



# BEYOND PESTICIDES

2016 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

Beyond Pesticides is rooted in community action to protect and enhance health and the environment. The organization is uniquely positioned to collaborate with people and organizations nationwide and around the world in assisting and empowering effective public policy advocacy, informed by science, and the adoption of practices in sync with nature and the conditions that sustain life. This 2016 annual report captures the importance of our commitment to producing tools that support action. Our program is driving a transformation in our society's approach to managing the built environment and land areas—from our homes, schools, offices, and hospitals to lawns, parks, playing fields, and farms. Our frequently updated databases, easily accessed by the public, track the information necessary to advance change. Our national conference provides a framework for honing strategy.



Participants at the 34th National Forum visiting Broadturn Farm, a certified organic farm, in Scarborough, Maine.

## THE BIG PICTURE IN 2016 AND BEYOND

Taking a big picture or holistic approach to solving the health and environmental problems associated with pesticide use is a critical aspect of Beyond Pesticides' program. In this context, we showcase devastating effects of pesticide dependency and the steps needed to transform our approach to the management of land and buildings. In 2016, we widened our lens with a series of in-depth reports that focus on land management, biodiversity, and the range of organisms that contribute to plant and animal (including human) health. Our work led to the banning of triclosan from liquid soaps and successfully contributed to the phase out of the cancer causing glyphosate/Roundup™, with antibiotic properties, in many communities. Solving the urgent problems of ecosystem and human poisoning, contaminated food, poisoned waterways, toxic air, and global climate effects requires a transition to systems not dependent on toxic chemicals in a coordinated effort that engages science, policy, and advocacy, starting in communities where we work.

captured in our updated databases, as well as the documented deficiencies in the regulatory process, provide the foundation for local and state governments to embrace a precautionary approach in the absence of adequate federal action. Our technical information on the viability of alternative methods that do not rely on toxic pesticides, specifically organic practices that meet expectations, is key to our strategy. We have increased the size of our databases to support action, including our *Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management*, *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database*, and our YouTube video library, which is the most comprehensive source of scientific and policy talks on pesticides available.

## LOCAL ACTION

We built local leadership and expertise to advance safe air, water, and land. We supported the transition to organic land management in dozens of communities. We were instrumental in supporting local action that resulted in an organic land management ordinance in South Portland,



Training parks and school district personnel in Irvine, California.

## SCIENCE SUPPORT FOR ACTION

Our work to bring science to community and state debates on pesticide use requires rigorous tracking of the scientific literature and regulatory process, including government risk assessments, assumptions about acceptable exposure to toxic chemicals, and the efficacy of risk mitigation measures. In the end, knowledge in the independent scientific literature,



Beyond Pesticides' databases support action.



We joined farmers' rally to keep the soil in organic, protesting certified hydroponics.

Maine. We supported Non Toxic Irvine's (California) successful efforts to ban cosmetic pesticide use on city and Irvine School District property. With the Asheville, North Carolina's Department of Parks and Recreation, we agreed on an action plan that was followed by an evaluation of the soil at three pilot sites, a day of training employees, and an organic management plan. Working with the Washoe Tribal Council of Nevada and California and the Tribe's Department of Environmental Protection, we brought a 500-head herd of goats to Tribal lands to manage invasive weeds on a 300-acre, pilot, rangeland site, previously treated with toxic herbicides. We launched, with Organic Consumers Association, the *Map of Local Pesticide Reform Policies*, documenting local action in over 115 communities in 21 states. We distributed hundreds of Pesticide-Free Zone signs and safe lawn door hangers in nearly every state.

## ADVANCING ORGANIC SYSTEMS

We continued to build our program with the knowledge that the vast majority of toxic chemicals that we use today, or are exposed to on a daily basis, are not necessary, put people in harm's way, and can be replaced by a combination of nontoxic organic and sustainable practices and products. We maintained and updated our unique webpage, *Keeping Organic Strong*, to engage organic consumers and growers in ensuring the integrity of the certified organic label. We are protecting against the attack on the organic standards by industrial agriculture interests and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Our *Turf Stewardship Management Project* continued to engage National Park

Service park managers who are committed to environmental stewardship.

## POLLINATOR PROTECTION

We developed, in collaboration with The Bees Waggle, the *BEE Protective Pollinator Curriculum* to educate children (K-12) on the importance of pollinators. To celebrate National Pollinator Week, we teamed up with several Washington, DC restaurants to launch our Made by Pollinators campaign, as restaurants created a pollinator-friendly menu and provided patrons with our information on protecting pollinators. We continued to document the existing science regarding the role of pesticides in pollinator decline with our *What the Science Shows* database and expanded our *Pollinator-Friendly Seeds and Plants Directory*.

## MANAGING INSECT-BORNE DISEASES

With the frenzy to douse communities with mosquito insecticides in response to the threat of Zika transmission in the U.S., as public officials faced challenges in defining the problem, or potential problem, we told EPA that without accurate information on pesticide hazards, communities reduced their focus on prevention strategies to limit breeding sites—more effective than pesticide spraying. We issued a report on protecting pollinators from spraying just about the same time that 2.3 million bees had been killed in South Carolina after an aerial spraying for mosquitoes.

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701 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

202-543-5450 phone • 202-543-4791 fax  
 info@beyondpesticides.org • beyondpesticides.org



We launched a pollination curriculum (top) and supported efforts to prevent mosquito breeding without toxic pesticides.

## INFORMING ACTION AND ADVOCACY

Through our Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information, we maintained a unique clearinghouse of information and networking that informs local action and advocacy. The Center brings people together daily to ensure access to the latest science and practical information to address and prevent pest problems. We expanded our extensive network, information program outreach, and social media. We expanded our journal, *Pesticides and You*, Daily News, regulatory advocacy (including on genetically engineered crops, where weed resistance has skyrocketed), and tracking of state law and issues. With our 34th National Pesticide Forum, *Cultivating Community and Environmental Health—Models for sustainable and organic strategies to protect ecosystems, pollinators, and waterways*, in Portland, Maine, we honed our strategy with local leaders, scientists, and land and building managers. We elevated our focus on soil health, central to the solution to pesticide poisoning and contamination, and, we grew our ManageSafe™ database, which provides practical organic and sustainable solutions to specific pest problems.