

# Mapping the Movement to Sustainable Communities

## Documenting local policies that restrict pesticide use

A new resource for communities, released by Beyond Pesticides and Organic Consumers Association (OCA), maps local pesticide policies that protect people, pollinators, and the wider environment. The *Map of Local Pesticide Reform Policies* currently spotlights over 115 communities in 21 states that have taken local action to protect their communities from the adverse effects of pesticides in the face of daily toxic chemical use –with a range tactics, from eliminating highly toxic chemicals to the adoption of organic practices. This continuously updated resource documents the wave of change occurring nationwide, as local and state policy makers advance protection of people and the environment that are not provided by federal policy. **View the map online at [bit.ly/pesticidepolycmap](http://bit.ly/pesticidepolycmap).**

Currently, the map includes 18 communities with a pesticide-free parks program, 27 with restrictions to protect pollinators, 65 communities with policies that restrict pesticide use on all publicly owned property, and 23 that extend restrictions to private land. (Only seven states do not preempt [prohibit] local jurisdictions from restricting pesticide use on private land.)

“The *Map of Local Pesticide Reform Policies* reveals a strong desire by local governments to adopt laws that restrict the use of highly toxic pesticides linked to a range of adverse effects and environmental outcomes in favor of nontoxic practices,” said Drew Toher, public education associate at Beyond Pesticides.

“The Map is certain to be a most valuable tool in the pesticide-free activist’s tool chest! This innovative interactive map is not only a user-friendly resource for politicians and policy makers, but is also a great resource for engaging

concerned citizens in the fight against pesticides in their community!,” said Pat Kerrigan, OCA’s retail education coordinator.

Of the 30 most commonly used pesticides, 16 are possible and/or known carcinogens, 17 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system, 21 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction, 12 have been linked to birth defects, 14 are neurotoxic, 25 can cause kidney or liver damage, and 26 are sensitizers and/or irritants. Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure, as they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults, and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals. Pollinator populations are experiencing catastrophic declines linked to the use of a class of systemic pesticides called neonicotinoids, which are taken up by plants and expressed in their pollen, nectar, and dew droplets.

Meaningful change often starts at the local level, when concerned residents and grassroots organizations join together with elected officials and policy makers to protect health and the environment. The *Map* provides the public and local leaders with the names and location of the localities that have passed policies, the type of policy passed, a short description of the scope of the policy, and a link to view its text.

### Join the Movement

Send map corrections and additions to [info@beyondpesticides.org](mailto:info@beyondpesticides.org). Sign the petition to end cosmetic pesticide use at [bit.ly/supportpesticidereform](http://bit.ly/supportpesticidereform).

