



BEYOND PESTICIDES

Protecting Health and the Environment with Science, Policy, and Action

A 40-Year Strategic Vision

**Annual Report
June 2020–June 2021**



A TRANSFORMATIVE PATH FORWARD

BeyondPesticides.org

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The June 2020–June 2021 Annual Report and 40-Year (1981–2021) Strategic Vision highlights Beyond Pesticides' major programs in the context of our strategic goal to transition away from toxic, fossil fuel-based 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.



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A Message from Leadership

The Covid-19 pandemic brought to national attention essential scientific understandings that must be applied to policy—if we are to meet the challenges of environmental collapse associated with adverse public effects, severe biodiversity decline, and the climate crisis. Whether addressing social ills or environmental insults, during this period we are being taught in real time that solving these existential crises demands that we act systemically and address complete ecosystems and social systems and their interrelationships. Only then will we survive and thrive.

The independent science that Beyond Pesticides captures identifies our failure as a society to take seriously scientific findings in our regulation of pesticides. Emerging science provides the warning signals of systemic disruption of ecosystems and human health, providing us with a roadmap for a sustainable path forward. For example, knowing that quaternary ammonium and other toxic compounds in common disinfectants are harmful to our respiratory, neurological, and immunological systems informs the need to seek out alternative strategies, already available on the market, to clean surfaces. With the rollout and updating of Beyond Pesticides' *Safer Disinfectants and Sanitizers* webpage, we point to nontoxic strategies for returning children to school safely—in terms of school infrastructure changes, ventilation, safer products, distancing, and mask-wearing. Similarly, our work to develop a local food hub created in Maui (HI) has provided a local market for farmers who lost hotel business at the beginning of the pandemic, and now provides broader community access to organic food and general food security for communities.

We must widen the lens even further and recognize that the experiences of the past year cry out for broader and deeper systemic change—requiring that we look at the interaction of all the pieces that allow the system to work. Some important teachings from the Covid-19 pandemic include: different population groups have disproportionate vulnerabilities, from children to older people; essential workers (from hospital personnel, to grocery store workers, to farmworkers) suffer elevated risk factors due to exposure patterns, creating disproportionate rates of disease; those with preexisting conditions or comorbidities face higher risks; and a lack of complete scientific knowledge requires a precautionary approach or standard. In this spirit, we must evaluate the introduction of toxic pesticides, which are developed to disrupt biological systems. As a part of ecosystems, from humans to microbial life in the soil or mayfly nymphs (keystone species at the bottom of the aquatic food web), we coexist and depend on each other.

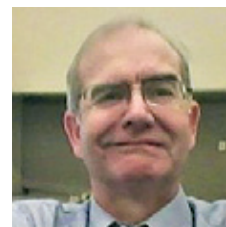
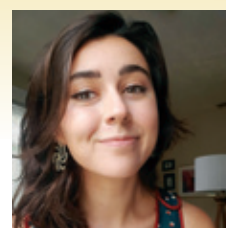
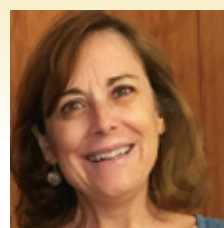
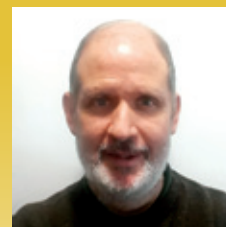
Forty years has taught Beyond Pesticides an approach that advances systemic change to meet the challenges. The pace of campaigns on individual chemicals will not meet the dramatic threats. And so we look ahead to the holistic changes in how we regulate toxic chemicals, manage land, and coexist in ecosystems that are essential to life.



Jay Feldman, Executive Director



Routt Reigart, MD, President



Beyond Pesticides Staff

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Debra Simes, Contributing Writer

Dawn Cacciotti, Program Strategy and Human Resource Management

Conference participants visiting Lake Apopka, Florida on Toxic Tour organized by the Farmworker Association of Florida for the 33rd National Pesticide Forum, Agricultural Justice, Age of Organics, and Alligators

40 YEARS

Protecting Health and the Environment with Science, Policy, and Action

For over four decades, Beyond Pesticides has worked with tens of thousands of people in the United States and globally to fight for healthy air, water, land, and food. We forge ties with nonprofit and volunteer organizations, local governments, and forward-thinking corporations.

We work with people who understand the importance of vibrant ecosystems on which all life depends. Our collaborators bridge all affected communities—from urban to rural, parents and youth to medical practitioners, scientists to policy makers, farmworkers to farmers, and gardeners to landscapers. They understand the urgent need to end toxic pesticide use and adopt healthy practices.

We are leaders. Our collective community-based work to advance organic land management—whether in agriculture or public and residential spaces—has and continues to inform and inspire policies that embrace a precautionary approach. Simply put, the data shows that we do not need toxic chemicals to achieve food productivity and quality of life goals.

We are grassroots. We empower community level action to influence management decisions that are being

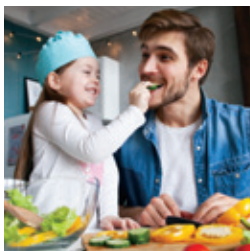
made daily by local governments, school and park districts, private institutions, and households. We put in place ecological-based organic management plans and practices.

We are scientific. We elevate and make accessible the science that calls for an urgent societal response to health and environmental threats—and make it available through our unique online databases and daily reporting. For example, we report on the scientific studies that have identified pesticides as playing a central role in the catastrophic decline in pollinators, including bees—part of the overall 75% decline in insects over nearly three decades—known as the “insect apocalypse.”

We institutionalize change. In the last several years, local organizations working with Beyond Pesticides in Portland and South Portland, Maine and in Montgomery County, Maryland, and New York City—to name a few—have successfully adopted model laws to curb the use of pesticides in public and residential landscapes. A landmark law in New York City highlights the need to protect people of color communities who suffer disproportionate harm from pesticides. This racial injustice is pervasive in current policies, which ignore elevated risk factors in



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general, and the conditions affecting farmworkers, who harvest the food we eat, and landscapers, who manage our city and county parks.

We are hands-on action.

We bring the voices of scientists and practitioners of organic to community land and building management practices. Beyond fighting individual pesticides and chemical trespass—we embrace a holistic strategy to eliminate toxic pesticides with a systems approach that respects the fragile web of life, from the soil microbiota to our gut microbiome.

We see a future. Beyond Pesticides shares the vision of people and communities in seeking to ensure a future that protects health and sustains life. We are facing existential crises—the climate crisis, biodiversity collapse, and severe public health threats—from cancer to neurological, reproductive, and endocrine system effects, including brain and behavioral impacts. To reverse these threats, we advance model organic solutions that eliminate billions of pounds of fossil fuel-based pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and nurture biological systems that take dangerous pollutants out of our environment.

We are transformational. With a 40-year track record of successfully advancing systemic change, we know that the solutions are within our grasp. We are honored to work collaboratively to make this happen ... now and for future generations.



Watch our “Forty Years Beyond Pesticides” video at bp-dc.org/40th

A Systemic Approach to Landscape Management

We identify five categories of work that include: Daily communication with the grassroots across diverse backgrounds; Tracking science and making accessible through databases/factsheets/reports; Public education and awareness; Advancing of policy and practices with hands-on assistance; Advocacy and litigation for changes in marketplace practices.

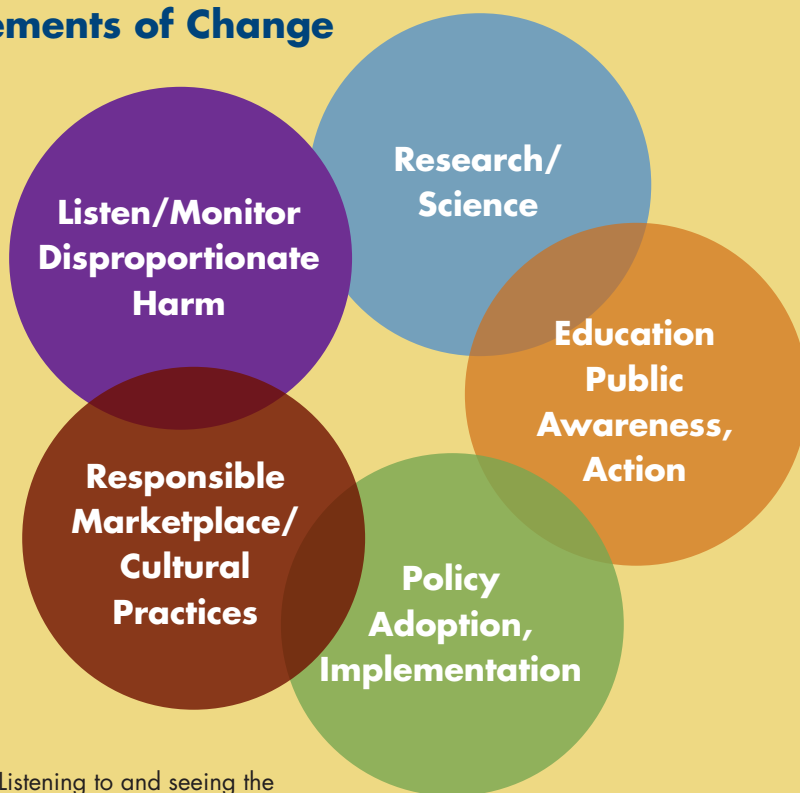
An organic shift, a systemic change—practice and policy

Organic practices **eliminate fossil-fuel-based pesticides and synthetic fertilizers** that are disruptive of human and ecosystem health, **manage soil health to** maximize **sequestration** of atmospheric carbon to combat the climate crisis, and **nurture biodiversity**.

Organic land management program

Organic land management is an ecological management **system** that promotes and enhances **biodiversity**, nutrient cycling, and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-site inputs and on management practices that **restore, maintain, and enhance ecological harmony**. ... **Goal: To transition all land management to organic practices.**

Elements of Change



- Listening to and seeing the empirical evidence of poisoning and contamination
- Searching, monitoring, and supporting the science
- Elevating public understanding
- Translating the findings and experience into policy and practice
- Changing the culture and the market (individual and corporate behavior)



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A Systemic Approach

CONTINUED

With organic systems, we:

- Improve soil quality ■ Minimize energy use ■ Increase biodiversity
- Minimize water pollution ■ Minimize pesticide residues ■ Reduce worker/applicator exposure to pesticide residues ■ Improve ecosystem services ■ See equal or less cost in long-term, while increasing resiliency

Coalition building

We build broad coalitions with the engagement of the medical and scientific community, horticulturists and landscapers and farmers, and community members, and collaborate to fight disproportionate harm in people of color communities.

Public education and outreach and collaborative media

We conduct broad community education and outreach to empower voices for public health and environmental protection in communities and issue joint press statements with local governments, and facilitate opportunities for media interviews with land managers, scientists, and advocates.

Hands-on organic land management practices

We advance management practices that feed the soil and nurture the cycling of nutrients through healthy microbial life.

- **With our model policy and program, we eliminate toxic pesticide use with the following restrictions**
"Shall only use a least-toxic pesticide as part of the sustainable land and building management practices. The least-toxic pesticides, in accordance with **the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances** of USDA organic law, may only be used as a last resort as a part of a systems management plan."
- **And we eliminate use of synthetic fertilizers**
"Shall only use natural organic fertilizers. The use of a **synthetic fertilizer is prohibited.**"

Action of the Week

25,000+ SUBSCRIBERS

ACTION OF THE WEEK provides our supporters and network with one concrete action that can be taken each week to have their voice heard on issues that are harmful to the environment and public and worker health, maintain or increase pesticide use, or undermine the advancement of organic, sustainable, and regenerative practices and policies. These weekly actions typically generate between 2,000 and 4,000+ participants. The range of issues targets corporations, state and federal government, and the U.S. Congress. Our voices make a difference and show local governments the importance of their action in the absence of an adequate state and federal response.

2020

- 12/22 Stop EPA from Limiting State Pesticide Restrictions
- 12/14 Open Letter to Biden-Appointed USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack
- 12/14 Tell Lowe's and Home Depot to Get Roundup Off Their Shelves
- 12/08 Tell President-elect Biden to Adopt a New Direction for Pesticide Regulation
- 11/30 Tell President-elect Biden We Need an Environmental Leader to Head the EPA
- 11/23 Tell the Biden Transition Team to Harness the Power of Organic to Combat Climate Change
- 11/16 Tell President-elect Biden that We Need an Organic USDA
- 11/09 Urgent Action Needed to Prevent Another Pandemic—This Time Due to Bacterial Resistance
- 11/02 The Planet Is on the Ballot, Your Future—and that of Your Children—Is at Stake
- 10/26 Tell EPA to Quit Pushing Toxic Solutions, Especially in Schools
- 10/19 VOTE Early. Bad Government Decisions Kill People and the Environment
- 10/13 Stop Continued Degradation of Science: Tell Congress to Insist that EPA Thoroughly Test All Pesticides for Health Hazards
- 10/05 Again: Trump Administration Needs to Listen to Science to Protect Farmers and the Environment (Instead of Special Interests)
- 09/28 Tell USDA to Strengthen Organic Enforcement and Allow More Time for Public Comment
- 09/21 Please Submit Comments: Organic Can Prevent Ecological Collapse with Our Help

09/14	Ask Congress to Help Farmers of Color and Small and Medium-Sized Farms Selling in Local Food Markets	05/22	Take Action: Tell USDA to Crack Down on "Organic" Livestock Factories
09/08	Tell Canada to Ban Horrifically Hazardous Wood Preservative Pentachlorophenol	05/18	Tell USDA and Congress: #DoBetterUSDA and Support Small Organic Farmers
08/31	Help Keep Toxic Herbicides Out of Lake Tahoe, Protect this Treasured and Sacred Ecosystem; Advance Alternatives	05/11	Tell EPA and Congress that ALL Ingredients in Pesticides Must Be Disclosed
08/27	Keep Toxic Herbicides Out of Lake Tahoe, Protect Treasured Ecosystem	05/04	Protect Farmworker Children
08/24	Tell Congress to Restore Organic Funding Taken Away by USDA	04/27	Tell Your Governor that Lawn Care Pesticides Are Not Essential and Increase Risk of Covid-19
08/17	Tell Lowe's and Home Depot to Promote Organic Instead of Poisons	04/20	Tell USDA that Organic Production Matters to Nutrition Guidelines
08/10	Coronavirus Safety Measures Required for School Reopening; Toxic Disinfectants Are Not a Shortcut to Safety	04/13	Our Food Supply Depends on Protecting Farmworkers
08/03	Tell Congress to Require EPA to Stop Ignoring People of Color in Setting Safety Standards—Agency Ignores People at Elevated Risk to Deadly Combination of Pesticides and Covid-19 Exposure	04/06	Stop Dangerous Proposal to Allow GE Crops on National Wildlife Refuges in Southeast U.S.
07/27	Tell Evian to Protect the Integrity of Its Purity Claim by Supporting a Worldwide Shift to Organic	03/30	Tell Your Governor: Safer Disinfectants for Coronavirus Exist, Stop Toxic Chemicals as EPA Halts Protections
07/20	Tell Public Officials to Stop Mosquito Spraying and Adopt a Safe, Effective Mosquito Management Plan	03/20	Tell Congress to Help Organic Farmers and Consumers Hurt by the Pandemic, Today!
07/13	Demand to Keep the Soil in Organic, Reject the Labeling of Hydroponic Crops as Organic!	03/16	Take Action: Toxic Chemicals Unnecessary To Protect Against the Coronavirus; CDC Advises Preventive Measures
07/06	Tell EPA to Ban the Persistent Toxic Herbicide Clopyralid that Contaminates Compost	03/09	Plant Organic Seeds and Plants; Tell Your State to Act to Protect Pollinators This Spring
06/29	Tell USDA to Reject Bayer-Monsanto's Multi-Herbicide Tolerant Corn	03/02	Tell EPA to Ban Atrazine
06/22	Pollinator Week: We Protect People at Greatest Risk when We Protect Pollinators and the Environment from Toxic Pesticides	02/26	Tell Your Congressional Representative to Support the Agriculture Resilience Act
06/15	Take Action: Tell Congress to Save Our Oceans from Trump's Executive Order	02/18	Take Action: Trump Administration's Cuts to Science and the Environment
06/09	EPA Must Deny Routine "Emergency" Exemptions for this Bee-Toxic Pesticide	02/10	Save the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
06/01	Tell the National Organic Program that Inaction on "Inert" Ingredients Is Unacceptable	02/03	Save Mayflies and the Ecosystems that Depend on Them
		01/27	Insist that the Veterans Administration Cover Conditions Caused by Agent Orange
		01/17	Send a Message to EPA: Do Your Job to Protect Health and the Environment
		01/13	Take Action: Help Restore Protections for Migratory Birds
		01/06	End Factory Farms: Support the Farm System Reform Act

Evaluation, Training, and Plan Development

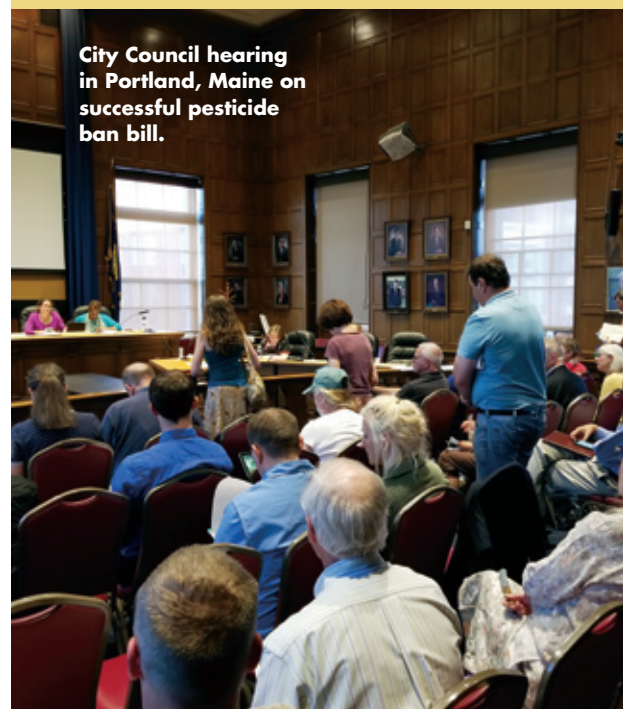
Working with local municipalities, we conduct on-site evaluations and we teach soil management. In parks, playing fields, and open space, we evaluate soil samples, soil texture, soil chemistry, soil biomass and microorganisms, which enables us to take advantage of cultural practices, such as aeration, irrigation, cultivation, overseeding, and mowing; and, utilize soil amendments, such as horticultural molasses, compost or compost tea, which are compatible with organic systems and soil health.

Advocacy

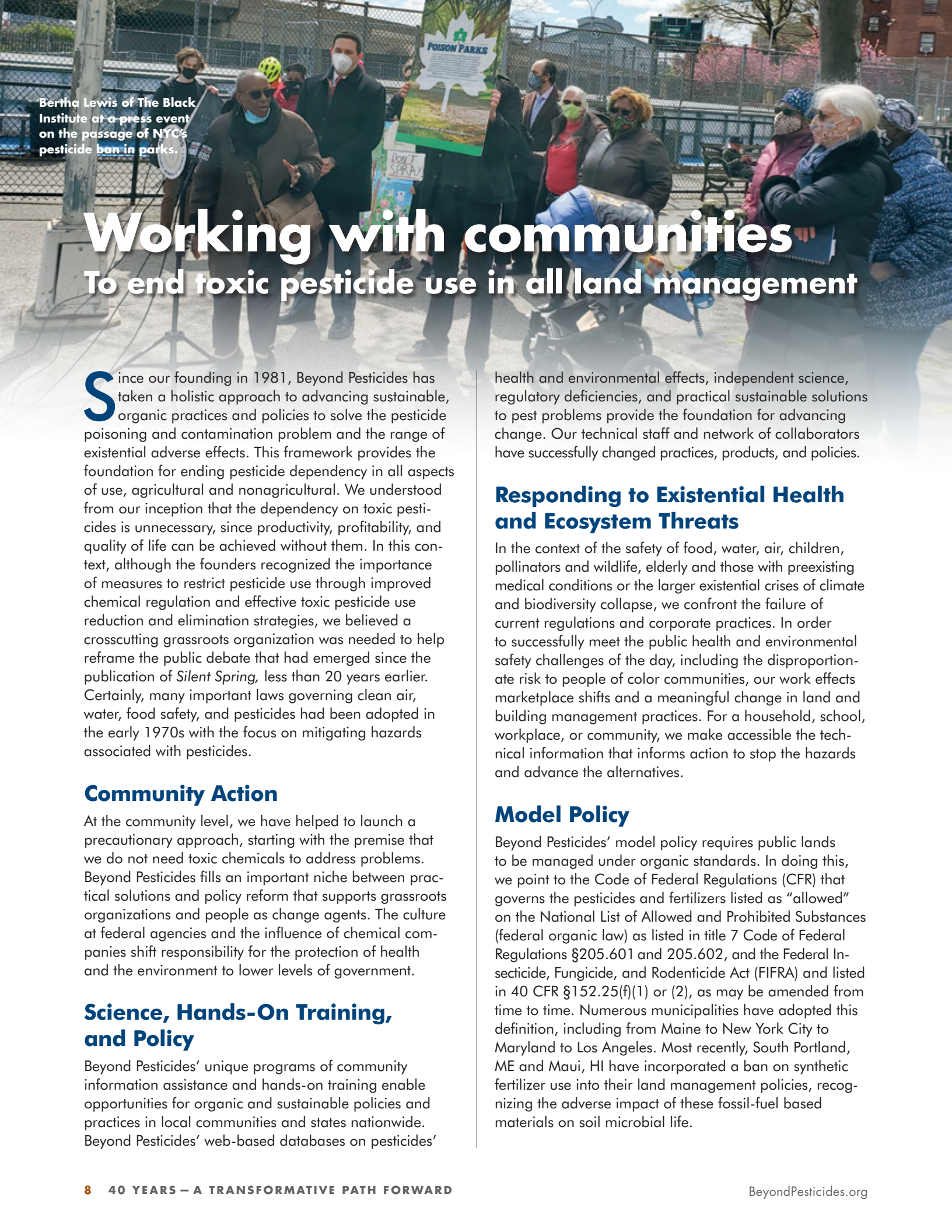
We advocate that the model practices we implement be incorporated into local and state policies to institutionalize change.

Elevating grassroots voices in the state and national arena

We bring the local experience in eliminating toxic pesticide use to the state and national arena, and participating in public comments to rulemaking and broaden the reach of our voice on a broad range of related issues with *Action of the Week*.



City Council hearing in Portland, Maine on successful pesticide ban bill.



Bertha Lewis of The Black Institute at a press event on the passage of NYC's pesticide ban in parks.

Working with communities

To end toxic pesticide use in all land management

Since our founding in 1981, Beyond Pesticides has taken a holistic approach to advancing sustainable, organic practices and policies to solve the pesticide poisoning and contamination problem and the range of existential adverse effects. This framework provides the foundation for ending pesticide dependency in all aspects of use, agricultural and nonagricultural. We understood from our inception that the dependency on toxic pesticides is unnecessary, since productivity, profitability, and quality of life can be achieved without them. In this context, although the founders recognized the importance of measures to restrict pesticide use through improved chemical regulation and effective toxic pesticide use reduction and elimination strategies, we believed a crosscutting grassroots organization was needed to help reframe the public debate that had emerged since the publication of *Silent Spring*, less than 20 years earlier. Certainly, many important laws governing clean air, water, food safety, and pesticides had been adopted in the early 1970s with the focus on mitigating hazards associated with pesticides.

Community Action

At the community level, we have helped to launch a precautionary approach, starting with the premise that we do not need toxic chemicals to address problems. Beyond Pesticides fills an important niche between practical solutions and policy reform that supports grassroots organizations and people as change agents. The culture at federal agencies and the influence of chemical companies shift responsibility for the protection of health and the environment to lower levels of government.

Science, Hands-On Training, and Policy

Beyond Pesticides' unique programs of community information assistance and hands-on training enable opportunities for organic and sustainable policies and practices in local communities and states nationwide. Beyond Pesticides' web-based databases on pesticides'

health and environmental effects, independent science, regulatory deficiencies, and practical sustainable solutions to pest problems provide the foundation for advancing change. Our technical staff and network of collaborators have successfully changed practices, products, and policies.

Responding to Existential Health and Ecosystem Threats

In the context of the safety of food, water, air, children, pollinators and wildlife, elderly and those with preexisting medical conditions or the larger existential crises of climate and biodiversity collapse, we confront the failure of current regulations and corporate practices. In order to successfully meet the public health and environmental safety challenges of the day, including the disproportionate risk to people of color communities, our work effects marketplace shifts and a meaningful change in land and building management practices. For a household, school, workplace, or community, we make accessible the technical information that informs action to stop the hazards and advance the alternatives.

Model Policy

Beyond Pesticides' model policy requires public lands to be managed under organic standards. In doing this, we point to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) that governs the pesticides and fertilizers listed as "allowed" on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (federal organic law) as listed in title 7 Code of Federal Regulations §205.601 and 205.602, and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and listed in 40 CFR §152.25(f)(1) or (2), as may be amended from time to time. Numerous municipalities have adopted this definition, including from Maine to New York City to Maryland to Los Angeles. Most recently, South Portland, ME and Maui, HI have incorporated a ban on synthetic fertilizer use into their land management policies, recognizing the adverse impact of these fossil-fuel based materials on soil microbial life.

Exerting Local Authority for Safety

In states that do not preempt local jurisdictions from restricting pesticides more stringently than the state, municipalities, or counties can prohibit the use of all pesticides and fertilizers across their jurisdictions, on public and private land.

We work in more than 40 model communities specifically on land management, from parks, playing fields, open space, to rights-of-way.

We are pushing the envelope on management practices, so it is not just a question of what materials are used, but what management practices are utilized to advance healthy ecosystems and ecological balance, and soil and plant health.

Collaboration for Organic Land Management

Our implementation of organic land management is a partnership with local community groups and local governments. For example, in South Portland, Maine, it's Protect South Portland, and in neighboring Portland, it's Portland Protectors. In New York City, it's Park for Kids NYC, and in Philadelphia, it's Toxic Free Philly. In Minneapolis, it's Bee Safe Minneapolis, and in Tucson, it's Toxic Free Pima County. This collaboration extends to municipal parks departments through which we conduct a robust program to (i) educate on holistic organic management and its importance to health and the environment, (ii) evaluate soil and management practices, (iii) produce a report on recommendations, and (iv) assist with implementation. Nationally, we have teamed up with Stonyfield Organic, and throughout the west we are working with Natural Grocers, which has 162 stores in 20 states. To name a few, we put in place demonstration sites and we are at different phases in implementing our plans in the following locations:

Arizona: Tempe, Tucson; **California:** UC Berkeley, Richmond; **Colorado:** Longmont; **Florida:** Oakland Park, Wilton, Manors, South Miami; **Hawaii:** Maui, Kaua'i, Big Island **Maine:** Portland, South Portland; **Maryland:** Hyattsville; **Massachusetts:** Cambridge; **Minnesota:** Minneapolis Schools, Minneapolis Park Board; **Montana:** Missoula; **New Hampshire:** Dover, Manchester, Portsmouth; **New Jersey:** South Orange; **New York:** Great Neck; **Ohio:** South Euclid, University Heights; **Oregon:** Eugene, Lane County, Springfield, Talent; **Pennsylvania:** Pittsburgh; **South Carolina:** Mount Pleasant; **Utah:** Salt Lake City; **Washington:** Spokane; **Wisconsin:** Madison; and growing. **Dover, NH** is an example of what we are striving for, as the city announced, after seeing the results of our program, that it is putting the organic land management program in place citywide.

Keeping Organic Strong

A Holistic View

Organic consumers and farmers have invested in the notion that we care not only about land stewardship and what we feed our children and families, but stopping farmworker exposure to hazardous materials and ending the hazards to the fenceline communities where the toxic chemicals used in conventional agriculture are produced. The organic law, of course, requires the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to consider the cradle-to-grave effects of materials when protecting against adverse effects.

Ensuring Integrity

Our comments to the NOSB on biodegradable plastic mulch exemplify the values and principles that we bring to organic. Here are our comments in October 2020:


As a strong advocate for the growth of the organic market, building public trust in the label is critical to effect a transition away from practices and inputs that cause a cascade of environmental and public health effects. Organic can help mitigate and begin to reverse the existential threats of the climate crisis and biodiversity decline that we are facing as a country and globe.

Is the role of organic to take on these challenges, or is organic just a niche market and a profit center for producers and processors?

Those of us who strenuously promote the market as a solution to looming crises must be able to point to a full embrace of the principles and values embedded in the *Organic Foods Production Act*.

Underlying principles critical to organic standards:

1. Organic law establishes a systems approach to protecting and enhancing the environment. It does not ask the NOSB to determine relative risk.
2. The law sets restrictions that effect continuous improvement in organic management. It does not disincentivize investment in natural materials and practices.
3. Organic law establishes criteria and categories of use for evaluating an allowed substance's adverse effects, compatibility with organic systems, and essentiality. It does not envision inputs/substances not required in soil systems.
4. Organic law identifies soil as the medium for nutrient cycling, supplying the macro and micronutrients through support of the microbiota. The law's required systems plan does not envision a dependency on synthetic substances.
5. Organic law requires complete information and precaution. It does not allow for uncertainty, incomplete information on effects, and arbitrary margins of safety.

A photograph of Teacher Paula Rogovin, a woman with short grey hair, wearing a teal shirt, speaking into a microphone to a group of people seated in a classroom. In the background, a whiteboard displays the text "Teacher Paula Rogovin organizing to end pesticide use in NYC parks." and a sign on the left reads "PROTECT OUR PARKS".

Teacher Paula Rogovin organizing to end pesticide use in NYC parks.

Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information

SCIENCE INFORMING ACTION

The Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information is our important and unique source of independent scientific and practical information to inform the transition away from toxic pesticides in the face of dramatic declines in environmental quality and threats to public health, the climate crisis, and biodiversity collapse. The Center affirms the core value of protecting health and the environment, rooted in scientific understanding of biological systems that are central to the sustainability of life. The Center tracks science and policy as a vehicle for informing public action at the local, state, and federal level. The information provided, including unique databases of hazards and alternatives, empowers grassroots education and advocacy and advances changes in practices, products, and policies that are responsible for adverse health and environmental effects, with disproportionate adverse impact on people of color communities.

THE UNPROTECTIVE UNDERLYING SAFETY STANDARD

EPA is subject to a standard (spelled out in the law's legislative history or report language) that utilizes a risk assessment process to determine reasonableness of toxic chemical exposure. This standard has enabled the agency to assume the need for a pesticide and adopt self-described protections from exposure that do not reflect reality. In so doing, EPA applies margins of safety that are meaningless, or simply ignore mechanisms like synergism, the effect of mixtures, people with preexisting illnesses or vulnerabilities, or a lack of information on health outcomes (like endocrine disruption, for which the agency has not established review protocol).

TOOLS FOR EFFECTIVE ACTION

Our work assists with informed decision-making, ensuring the accessibility of important scientific findings through our databases—all tools for effective action.

Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management (Pesticide Gateway)

The Gateway is an expanding database of nearly 400 pesticide folders, containing information about specific pesticide environmental and health effects, regulatory action, and uses. The Gateway provides valuable information about a pesticide's health and environmental effects identified by regulatory agencies and the independent scientific literature, and its regulatory status. The information increases individual and local community understanding of hazards and informs decisions on pest prevention and management when used in combination with our ManageSafe database on alternative practices and products compatible with organic standards. Understanding the known hazards and the degree of uncertainty associated with limited information on chemical effects and vulnerabilities, is critical to motivating consideration of alternatives.

Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database (PIDD)

We continue to update PIDD, which now includes 1,174 studies, with pesticide exposure links to cancer, brain and nervous system disorders, and learning/developmental disorders logging the most entries. New PIDD sections include a subsection about Skin Reactions/Disease and Oxidative Stress under "Body Burden." PIDD updates include the Asthma and Respiratory Effects section.

Pollinators: What the Science Shows

Our *What the Science Shows* tracks the science on pollinators and pesticides—containing over 142 studies about pesticides exposure to bees, over 40 studies about pesticides exposure to other pollinators (butterflies, beetles, etc.), over 61 studies about pesticide exposure to beneficial organisms (soil microbes, aquatic invertebrates, etc.), and over 39 studies on how pesticide exposure exacerbates the impacts of viruses and parasites on nontarget species.

ManageSafe

This database of 32 common lawn and landscape pests and 17 common structural pests provides information on prevention and management. This tool describes in detail the steps to take to avoid the use of toxic chemicals in common pest management.

40 Most Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides—Health And Environmental Effects

We updated our most popular factsheets that are used by people and communities nationwide when considering the real threat posed by common lawn care insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides. The charts show, based on government sources, that the majority of pesticides in wide use can cause cancer, neurological and respiratory effects, reproductive harm and bird defects, and are toxic to waterways, wildlife, bees and pollinators, and birds and fish.

Consumer Herbicide Product Analysis

Beyond Pesticides and Friends of the Earth (FOE) collaborated to provide an easy-to-read spreadsheet detailing health hazards associated with weed killers commonly found at the most popular home and garden retailers, Home Depot and Lowe's. This analysis highlights the adverse health and environmental effects of widely available toxic pesticides, while encouraging retailers to expand on—and consumers to use—safer, least/nontoxic pesticide products. We analyzed chemical components in over 91 different herbicides. Out of the 91 products, only 28 are classifiable as least toxic/organic.

Covid: Updated Webpages and Resource: Disinfectants and Sanitizers

With the increase in use of sanitizers and disinfectants during Covid-19, we continued to build out our Covid-19 Pandemic webpages, including up-to-date information on safe hand sanitizers and disinfectants, and a Q&A style factsheet on *Answering Questions about Toxic Sanitizers and Disinfectants*. We produced a factsheet, on the hazards of quaternary ammonium compounds, also known as "quats" or "QACs," which are in many cleansers and increase the risk of asthma and adverse reproductive effects.

LITIGATION TO STOP ANTIBIOTIC USE IN AGRICULTURE

We sue companies—with legal assistance from Richman Law and Policy—that mislead the public through their labeling and advertising. We have successfully sued, for example, TruGreen and General Mills, for including false statements about safety or production practices. This year we sued Sargento for falsely claiming that no antibiotics are used in the production of their cheese products. The lawsuit alleges that the company's cheese products are made with milk from cows administered antibiotics, and that these antibiotic compounds are detectable in some of the company's products. We are fighting to take antibiotics out of food production, as we approach a pandemic of antibiotic resistance, according to the World Health Organization. Beyond Pesticides joined with a coalition of public interest groups to sue the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its approval of the medically important antibiotic streptomycin for use on citrus trees. This lawsuit is an important action to reverse the previous administration's decision to ignore the science and allow expanded use of an antibiotic in agriculture.



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Networking with Resources for Action

INFORMATION AND NETWORKING TO EMPOWER

National Pesticide Forum

Cultivating Healthy Communities: Confronting health threats, climate disasters, and biodiversity collapse with a toxic-free future was co-convened by Beyond Pesticides and the Institute for Exposomic Research, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai over four weeks in May-June 2021. The affiliation with a medical institution that understands and teaches the relationship between toxic chemical exposure, environmental hazards, and public health is critical to solving the existential threats associated with toxic pesticide use. The medical institution's involvement with the conference was not only important in bringing medical practitioners and scientists to the discussion, but it serves as a model for other medical institutions to engage with the issues. With a remote format, this Forum brought together over 600 people and organizations from 15 countries and is now being offered for free through our website.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Here is a partial list of the amazing lineup of speakers with whom Beyond Pesticides collaborates.

To see the complete list, please go to bp-dc.org/forumspeakers2021.

1 The Honorable Joe Neguse, (D-CA), U.S. Congress, on public health protection from pesticides

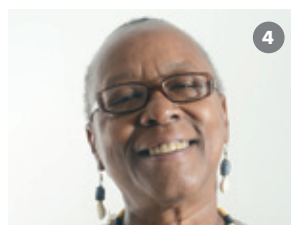
2 Tom Lovejoy, United Nations Foundation, Washington, DC, on biodiversity

3 Lil Milagro Henriquez, Mycelium Youth Network, Oakland, CA, on climate action and urban gardening

4 Bertha Lewis, The Black Institute, New York, NY, on environmental racism and parks management

5 Jeff Moyer, The Rodale Institute, Kutztown, PA, on soil health and organic farming

6 Héktor Calderón, Californians for Pesticide Reform, Monterey, CA, on farmworker protection with panel of farmworkers



7 Juan Casanova, Landscape Services Operations, University of California, Berkeley, CA, on organic landscaping

8 Sarah Evans, PhD, MPH, Environmental Medicine and Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, on protecting communities

9 Maida Galvez, MD, Dept. of Environmental Medicine & Public Health & Dept. of Pediatrics, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, on emerging issues in childhood protection

10 Tyrone Hayes, PhD, University of California, Berkeley, CA, on endocrine disruption and cutting-edge findings

11 Anthony Ramón Pérez Soto, Earth Guardians, Puntarenas, Costa Rica, on youth action for the environment

12 Paula Rogovin, retired teacher, New York City, Parks for Kids NYC, on organizing for passage of organic parks policy

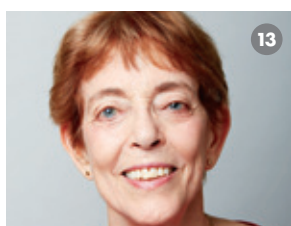
13 Shanna Swan, PhD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; *Count Down: How Our Modern World Is Threatening Sperm Counts, Altering Male and Female Reproductive Development, and Imperiling the Future of the Human Race*, New York, NY



11



12



13



14

14 Ling Tan, Safe Grow Montgomery, Gaithersburg, MD, on local authority to restrict pesticides

15 Jennifer Taylor, PhD, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), Tallahassee, FL, on family farming

16 Leonardo Trasande, MD, MPP, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY, on children and cost of harmful pesticide use



15



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17



18

17 Molly Rockamann, Earth Dance Organic Farm School, Ferguson, MO, on community-based farming and racial justice

18 Alan Lewis, Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage, Lakewood, CO, on building the organic market with integrity



PESTICIDE-FREE ZONE SIGNS AND DOORHANGERS

In the last year, we have distributed nearly 400 Pesticide Free Zone (ladybug and bee) and Organic Landscape signs in 33 states and four Canadian provinces. Our safe lawn and mosquito management doorhangers have reached 1,500 neighborhoods in 19 states. This signage speaks loudly in communities where we are doing neighbor-to-neighbor education. A woman in North Oaks, MN said that her efforts to reduce mosquito spraying are going well and extends to education pieces in the local newspaper, on the city website, and on social media. Another person in Toledo, OH, who put up 12 bee signs, is working to adopt a city ordinance to eliminate toxic pesticide use. The Town of Greenwich, CT is using 50 ladybug signs in their pesticide education campaign.

MAP OF U.S. PESTICIDE REFORM POLICIES

We track the activities of local jurisdictions throughout the U.S. on our online *Map of U.S. Pesticide Reform Policies*, which activists and policy makers use as a tool that captures the momentum for pesticide and organic policies around the country and links to local ordinances. The map now includes 18 pesticide-free park policies, 47 with restrictions that protect pollinators, 103 policies that apply to public spaces, and 27 that extend restrictions to private land. The map has now been viewed 74,100 times.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT THIS YEAR

140,676 website visitors
28% increase

420,794 pageviews
20% increase

382,288 actions taken
by 27,000+ individuals



Alamy/J.R. Bale

Addressing a Failed Pesticide Law

A Transformative Moment in the Face of Existential Crises

We are about building a groundswell of action that drives the necessary changes—changes that take place in people’s homes and gardens, in their purchasing decisions, in their local communities, park districts, school districts, and in management decisions throughout the community. The models we establish in partnership with local communities can be replicated in communities across the country. And since we will not achieve a sustainable, socially just society and world by simply banning or restricting one chemical after the other, we are advancing systemic changes that start at the community level, but intersect with state, national, and international policy and corporate accountability.

LOCAL CHEMICAL BANS

Campaigns to ban specific chemicals are still popular at the local and in some cases the state level. While it is an entry point for bringing public attention to the pesticide problem, it can, if not carefully orchestrated, leave the public impression that the pesticide problem is fixed, while we strategize to change underlying practices, not substitute other toxic chemicals. In this context, we have assisted dozens of communities across the country interested in restricting the hazardous herbicide glyphosate (Roundup), and neonicotinoid insecticides tied to pollinator decline. For example, New York State specifically banned glyphosate in state parks last year, effective December 31, 2021, with no apparent change in practices, which is why we advocate for a holistic approach.

PENTACHLOROPHENOL

After we alerted South Carolina media that the last North American manufacturer of the wood preservative pentachlorophenol, one of the most hazardous pesticides, was moving its production plant to a low-income, majority African American community, a grassroots uproar stopped

the move and ultimately production completely. The international Stockholm Convention (U.S. is not a party) forced the manufacturer out of Mexico. With production ceased, EPA stepped in and proposed canceling the pesticide, citing Beyond Pesticides as a source. While EPA’s Office of Pesticide Programs does not like to take regulatory action against a pesticide without manufacturer and user community agreement, the world is moving away from chlorinated hydrocarbons and our work to bring the U.S. along has been a long time coming.

FEDERAL POLICY

We supported the updating of the federal *Saving America’s Pollinators Act*, which was reintroduced in June during Pollinator Week, to create a holistic approach to removing from the market all bee-toxic pesticides. We commented on key regulatory issues, often on specific pesticides, including paraquat, atrazine, glyphosate, and their adverse impact on health and the environment. We commented on every organic policy and material before the National Organic Standards Board, defending organic integrity with our *Keeping Organic Strong* campaign.

CHALLENGING A ONE-BY-ONE (WHACK-A-MOLE) STRATEGY TO ELIMINATING TOXIC PESTICIDES

Over the last year, we have critiqued EPA and corporate decisions to restrict chemical uses. Bayer (Monsanto) announced that it was withdrawing from the market the residential uses of the cancer-causing weed killer Roundup/glyphosate, and EPA announced that it was cancelling the food uses of the brain-damaging insecticide chlorpyrifos.

Glyphosate (Roundup). With the glyphosate decision, which Bayer refers to as “risk mitigation”—that’s risk to

the company's profitability, economic viability, and shareholder investment—the harm inflicted by glyphosate will continue, first to those in the farm community who handle glyphosate—farmworkers and family farmers—or are exposed involuntarily to drift and contaminated waterways, and then to those who eat food that is grown in chemical-intensive agriculture. Glyphosate is the most widely used pesticide in the U.S. because it is used in the production of corn, soybeans, and cotton, over 90 percent of which is genetically engineered to resist glyphosate.

Chlorpyrifos. EPA was forced into its decision to stop remaining agricultural uses by a court order that was precipitated by an agency decision to reverse course after ignoring a decision in 2017 to stop food uses of chlorpyrifos. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco in its ruling in May, 2021 said, "[T]he EPA's egregious delay exposed a generation of American children to unsafe levels of chlorpyrifos." But before all the recent activity, in 1999, EPA had negotiated a compromise with Dow that stopped most residential uses of chlorpyrifos. Why? For the same reason that EPA finally acted on food. This neurotoxic chemical is harmful to children. That was 22 years ago and followed a campaign by Beyond Pesticides and others to remove Dursban/chlorpyrifos from the market because of indoor ambient air contamination of homes and buildings and lawn and landscape exposure. It should be noted that Dursban was viewed with promise by regulators as the alternative to the organochlorine insecticide chlordane, which Beyond Pesticides sued to remove from the termite use market—a remaining use after the agricultural, lawn, and garden uses were finally taken off the market in 1983. Its cancer-causing properties and ecological effects could no longer be defended. Beyond Pesticides is working to stop the pesticide treadmill, with the next insecticide, bifenthrin. It too is a neurotoxic, cancer-causing, endocrine disrupting pesticide. And, there are others waiting in the wings.

THE LAWS ARE FAILING US— A TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENT

The federal laws that we have in place, the *Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act* and the *Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act* (including the *Food Quality Protection Act*), have failed to regulate chemicals like glyphosate, chlorpyrifos, and pentachlorophenol and will continue to fail to take timely action on 1,200 active and hundreds of inert (secret nondisclosed) ingredients in over 16,800 pesticide products in the interest of public health and environmental protection. The current system and reform proposals that tinker with the broken system allow the continued use of pesticides that are too dangerous and proven to be unnecessary to meet pest management, productivity, profitability, and quality life goals.

So why are they being used? Because the laws protect chemical companies, not the public. The laws protect the vested economic interests that wrote the laws, amend the laws, and fight to protect the laws, not the public who are adversely affected and suffer cancer, neurological diseases, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes, asthma, and autism—and certainly not those in the people of color community who suffer disproportionately from many of these illnesses. Similarly, the laws do not protect the ecosystems and biodiversity, which are critical to human existence. As a result, the laws do not protect pollinators, keystone species in the aquatic food web, and threatened and endangered species. That has been documented with glyphosate, as it has with toxic pesticides generally. Instead of taking preventive or precautionary action, regulators sit and watch as we move closer and closer to crises that undermine the very existence of life.

This is a transformative moment when we must shift society, starting with our communities and local decision makers and individuals, to eliminate toxic fossil-fuel-based pesticides and fertilizers.

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Protecting Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Human Life

Educating on the complexity of biological life

DAILY NEWS BLOG



Our Daily News provides the up-to-date information people need to inform their own decisions and influence those that are made at the community level. The articles delve into the latest science, regulatory decisions, management practices not reliant on toxic pesticides, legal action, and grassroots organizing that drives successful local policies.

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On Biodiversity—Beyond Pesticides Tracks the Science

In her book, *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson alerted the public and government regulators to the importance of protecting complex biological communities. The interrelationship and interdependency of organisms is critical to ecological balance and human survival. With broad spectrum pesticide use, and indiscriminate poisoning with systemic pesticides, an ecological imbalance is created, sacrificing the benefits of nature and escalating pest problems.

EDUCATING ON COMPLEX ECOSYSTEMS

Broad spectrum pesticide use poisons and kills indiscriminately. By focusing, as we do, on the lives of all organisms in the environment and the ecosystem balance that sustains human life, we gain a clearer picture about the crude instrument used to define safety under pesticide law. Over the last year, we

brought focus to a number of organisms like mosses. Mosses are a fascinating and beautiful part of local ecosystems, filling an important niche, and serving as habitat for literally thousands of microscopic organisms that work in concert with nature. Similarly, our piece on slime molds explains that they eat bacteria and decaying plants, contributing to the recycling of organic matter. They are food for many insects and other arthropods, nematodes, fungi, and bacteria.

POLLINATORS

We track the science, with this past year recording the second highest honey bee loss in 15 years. For the “winter” period of October 1, 2020 through April 1, 2021, approximately 32% of managed bee colonies in the U.S. were lost. This represents an increase of 9.6% over the prior year’s winter loss and is roughly 4% higher than the previous 14-year average

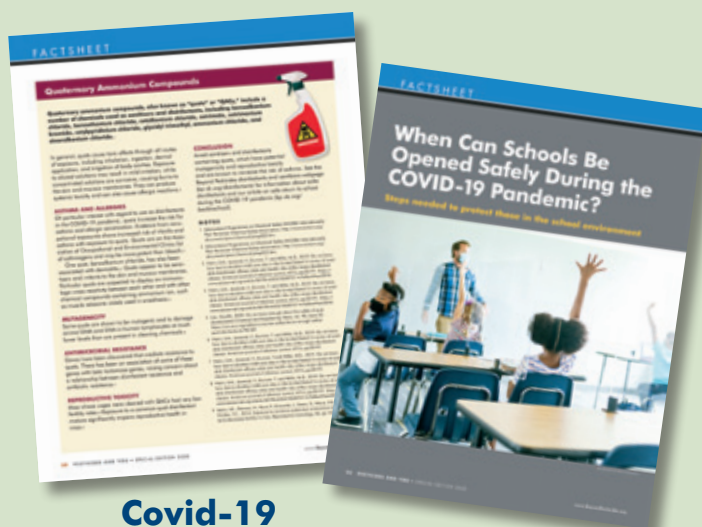
rate of loss. For the period April 1, 2020 to April 1, 2021, colony loss was 45.5%.

GARDENING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATURE

Our work highlights organic farming/gardening and soil as inextricably linked. As discussed in a workshop at our National Forum by author and research scientist at the School of Integrative Biology at the University of Illinois, James Nardi, PhD, the macro- and microorganisms in healthy soils interact in a symbiotic manner with plant roots, strengthening plants, enabling them to resist diseases, and facilitating water and mineral uptake. In alignment with Dr. Nardi’s work, we see the “wisdom of the weeds”—what we can learn from them, and their contributions, including preventing erosion; conserving nutrients; building soil structure, organic matter, and mineral content; supporting soil biology; sequestering carbon; and encouraging biodiversity.

Defining Problems, Strategic Solutions

Beyond Pesticides resources are tools for systemic change



Covid-19 Website & Factsheets

Factsheet: **When Can Schools Be Opened Safely During the COVID-19 Pandemic?**

Factsheet: **Quaternary Ammonium Compounds**



Pushing for a Strategic Vision

Advancing Foundational Change: The Biden administration must tackle existential public health and environment threats with systemic change.

Stopping Systemic Environmental Racism in New York City Parks: With coalition partner The Black Institute, we call for New York City to ban pesticides in parks in the face of disproportionate hazards to people of color and failed state and federal protections.

Pesticides and You

The *Corona Virus Chronicles*, a 72-page issue of *Pesticides and You*, brings together topics that emerged during the pandemic that are directly relevant to our mission and the transition as a society away from toxic chemical dependency. The breadth and depth of the issues span specific hazardous materials (such as those in disinfectants, despite the availability of alternatives), new food systems that support local and organic farmers (food hubs), the importance of sound science to decision-making, and addressing disproportionate risk to people of color communities (essential workers, farm-workers, and landscapers). We put together important strategies and issues for the new administration. Whether addressing agriculture or the management of parks, playing fields, rights-of-way, and residential areas, policies that allow continued reliance on synthetic toxic pesticides promote ecological imbalances that are at the heart of the escalating deterioration of ecosystems and life that depend on them.

The Spring 2020 issue illustrates that this is not a time to tinker with reforms that do not address foundational problems. The standards in the governing laws are fundamentally flawed, resulting in unnecessary use and unacceptable disease outcomes. Systemic change does not occur with improved “mitigation measures” that EPA manipulates unscientifically or the banning of some chemicals or some uses. Nurturing and sustaining life is at the core of the work Beyond Pesticides is doing collaboratively in communities across the country. We testified before the New York City Council, stating that, “[W]e need to eliminate hazardous materials, not with chemical-by-chemical bans, but with a comprehensive program for land management that adequately restricts all pesticides.”



2020 Financial Statement

REVENUE

Fund Balance (Jan. 1, 2020)	\$1,810,200
Endowment (Jan. 1, 2020)	154,128
Grant Support	1,008,120
Contributions	813,657
Contract Revenue	39,764
Membership Dues	5,088
Publications Sales	6,020
Settlements from Litigation	50,000
Rental Income	52,320
Interest Income	5,259
Other Income	2,377
TOTAL	\$3,946,933

EXPENDITURES

Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$739,895
Printing & Duplication	29,880
Conference/Meetings	1,037
Utilities	4,704
Postage & Shipping	9,026
Telephone & Webpage	23,967
Travel	15,299
Consultants	523,751
Legal & Accounting	65,365
Supplies	7,169
Publications/Subscriptions	1,439
Interest Expense (on mortgage)	35,793
Repairs & Maintenance	20,898
Security	4,435
Insurance	9,109
Real Estate Taxes	47,335
Depreciation	25,552
Licenses & Registrations	2,876
Bank & Credit Card Fees	5,836
Miscellaneous	2,391
TOTAL	\$1,575,757

Fund Balance (Dec. 31, 2020) **\$2,216,404**

Endowment Fund (Dec. 31, 2020) **\$154,772**

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 2020.

**Maria Rodale
with Jay Feldman**



Josie Etheart

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Non Toxic New Hampshire
Northeast Organic Farming
Association of NH
Northwest Center for Alternatives
to Pesticides
Resiliency Gardens—
First Parish Needham
Safe Grow Montgomery
Sierra Club Maryland Chapter
Toxic Free NC
Utah Physicians for a Healthy
Environment

2021 Organic Pioneer Award to Jay Feldman

"I am honored and humbled to receive the **Rodale Institute's Organic Pioneer Award** and join the list of current and former awardees of farmers, scientists, and advocates. These are all dedicated leaders who have worked to define the severe problems associated with chemical-intensive agriculture and establish organic standards as a necessary and viable path forward in protecting the land and public health—as we confront the climate crisis and biodiversity collapse. I personally and for Beyond Pesticides, its staff and board, deeply appreciate this honor."

A Heartfelt Thank You to Beyond Pesticides Supporters (2020)

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- 1 designated for Hawaii program
- 2 designated for OrganicEye program
- 3 designated for Beyond Pesticides Ohio
- 4 included are donors to Beyond Pesticides general fund, OrganicEye program, and Beyond Pesticides Ohio.



Thank you to the hundreds of people who support our work each year through payroll deduction in workplace giving campaigns. Beyond Pesticides is a member of Earth Share, a federation of the nation's most respected environmental and conservation charities. Federal employees can support Beyond Pesticides through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) by selecting CFC #11429 on your pledge form. To find out more about how you and your company can support Beyond Pesticides through an Earth Share campaign, please call us at 202-543-5450 or view Earth Share's website at earthshare.org.



40 Years: A Transformative Path Forward

Since its founding in 1981, Beyond Pesticides has taken a holistic approach to advancing sustainable, organic practices and policies to solve the pesticide poisoning and contamination problem that invades all aspects of life, from adverse human health effects, ecosystem destruction, to overarching environmental breakdown. This framework provides the foundation for ending pesticide dependency in all aspects of use, agricultural and nonagricultural, eliminating exposure through food, air, water, and land. We understood from our inception that dependency on toxic pesticides is unnecessary, since productivity, profitability, and quality of life can be achieved without them. Now, we have an opportunity to transition our communities to green management practices that sustain life and prevent environmentally induced illness. Because of their hazards to human health, adverse impact to air, land, and water, and ecosystems, as well as their contribution to global climate change and biodiversity devastation, toxic pesticide use and chemical-intensive pest management practices in our communities must be challenged rigorously. Communities are seeking to prevent, rather than simply reduce, toxic chemical use and recognize the power of biological systems, at a time when increasingly smaller doses of systemic chemicals wreak havoc with life and the natural balance. We work with local people, organizations from the public interest community, elected officials, local government staff, scientists and universities, the medical community, and organic land management practitioners. We maintain ongoing and up-to-date analysis through numerous databases, publications, and social media of the relevant science, policy decisions, and new and evolving approaches to land and building management as the basis for incentivizing action.



BEYOND PESTICIDES

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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

Database of more than 282 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 more than 1,174 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.

All photos were taken by Beyond Pesticides staff and friends, unless otherwise noted.



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