advisor for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Policy.

In a recent piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine, Health Effects of Fossil Fuel-Derived Endocrine Disruptors*, Dr. Woodruff highlights the urgent need to address the widespread chemical pollution stemming from the petrochemical industry. She emphatically states, "We need to recognize the very real harm that petrochemicals are having on people's health. Many of these fossil fuel-based chemicals are endocrine disruptors, meaning they interfere with hormonal systems, and they are part of the disturbing rise in disease."

The health problems induced by endocrine disruptors require broader understanding among health care professionals and a more robust regulatory response, with recognition of disproportionate harm to people of color communities. Dr. Woodruff is sounding the alarm to decarbonize and detoxify our economy with a precautionary approach.

Roundtable

Empowering Advocacy for Change with Science—From Local, State, and National, to International

The conversation continued after Dr. Woodruff's talk with a roundtable of remarkable people with a wealth of experience and insights into both the regulation of hazardous materials (including endocrine disrupting chemicals) and strategies for connecting science (and the power of those adversely affected) to decisions that eliminate hazards—recognizing disproportionate risk to people of color. Tapping the experiences of the panelists, this discussion brings together strategic thinking that supports efforts by individuals and organizations to transition away from petrochemicals from a range of perspectives and a broadening of coalition efforts.

PANELISTS



Les Touart, PhD
Senior Science and Policy Advisor, Beyond Pesticides, VA



Janet Nudelman
Senior Director of Program and Policy, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, CA



Jay Feldman
Executive Director and Co-founder, Beyond Pesticides, DC



Mily Treviño-Sauceda
Executive Director and Co-founder, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, CA



Amy Tamayo
National Policy and Advocacy Director, Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, DC

MODERATOR

2023 Financial Statement

REVENUE

Fund Balance (Jan. 1, 2023)	\$2,586,328
Endowment (Jan. 1, 2023)	156,567
Grant Support	1,515,479
Contributions	492,205
In-Kind Contributions	179,961
Membership Dues	3,947
Publications Sales	6,603
Rental Income	41,950
Interest Income	131,587
Other Income	2,357
TOTAL	\$4,960,417

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$683,465
Printing & Duplication	36,332
Postage & Shipping	3,186
Telephone & Webpage	18,624
Travel	11,014
Consultants	373,793
Legal & Accounting	89,162
Supplies	2,740
Publications/Subscriptions	2,323
Interest Expenses (on mortgage)	33,139
Utilities	8,837
Repairs & Maintenance	15,034
Security	2,494
Insurance	9,279
Real Estate Taxes	51,087
Depreciation	29,044
Licenses & Registrations	4,367
Bank & Credit Card Fees	4,290
Miscellaneous	5,542
TOTAL	\$1,388,761
Fund Balance (Dec. 31, 2023)	\$3,409,070
Endowment Fund (Dec. 31, 2023)	\$162,586

The figures above are drawn from an audit of Beyond Pesticides that was conducted by Kronzek, Fisher & Lopez PLLC, Certified Public Accountants, Washington, DC for the fiscal year 2023.

How We Go Beyond the Silo to Connect Holistic Strategies

Our work in Hawai'i—a model for multi-dimensional success

Food in sync with nature. When Covid struck Hawai'i, tourism stopped, and farmers lost their market to the hotels, Beyond Pesticides' Hawai'i program stepped in to incubate the creation of a food hub, the Maui Hub. We thought we could help to nurture the people who live on the island with growing practices that would be a beacon for sustainability, charting a path that upholds the values of organic agriculture—in sync with Beyond Pesticides' mission to eliminate petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. That is what we did. The Hub is now an independent organization, paying out more than \$1.8 million to local farmers and ranchers, almost all of whom are in organic production, with a staff budget of nearly \$500,000 in jobs that nurture people and the earth. We set out to do what we envisioned—support local values and principles for growing food productively, while protecting our health, biodiversity, climate, and culture—the values that we incorporate into food sovereignty.

Building a sustainable future from the ashes. Then, fire destroyed the West Maui community of Lahaina in August, 2023, displacing native Hawai'ians and threatening to rip apart a traditional culture of protecting the land and biodiversity of Hawai'i. Just the previous year at our National Forum, indigenous farmer Kaipo Kekona delivered a keynote talk about his work to rehabilitate and return biodiversity



to farmland depleted by decades of plantation agriculture on the Legacy Lands of Keli'i Kulani (foothills of the West Maui Mountains). We had previously worked to generate support to convert former plantation land to family farms growing organically. Seeing the importance of preserving the fire-ravaged land for generational Lahaina families, protecting their culture of keiki 'o ka 'āina (child of the land), the Hub responded to the emergency with fresh local food, and Beyond Pesticides staff worked with community leaders to establish the Lahaina Community Land Trust, with a vision of equitable land and water management centered on traditional culture and food production. Now, the Land Trust stands on its own as a critical institution committed to a sustainable future for Lahaina and Hawai'i.



SHARE YOUR ART!

We invite you to share a photo or artwork of your garden, favorite insect, flower, animal, or nature scene for a chance to be featured in *Pesticides and You*, on social media, or the *Daily News*! bp-dc.org/art-page (Left) "Eastern Tiger Swallowtail" by Marion, Media, PA.



A Heartfelt Thank You to Beyond Pesticides Supporters (2023)

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Beyond Pesticides believes that people must have a voice in decisions that affect them directly. To assist in this effort, Beyond Pesticides maintains several online database resources:

Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management

Lists the health and environmental effects of nearly 400 registered pesticide active ingredients and is searchable by chemical name, product name, or health and environmental effects.

Eating with a Conscience

Designed to link purchasing decisions on food to their production effects on workers and the environment, the database includes information on all of the pesticides that have registered tolerance (legal residue) allowances by specific crop on over 80 crops.

What the Science Shows on Biodiversity

Database of more than 375 studies that identifies adverse effects to bees and pollinators from pesticides. Information also promotes biodiversity, organic practices, and local policies.

Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database

Presents over 1,730 epidemiologic and laboratory studies based on real world exposure scenarios that link adverse human health effects to pesticides.

ManageSafe™

Organized by pest, this database provides all of the resources needed to manage pests in the home and garden without using harmful pesticides.

Beyond Pesticides works with allies in protecting public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides.



Our work is based on two science-based premises: (i) scientific understanding of the toxic pesticide and fertilizer problem is key to motivating action, and (ii) proven, efficacious, and cost-effective solutions are available. The clarity and urgency of our conversation and strategy in communities have come into exquisite focus on: first, a frightening range of pesticide-induced health threats; second, biodiversity collapse and associated contamination of air, land, and water; and, third, the climate emergency. All these crises—which intersect with fossil fuel-based pesticides and fertilizers—are upon us. To turn things around requires us to be holistic in our thinking—and put an end to petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers.

We facilitate activism of a broad range of community leaders and emerging leaders to: 1) transform their community's and state's approach to land management with organic practices, an 2) hold public officials at all levels accountable to standards of health and environmental protection. We provide technical assistance to: 1) elevate community understanding of the health and environmental threats associated with pesticide use (including cradle-to-grave effects); 2) understand current policy deficiencies and chemical and allied industry influence in government decision making; and, 3) effect the transition to holistic organic systems (practices and products) that eliminate the use of toxic pesticides and the associated hazards.

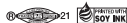
Beyond Pesticides' program uniquely operates at the intersection of policy (as it relates to organic and toxic chemical laws at all levels of government) and practices that implement a vision for sustainability and regeneration to protect health and the environment. In daily contact with grassroots people and organizations, we are purposefully flexible in responding to issues in real time and provide assistance to the public on a daily basis.

Donations to Beyond Pesticides are tax-deductible. The organization is incorporated in Washington, DC as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS tax code.



BEYOND PESTICIDES

701 E Street, SE ■ Washington, DC 20003 ■ 202-543-5450
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All photos were taken by Beyond Pesticides staff and friends, unless otherwise noted.



Educating Communities

With our neighbor-to-neighbor education program on mosquito management and nontoxic lawn care practices, we have distributed through our grassroots network door hangers in two dozen states, alerting people to the hazards of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers and the availability of alternatives—and a contact to Beyond Pesticides for more information.



Thank you to the hundreds of people who support our work each year through payroll deduction in workplace giving campaigns through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by selecting CFC #11429 on your pledge form. For more information, please call us at 202-543-5450 or view Earth Share's website at earthshare.org.

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