



# BEYOND PESTICIDES

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

We wish you a healthy and happy holiday season! The health and environmental challenges that we face as families and communities across the nation and worldwide require us to stay engaged. The stark reality of the challenges ahead energizes us at Beyond Pesticides to strengthen our program—now, more than ever! And, we trust that you, like us, want to push forward for a livable future. In this context, see in our [annual report and summary](#) the important work you are supporting, and please consider a [contribution](#) to Beyond Pesticides during this holiday season.

## **Your support enables us to move forward with our bold program.**

While the threats of the health, biodiversity, and climate crises are growing exponentially, the solutions we have advocated for decades are now within reach. We know how to produce food and manage land without petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, as organic food is widely available. Beautiful parks, playing fields, and schoolyards do not require toxic chemical use. At the same time, the regulatory system underperforms, as existential health and environmental problems escalate. And, we know that individual steps that we take to stay healthy, as important as they are, cannot protect us and the natural world, on which we depend, from involuntary petrochemical exposure through ongoing contamination of land, air, and water.

Our goal is to end the use of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. The science is telling us that we can no longer tinker with chemical reduction strategies that fall short in protecting our health, biodiversity, and climate. We rely on your support of the bold strategies that are needed.

## **We start with the science.**

With science made accessible to nonscientists, we empower people to advocate effectively with decision makers, elected officials, and all those responsible for directing or managing the choice of practices and products. Our *Daily News*, published on our website, focuses on the compelling scientific justification for eliminating pesticides. Our journal, *Pesticides and You*, provides a compendium of scientific research as a breathtaking warning from the science community that our laws are not adequately protective and the shift to organic is urgently needed. Our recent issue, [Meeting the Existential Challenges: Empowering Action for Change with Science](#), adds to the preponderance of science.

## **Our information is widely accessible.**

With our daily monitoring and critiques for laypeople, we maintain robust scientific databases, most prominently our *Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database*, now with over 1,730 studies entered.

**Our work is multidimensional and collaborative.**

The extraction of oil and gas and their use in the production of precursor chemicals used to manufacture synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are some of the biggest contributors to chemical pollution and the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane—harming health, killing biodiversity, and contributing to the climate crisis. Petrochemical pesticides’ link to endocrine disruption means increasing rates of devastating diseases like cancer and neurogenerative illnesses. Our goal to stop the degradation of soil health and soil microbiota is essential to draw down atmospheric carbon.

**We are building on our organizational history.**

When Beyond Pesticides was founded in 1981, we knew that we needed to forge a new path that rejected the reliance on petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, while the laws protected the chemical industry more than people, workers, and environment. With stronger government and chemical and allied industry alliances on the horizon, our community-based campaigns to transition to organic land management are critically important.

**We call out compromises that are unacceptable, given the existential crises.**

Several weeks ago, EPA announced that it would allow the continued use of the highly neurotoxic insecticide chlorpyrifos on crops that are among the most extensively grown and used in the world—soybeans, wheat, cotton, citrus, sugar beets, and numerous fruits and vegetables. EPA described the cancelled uses as a victory. However, here is our response to the media: The compromises associated with petrochemical use and the public’s health are unconscionable given the availability of cost-effective and productive alternatives. . . With decisions like this in the aggregate, the toxic load to people and the environment is unsustainable.

**We continue to build and empower our network.**

We work with people directly, strategizing on the challenges they face with pesticide exposure daily. And, we underwrite programs to transition parks, playing fields, and schoolyards to organic land management, creating models across the country that teach parks departments and others responsible for managing public spaces how to manage organically. A recording of our National Forum, *Imperatives for a Sustainable Future*, can be found [here](#).

**We draw optimism from our community-based work**, showing the path forward. We ask you to support us in expanding our grassroots work and voice, which speaks through our hands-on experience to build a sustainable future that eliminates the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers. When the chemical industry and its allies in elective office seek to undermine public health and environmental protection, we push back with the same empowered grassroots network, calling out unacceptable harm given the viability of the organic alternative for the common good.

Thank you for considering support for Beyond Pesticides this year! Please [mail](#) your tax-deductible donation to our office or [donate securely on our website](#).

All best wishes for the holiday season and new year,



Jay Feldman  
Executive Director

Enclosures