



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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Dear Friend,

During these perilous times, I wish you and our network a happy and healthy holiday season and express our deep appreciation for the critically important community-based work taking place across the country in partnership with Beyond Pesticides—to confront the existential health and environmental challenges of our time. Over this past year and as we look toward the future, the urgency of our work has increased. Please take a look at our [annual report](#) and [consider supporting Beyond Pesticides](#) at the close of this year. If you have already contributed, thank you!

We at Beyond Pesticides believe strongly that we must take a holistic and systemic approach to the triple crises that we are facing—health threats, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency. Solving one of these problems, unfortunately, does not ensure a livable future and the survivability of the planet. So, we need a comprehensive strategy. With laws and regulations mired in political maneuvering, and federal and state agencies not keeping pace with the escalating environmental and public health challenges, many communities and their local elected officials are responding. Communities are engaging in democratic decision making to protect the health of their residents and the environment.

The chemical industry and related service providers (chemical lawn care companies, chemical-intensive food producers) continue to wield tremendous power at all levels of government. Your support helps us to elevate our voice and our support for community-based strategies that lead the way in the face of federal and state inaction that is destructive of life.

Our program is three-pronged, focusing on science, policy, and action. The science and policy that we track daily, and publish through our *Daily News*, informs the action that we take to change how land and buildings are managed. Your support enables us to empower people with science and analysis of deeply flawed pesticide law and regulation at the federal and state level. This is not hyperbole, as you know, since we all see in real time that the crises are reaching catastrophic proportions. Yet, the status quo chugs along as if nothing dramatically wrong is happening.

We are changing the conversation and the steps being taken in local communities.

First and foremost, our goal is to phase out petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers by 2032. In our advocacy and practices, we have replaced the use of words like “reduction” with “elimination” of toxics in land and building management. Having worked with organic systems since our founding in 1981, we know that this change can be achieved.

Secondly, we provide hands-on assistance, funded by our supporters, to assist in the transition to organic land management in community parks, playing fields, and schoolyards.

We continue to push for the growth of organic agriculture as the only acceptable and foundational form of land management for the future. At the same time, through our *Keeping Organic Strong* campaign, we work to continually protect the integrity of the standards and enforcement of USDA certified organic, which continues to be the only defined and enforceable agricultural land management system. Other terms, such as “sustainable” and “regenerative,” have emerged without a legal or agreed upon definition and enforcement system. While we collaborate with all those striving to limit hazards, the current crises call for systemic change with an agreed upon standard and enforcement system that is rigorous and trusted.

Communities transitioning to organic land management practices define the path forward to eliminate use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. They serve as models, leading the way on how communities can nurture health and the ecosystems that we depend on for life by:

- (i) embracing the value of protecting land, air, water, and workers (farmworkers and landscapers) with organic management systems,
- (ii) enhancing the ability of healthy soil systems to cycle nutrients naturally and draw down (sequester) atmospheric carbon dioxide, and
- (iii) respecting nature and eliminating the production of fossil fuel-based pesticides and fertilizers and the release of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane.

Our work in collaboration with local communities is a bright spot at a time when solutions may seem out of reach. When you support Beyond Pesticides, you are helping us to expand the number of bright spots and create momentum for state and national change.

Our unique databases, updated daily, give people the tools they need to take action in their communities, schools, workplaces, and homes—including our *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management*, *Eating with a Conscience* (on ecological and worker effects), *What the Science Shows* (pollinators), *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database*, and *ManageSafe* (how to manage homes and gardens without pesticides). Our updated resources, such as the health and environmental effects in our *40 Most Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides*, are our “tools for change.”

At our 2023 National Forum—*Forging a Future with Nature*, a mom/advocate in Portland, Maine and the Parks Supervisor for Longmont, Colorado shared what change looks like—from two of dozens of our partner communities. (See at bp-dc.org/Forum2023.) Our Parks for a Sustainable Future program raises the bar on what communities can and do accomplish. With this program, we develop organic systems plans and train parks and public works departments on organic-compatible practices and products that work with soil biology to cycle nutrients naturally, grow more resilient landscapes, retain water, and meet community expectations. Over time, ecosystem services (biodiversity benefits), by replacing the true cost of synthetic inputs, results in cost savings.

Thank you for considering support for Beyond Pesticides this year! Please make your secure tax-deductible donation at bp-dc.org/donate2023.

All best wishes for the holiday season and new year,



Jay Feldman
Executive Director