

# **BEYOND PESTICIDES**

Protecting Health and the Environment with Science, Policy, and Action beyondpesticides.org



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The July 2021–June 2022 Annual Report 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.

#### **DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT THIS YEAR**

## 221,310 website visitors

2021 visitors from the U.S. and 208 countries worldwide



















## **Beyond Pesticides Board of Directors**

LEFT COLUMN

Rella Abernathy, PhD, City of Boulder, Ecological Planning Program, Boulder, CO Colehour Bondera, Kanalani Ohana Farm, Honaunau, HI Caroline Cox, *Treasurer*, Eugene, Oregon

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AFFILIATIONS LISTED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

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## A Message from Leadership

eyond Pesticides' program offers a bright spot amidst urgent challenges that threaten the health of people and ecosystems in the U.S. and worldwide. While the scientific literature defines existential threats to public health, biodiversity, and climate associated with petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers, Beyond Pesticides charts a protective path forward. We are successfully partnering with communities nationwide and around the globe to urgently effect a shift to organic practices that eliminate the use of toxic pesticides. As we work to adopt community-based models for transitioning to organic systems, we move local, state, and national debate from individual bad actor chemicals to a holistic and transformational strategy that, through policy and practice, manages land and buildings without toxic chemicals.

In our strategic work—whether with professionals or lay people. local elected officials or concerned advocates—we play a critical role in enhancing public understanding of the science and the practical hands-on expertise to inform the urgent steps that must be taken. In this context, our strategies are informed by a recognition that with the escalating grave threats there is disproportionate risk to communities of color and those with health vulnerabilities. At the same time, the chemical industry, and chemical-intensive agriculture and landscape sector, are fiercely fighting to retain the status quo and protect their vested economic interests.

To achieve the changes necessary for a livable future, we maintain a rigorous program at the intersection of science and advocacy. Our tracking of the scientific literature provides the factual basis for action—made accessible to nonscientists, including government officials, through our Daily News and numerous, continually updated databases on pesticide hazards and alternatives.

We are expanding our reach, as more people and communities utilize our content-rich website, contact us for information and strategic advice, and engage with our organic transition work. Our expanded Parks for a Sustainable Future program eliminates toxic inputs by evaluating existing community land management practices, providing a soil and landscape management plan, and training land managers. At the same time, we continue to coordinate, through our Keeping Organic Strong program, a national effort to ensure the integrity of certified organic food production standards, which establish the keystone list of organic compatible materials in land management practices that are in sync with nature.

Through our Action of Week, thousands of people take part in timely, strategic action on key issues. We planned our three-part virtual National Forum Series, Health, Biodiversity, and Climate: A Path for a Livable Future, to bring together national and international leaders as we define the seriousness of the existential threats and viability of organic solutions.

With our programs, we are growing an informed and influential network for timely and meaningful change. Thank you for making a difference with your support of Beyond Pesticides.

pry ruan Jay Feldman, Executive Director



















## **Beyond Pesticides Staff**

LEFT COLUMN

Jay Feldman, Executive Director

**Drew Toher**, Community Resource and Policy Director

Lisa Claydon, Director of Strategic Engagement-Marketing, Membership, and Development

Akayla Bracey, Science and Regulatory Manager

RIGHT COLUMN

Jeff France, Office Manager and Forum Coordinator

Autumn Ness, Hawai'i Organic Land Management Project Director

Jocelyn Cordell, Operations Manager

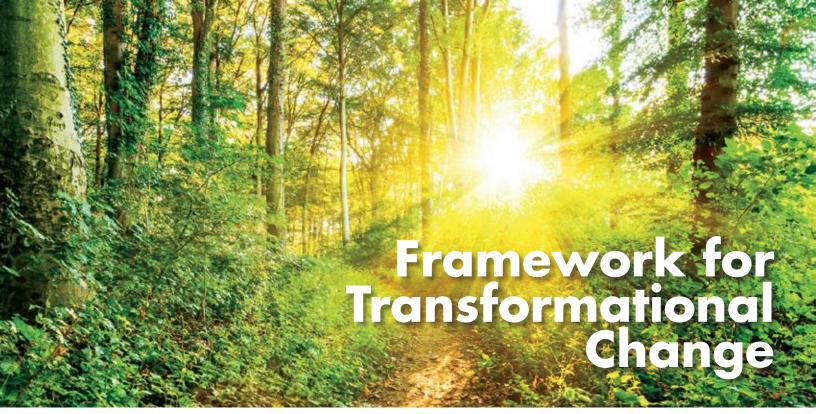
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Dawn Cacciotti, Program Strategy and Human Resource Management



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ith all the upheaval in the world, we focus our resources and strategic partnerships on foundational change through our community-based work to move communities away from toxic, fossil fuelbased pesticides and fertilizers—as we put in place land and building management programs for a sustainable future. The framework for change that we teach and advocate is focused on the existential crises of our day caused or exacerbated by petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers—the threats to a livable future with out-of-control diseases, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency. The intersection of these catastrophic problems, both their causes and their solutions, forms the foundation of our analysis and action strategy to move society to eliminate toxic pesticides and fertilizers in the next decade. In all our messaging, scientific and policy analyses, and hands-on community-based work, we advance a transformative response to these existential crises, urgently advancing systems of land and building management that are in sync with nature—through organic systems.

We are educating and advocating for systemic change in the way communities think about their ecosystems and living with nature, deriving both public and environmental health benefits.

As communities debate the contribution that they can make to resolving the crises for current and future generations, our program explains the practical steps for managing outdoor and indoor spaces without toxic chemicals. Since municipalities are often the biggest landowners in their jurisdiction, we focus on teaching soil management systems that increase resiliency and become a model for communities nationally and worldwide.

# Our Call for the End of Toxic Pesticides Is Borne Out of Our History

Yes, we are working to speed up the transition to organic systems. Organic is growing—but not fast enough. Our 41-year history has taught us that further tinkering with failed approaches to regulating allowable hazards associated with pesticides has not moved us fast enough to management systems that are not reliant on toxic substances. In fact, the approach of individual chemical campaigns outside of systemic change has kept us on a treadmill of chemical use, as our society has moved through the generations of toxic insecticides—from organochlorines (e.g., DDT, chlordane), organophosphates (e.g., chlorpyrifos), carbamates (e.g., carbaryl and aldicarb produced with methyl isocyanate—remember Bhopal), synthetic pyrethroids (e.g., permethrin, bifenthrin, etc.) to neonicotinoids (including imidacloprid, that are destructive of whole terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems)—toxic herbicides—from phenoxies (e.g., 2,4-D and others, like dicamba, with a similar mode-of action) to glyphosate (Roundup), deadly wood preservatives (e.g. pentachlorophenol, creosote, chromated copper arsenate), to **poisonous sanitizers** (e.g., quaternary ammonium compounds). The list of poisons goes on and includes hazardous fungicides, rodenticides, and others. We are working to end the treadmill as the existential crises brought on or exacerbated by these chemicals have begun and loom larger on the horizon—not one chemical at a time, but through a transformative approach that is efficient and cost-effective (and profitable in the private sector) and is a proven success with models now in place.

## Our Message Meets the Challenges

## **Adopt Meaningful Change** with Urgency

We long ago learned that meaningful change requires strategies that nurture life and prevent harm. In this context, we provide on every issue we tackle a clear critique of the problem, scientific and social analysis, and an articulation of the solution—with defined organic management practices that encompass a solution for the existential health, biodiversity, and climate crises of our time.



The scientific facts that demand action call for an urgency that is still not operationalized as widely as is needed. The need for urgency is seen in succinct pieces through our Daily News analysis with accounts of the emerging science that speak loudly to the need for changing to holistic organic practices that eliminate those harmful methods and materials. We also challenge chemical industry political power, which serves its vested economic interests instead of the social good and the sustaining of life itself.

## **End Disproportionate Harm**

Critical to our analysis and educational work is the disproportionate risk of the existential crises to people of color and occupational groups. We seek to eliminate disproportionate harm, with elevated rates of pesticide-induced diseases among those who live in fenceline communities where chemicals are produced, in farmworkers who harvest the nation's food, and in landscapers who manage our parks, children's playing fields, and neighborhoods.

## **Embrace Organic** as the Solution

The science of land and building management informs the organic solution to the existential health, biodiversity, and climate crises. This approach teaches that we do not need to use petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers to achieve goals in managing land, growing crops, or maintaining buildings and homes. With attention to both our experiential data and the scientific literature on soil health and ecological balance, we advance defined, productive, and cost-effective practices that eliminate toxic practices that are destructive of nature and the health of biological systems.











## **Our Strategies Empower Action**

## **Eliminate Petrochemical Pesticides and Fertilizers**

Our educational work takes many forms and meets people and communities where they are. To do this, we maintain up-to-date databases with thousands of studies that inform action strategies that eliminate toxic pesticides and fertilizers. These databases make technical science understandable to laypeople, show the link between pesticides and public health threats (from cancer, reproductive problems, nervous system and respiratory effects, diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and learning disabilities, including autisim) and biodiversity decline (from pollinators to microbiome)—and provide the tools for implementing organic methods for specific insect and land management challenges.

## **Transition to Organic with Hands-on Support**

We provide hands-on support to advocates and local municipalities. Through this work, we create models for ending petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer use in policy and practice—in the organic management of community parks, playing fields, and open space. We bring to the community site-specific recommendations, plans, and training. This includes technical information and a systems-approach that nurtures soil biology, which cycles nutrients naturally and results in more resilient landscapes that retain moisture and withstand stress associated with use and weather. Through our program, we are partnering with 51 communities in 26 states and growing.

## **Keep Organic Strong**

We are working to make organic mainstream. To ensure the integrity of organic, we work to uphold the principles and values of the standards that govern the definition of organic behind the USDA organic food seal and the

required inspection and certification process. While we do not yet have a seal or certification for nonagricultural landscapes, we use the soil-based systems approach that supports healthy plants and is codified in federal organic law. Maintaining the integrity of the organic definition requires us to maintain strong oversight of the National Organic Standards Boards (where Beyond Pesticides served) and the USDA's National Organic Program, as we work to rally the public to protect what we have helped build—a bright spot amid inadequate restriction of toxics in our lives.

## Adopt a Holistic Model Policy

Our experience with strategies that work and meaningful change informs model local policy that bans toxic pesticides and fertilizers and defines allowable materials compatible with organic systems. Our model challenges overall toxic chemical dependency and supports the changes necessary to get off the chemical treadmill. In the last year, two communities, Maui (HI) and South Portland (ME) have adopted the full model and demonstration sites have been established to teach organic land management in a dozen communities, including landmark pilot projects in the five boroughs of New York City.

#### **Network and Educate**

We have a robust and unique program that directly interacts daily with the public. Our open phone lines and direct email access allow people to talk with us about the issues they are facing and strategize on moving to a solution. This work is carried out through our unique clearinghouse, the Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information, where we help to convert community and individual concern about adverse effects to solutions that prevent harm. Our National Forum Series offers the public an opportunity to hear and interact with leading scientists, organic practitioners, and advocates.





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## 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.

#### 2021

- 12/20 EPA Needs To Make Environmental Justice Connections
- 12/13 Don't Give Poisoned Gifts: Socks, Sweatshirts and Other Items May Be Treated with Toxic Chemicals
- Ban Bug Bombs: They're 12/06 Toxic and They Don't Work
- 11/29 Stop the Poisoning of the Farallon Islands in California
- 11/22 Document and Preserve Biodiversity—Become a Citizen Scientist
- 11/15 USDA Should Fight Childhood Obesity through Organic **School Lunches**
- 11/09 Will Your State Adopt a Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy?
- Tell EPA that the Failed Pesticide 11/01 Program Needs a New Start
- 10/22 Tell EPA To Protect Endangered Species from Pesticides
- 10/18 Stop the Use of Toxic Pesticides in State Parks and Transition to Organic Land Management
- Reform or Whitewash? USDA 10/11 Needs To Support Public Health and Biodiversity
- 10/04 Tell EPA and Congress To Protect the Integrity of Minimum Risk Pesticides

- 09/27 Last Chance To Protect Organic this Fall—Submit Comments by September 30!
- 09/20 Can We End the Sixth Extinction?
- 09/18 Organic Must Lead the Way in Environmental and Health Protection
- Save Organic Dairy, Family 09/07 Farms and Consumer Support for Organic
- Tell EPA To Finish the Job in 08/30 Banning Chlorpyrifos
- 08/23 Tell EPA Biopesticides Must Be Redefined
- 08/16 EPA Must Ban Pesticides Unless Shown Not To Be Endocrine Disruptors
- Biden EPA Must Hold Pesticide 08/09 Manufacturers Accountable for Poisoning!
- Tell USDA To Ensure that 08/02 **Organic Farming Protects** Ecosystems
- 07/19 Schools Must Provide and **Encourage Organic Food**
- 07/12 Tell Your Congressional Reps To Cosponsor Saving America's Pollinator Act
- 07/06 Are Big Dairies Undercutting Organic Milk Producers and Organic Integrity—and What Can We Do About It?
- 06/28 Tell EPA to Ban All Triazines
- The Week of June 21 is 06/22 Pollinator Week—A Time to Take Personal and Community
- 06/14 EPA Must Consider Cutting-Edge
- 06/09 Tell Home Depot and Lowe's to Promote Herbicide Alternatives
- 06/02 EPA Must Protect Farmworkers
- 05/25 Regenerative Agriculture Can Fight Climate Change—But Only If We Define It Correctly
- 05/17 Tell EPA to Ban Chlorpyrifos and Other Neurotoxic Pesticides
- 05/10 USDA Must Complete Rulemaking Initiated by the National Organic Standards Board
- Tell EPA To Remove Risky 05/03 Disinfectants from Its Recommended List

- 04/26 Tell Your U.S. Representative and Senators To Support the Agricultural Resilience Act
- Take the Ladybua Pledge, Support Beyond Pesticides and Bring Organic Landcare to Your City
- 04/12 Plan Now to Attend the National Pesticide Forum
- 04/06 Ban Endocrine Disrupting Pesticides Now To Protect People and Wildlife
- Tell EPA and Congress To Save 03/29 the Hummingbirds
- 03/22 Tell the NOSB To Keep Antibiotics Out of Organic!
- 03/16 Tell FDA and USDA To Get Heavy Metals Out of Baby Food
- 03/05 Tell EPA To Stop the Sale of Deadly Seresto Flea Collars
- 03/01 Support National Reckoning to Bridge Racial Divides with Meaningful Actions
- 02/22 Help Get Congress To Support National Biodiversity Strategy Legislation
- Shift to Organic Farming, Not 02/16 Carbon Trading, Is Critical To Thwart the Climate Crisis and **Biodiversity Collapse**
- 02/08 Tell Agencies New Executive Order Requires Bold Regulatory Action
- Save Monarch Butterflies from 02/01 Extinction
- 01/25 Tell EPA To Reverse Approval of Highly Toxic Insecticide Aldicarb on Oranges
- 01/21 Tell the Biden USDA and Congress To Protect COVID Relief for Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and Military Veteran Farmers!
- 01/11 Tell President-Elect Biden and Congress To Clean Up EPA— End the Era of Corporate Deception
- 01/04 Secure Your Food and the Future of Local Organic **Farmers**



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ur Parks for a Sustainable Future program provides in-depth training to assist community land managers in transitioning demonstration sites, including playing fields and parks, to organic land-scape management. Through the pilot sites, we provide land managers with the knowledge and skills necessary to transition all public land in their municipality to organic practices.

# Model Policies and Community Engagement

Working with grassroots leadership, we share our model policy, which bans toxic pesticides and fertilizers and allows only those materials permitted under the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), a law passed by Congress in 1990. The framework of the law and the allowed materials compatible in an organic system are applicable to all landscapes because it establishes the components of a soil management plan and is regularly reviewed to ensure that up-to-date information and science are being considered. With the regulatory standards of OFPA, referenced in our model policy, localities can easily identify fully vetted materials allowed for use in an organic land management system. Beyond Pesticides maintains a list of allowed products.

## Launching a Landmark Project for the Nation and Globe

Our program is working in 51 communities in 26 states and major cities, including a landmark project in New York City that launched demonstrations across all the city's boroughs. To the communities we are working with Working with grassroots leadership, we share our model policy, which bans toxic pesticides and fertilizers and allows only those materials permitted under the Organic Foods Production Act.

## **VISION**

**Envision an organic community** where local parks, playing fields, and greenways are managed without toxic pesticides and fertilizers, where children and pets are safe to run around on the grass—and bees, other pollinators, and the ecosystem are safeguarded from toxic chemicals. At Beyond Pesticides, this is the future we envision and represents the keystone of our transformative work to eliminate petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers.

With the support of donors, foundations, and our partnership with Natural Grocers (which operates 162 stores in 20 states west of the Mississippi River), and Stonyfield Organic (the national yogurt and dairy company), and dozens of communities in all regions of the country, we are bringing this vision to life.

(we maintain a three-year consultation commitment), we added: Norwalk (CT), Brookline (MA), Wilmington (NC), New York City (NY), Denton (TX), Midway (UT), Egg Harbor and Door County (WI). These add to our continuing support of communities that are in their second and third years and serve as models nationwide. To expand the program, we are always reaching out to prospective communities, most recently Oceanside and San Diego (CA), Hallowell (ME), Kansas City (MO), Dubuque (IA), and Los Alamos (NM).





Portsmouth, New Hampshire demonstration site.

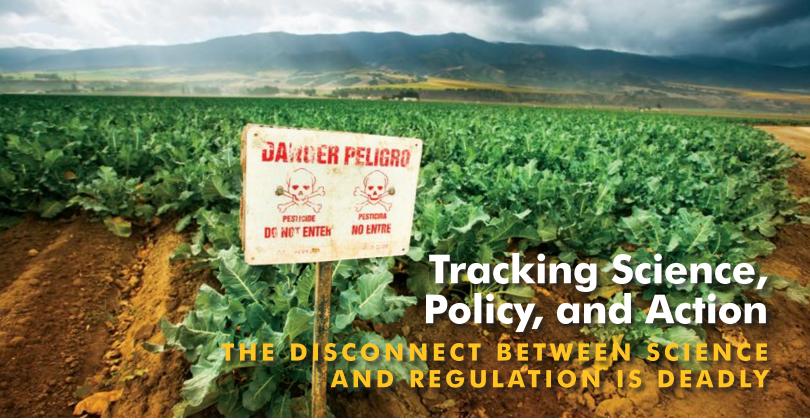
## **About Parks for** a Sustainable **Future**

### **NUTS AND BOLTS**

The organic land management program process includes the following:

- The community, through a local government official, submits an Action Plan, or good faith agreement, after a discussion between Beyond Pesticides staff and local officials in charge of
  - land management, usually the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The community chooses two pilot sites in the community to transition to organic management. We encourage the community to select sites with a range of uses from playing fields to parks, including a high use/heavy traffic site to showcase the program for residents.
- A questionnaire on management practices is completed by park officials to provide information on current and past management practices on the pilot sites.
- Soil samples are taken from the pilot sites to analyze soil structure, chemistry, and, most importantly, soil biology.
- Site photography is taken.
- When the questionnaire responses, soil data, and site photography are reviewed by our horticulturalist (Osborne Organics), a meeting is scheduled for organic land management training.
- · Training can be conducted virtually or on-site and includes background on organic methods, as distinguished from chemical-intensive practices, and soil health, as well as field conditions and initial recommendations. This provides an opportunity for Parks Department staff to ask questions and share information.
- We encourage the Parks Department to invite community members and surrounding communities to the training session, as well as hold a community meeting with residents and organizations to explain the program and the value that it offers for protection of health and the environment.
- After the training, we produce a detailed Organic Transition Management Plan with recommendations and a schedule of practices and material applications to transition the pilot sites to organic. We then schedule a meeting to review the plan.
- Beyond Pesticides remains available to consult with officials regarding implementation of the management plan throughout the pilot site transition, as well as implementation of the program on lands beyond the pilot site.
- · We urge the community to produce signage on the site, which we assist with, to educate community residents on organic land management practices that they can use on their property.
- With the goal being the establishment of model organic land management across the country, Beyond Pesticides will underwrite up to 100% of the costs of our partner Osborne Organics or an equivalent service provider. Community contribution to this program is based on the ability to pay, since we do not want cost to be an impediment to participation.





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## **Databases that Continue** to **Empower**

Daily, our program tracks the science that informs action and updates multiple databases (Gateway of Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management, Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database, What the Science **Shows**—on pollinators, and **ManageSafe**), housed on the Beyond Pesticides website, that are accessible to the public and decision makers. We continue to track scientific studies on specific pesticides like the weed killer glyphosate— contributing to local use restrictions—that document critical scientific issues and alert the public to the threat of pesticide use more generally. We reached over 50,000 people in all the states and dozens of countries worldwide. While specific chemicals are highlighted to indicate the deficiencies in regulatory protections,

## THE UNPROTECTIVE UNDERLYING **SAFETY STANDARD**

"We are so grateful to Beyond Pesticides as a trusted source of information throughout our journey—one that we were able to turn to and rely on. This has helped us learn and share valuable accurate information with our community and our village." — Community Activist

This statement of appreciation captures the importance of our databases and information as a tool for action.

our program has provided continuous tracking of hundreds of scientific studies, adverse effects to people, the environment, and pollinators, as well as the crosscutting impacts on biodiversity and the climate crisis. We updated our Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database (PIDD), enabling searches on expanded health issues. This important database has grown to include sections on autism, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, liver/hepatic cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, genotoxicity, endocrine disruption, sexual reproductive dysfunction, neurotoxicity, obesity, gastrointestinal disorders, body burden, and impacts to infants/children. We created a new webpage that captures the full range of resources that Beyond Pesticides offers. Key to advocating organic as the solution is our ManageSafe database on pest management strategies for specific insects or unwanted plants.

## **Weighing In on Regulatory** Failure—For the Record

Atrazine. With inadequate state and federal regulation, our program turns to local decision makers—whether in households, school or park districts, or local governments, and on farms—to consider the threat of pesticides and make the decision to eliminate their use. Our analyses point to regulatory deficiencies and compel local elected officials to engage with the issue. Our comments span a number of chemicals that are not being adequately regulated by EPA—from atrazine to glyphosate—and we establish for the record the need for broader and more holistic thinking by regulators. Our atrazine comments state:

The agency asserts risks to aquatic communities still remaining after adoption of all proposed mitigation measures, including a picklist of conservation practices that are outweighed by the benefits of atrazine use. We ardently disagree with this assertion as atrazine benefits are overstated and improperly considered. The agency's benefits assessment did not adequately consider loss of aquatic species and ecosystem services from impaired habitats and sensitive aquatic plant communities. The benefits of atrazine use are very much diminished by availability of alternative pest management practices. . . .

We remind EPA that their risk mitigation measures fall short and are unresponsive to broad concerns about environmental contamination.

**Glyphosate.** We have submitted regulatory comments on glyphosate for years, challenging the adequacy of the agency's risk assessment. As a co-plaintiff with farmworker organizations and Center for Food Safety, we won a case when the court rejected EPA's health risk assessment on cancer and endangered species, but under weak federal pesticide law EPA was only required to redo its analysis. Our quote that was widely picked up by the media said: "EPA's failure to act on the science, as detailed in the litigation, has real-world adverse health consequences for farmworkers, the public, and ecosystems," said Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides. "Because of this lawsuit, the agency's obstruction of the regulatory process will not be allowed to stand, and EPA should start shifting food production to available alternative non- and less-toxic practices and materials that meet its statutory duty."

**Chlorpyrifos.** When EPA announced the phaseout of the brain-damaging insecticide chlorpyrifos in August 2021, it was a teachable moment. We wrote in a commentary, "Are Children, Agricultural Workers, and the Food Supply Safe with EPA's Chlorpyrifos Decision?": "[T]he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) announcement that it is stopping food uses of the insecticide chlorpyrifos after being registered 65 years ago provides us with an important opportunity for reflection, not just celebration. The collective effort to remove this one chemical is a tremendous feat in eliminating one exposure to a hazardous material for children. That is the point. The action we're celebrating required an amazingly resource-intensive effort at a time in history when we are running against the clock in an urgent race to transition our society and global community away from the use of petroleum-based, toxic pesticides—to move to meaningful practices that sustain, nurture, and regenerate life." We added historical context to this decision after the agency had agreed to a phaseout of all residential uses in 1999.

#### Disproportionate Harm and Institutional Racism.

We stated in comments to EPA Administrator Michael Regan: "While we are encouraged to see the formation of EPA's new Office of Environmental Justice and Civil Rights, the agency has a historical bias against preventive action to ensure the protection of those disproportionately poisoned by toxic chemicals. While critically important to clean up contaminated communities, EPA must stop the flow of toxic pesticides at the front end because of the disproportionate poisoning effects of use, handling, transportation, and disposal. We live in an age of practices and products that make toxic pesticides unnecessary and their use unconscionable. Yet, EPA insists on the acceptability of harm (which it calls risk), despite its failure to (i) recognize comorbidities and preexisting health conditions, (ii) consider a combination of multiple chemical exposure interactions, and (iii) cite extensive missing health outcomes information (e.g., on endocrine disruption) and a resulting high level of uncertainty."

## **Movement in Hawai'i**

#### **Kula Agriculture Park Expansion**

Legislation designating the next phase of Maui's Agricultural Park (31 farm lots ranging from 10 to 30 acres for a total of

445 acres and supports 26 farmers) as organic-use-only has been drafted and is before the County Council.

## New Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

We worked with advocates and council members to ensure that department director requirements, staff structure, and functions, as defined by Maui County Code for the



new county agriculture department, ensures a focus on sustainable agriculture, circular economies, and climate change solutions, so that the department does not become another well-resourced advocate for chemical-intensive agriculture. Requiring "knowledge of ahupua'a [traditional] connectivity," gives indigenous and organic farmers a huge advantage for the director's position.

#### Maui Hub

Maui Hub, serving 57 farms and producers, celebrated its second birthday, increasing access to organic food produced on Maui, and equitable access to that food across income levels.

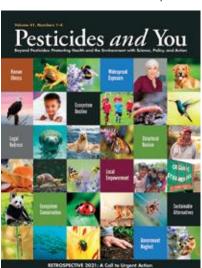
#### **Monsanto and Threat to Biodiversity**

We toured with *The Guardian* reporter on Maui in the lead up to an major article, connecting her with Hawaiian farmers on colonialism, corporate agriculture, and their threat to indigenous farming.

# Intersectional and **Transformational Change**

## **CONNECTING PETROCHEMICAL PESTICIDES TO CRISES** IN HEALTH, BIODIVERSITY, AND CLIMATE

eyond Pesticides' program uniquely operates at the intersection of **science** relating to adverse effects of pesticides and the benefits of organic, policy relating to organic and toxic chemical laws at all levels of government, and **practices** that implement a vision for sustainability and regeneration to protect health and the environment. Our work in this area over the last year is organized into nine sections that define the problem and solution, in a substantial way, to the existential threats related to health decline, biodiversity collapse, and the



climate emergency. As captured by

#### Retrospective 2021: A Call to Urgent

**Action**, a special issue of Pesticides and You, our framework to inform urgent action falls into the following categories, which support our 10-year goal to eliminate toxic pesticides and fertilizers, and elevate the urgent need for governmental, corporate, and individual action at all levels:

- 1. Pesticides Tied to Widespread Health Threats Adding to the Body of Science: Human Illness;
- 2. Pesticides Wreak Havoc on Ecosystems Adding to the Body of Science: Ecosystem Decline;
- 3. Studies Show Pesticide Exposure To Be Insidious

Adding to the Body of Science: Widespread Exposure;

4. Disproportionate Pesticide Harm Is **Racial Injustice** 

Documenting Victimization: Structural Racism;

- 5. Regulatory and Statutory Failures Inflict Harm Documenting Government Capture by Industry: Government Neglect;
- 6. Localities and States Face Challenges Ignored by Fed—Taking Protective Action Local Empowerment;



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7. Courts Serve as Venue for Corporate and **Government Accountability** 

Acting in the Public Interest: Legal Redress;

- 8. Research Shatters Myth of Pesticide Benefits Documenting Unreasonable Risks: Sustainable Alternatives:
- 9. Organic Management Practices Ensure a Sustainable Future

Fighting for a Livable Planet: Ecosystem Conservation.

## **How We Advance Change**

The science, policy, and action captured in the Retrospective 2021 issue is our roadmap for empowering people and grassroots organizations to engage with our vision for a world without toxic pesticides. Based on the importance of healthy ecosystems, the organic solution to problemsidentified through our daily contact with people nationwide and globally and our critiquing the scientific literature—are within reach. The data we track and make available to the public creates an imperative for action now—while ensuring food productivity, resilient land management, and safe food, air, and water. In this context, Beyond Pesticides works in partnership with a network of allies that we help to do the critical work in their communities, states, nationally, and internationally.

# Defining the Intersection of Pesticides and Existential Crises

The momentum of our work continues to grow. Our databases and factsheets that capture the hazards of pesticides and the alternatives that eliminate the reliance on them are growing in use, as people look to stop toxic pesticide use. This still does not represent mainstream thought, but we see an increase in requests for support and information. As the urgency associated with existential health, biodiversity, and climate crises escalate, we increasingly shift our focus from stand-alone individual pesticide ban campaigns to opportunities to advance transformative change with organic systems. Therefore, when we target an individual pesticide, we identify it as representative of the foundational need to shift to holistic management systems that manage land and buildings. The Beyond Pesticides 2022 National Forum Series provides for a clear discussion and data that define the urgency of the problem and the need to transition to organic. (See pages 14–15.)

The advocates we work with at the local level want action and increasingly recognize the deficiencies in the protection provided by environmental, public health, and agricultural regulators. We work to bring awareness through not only a critique of governmental chemical reviews but by disseminating independent scientific findings from the peer-reviewed literature, which must inform sound decision making. With this, we work to cultivate increasingly more energy and power at the local level to advance policy and practice changes that can be adopted locally to protect health and the environment.

# **Exercising Democratic Decision Making**

Where there is a failure of the federal law and regulatory system to adequately restrict pesticide use, our information is a powerful tool for action. Therefore, we continue to press for local policy to fill the gap in urgently needed action to protect health and the environment. Our up-to-date information and the clear links to the existential crises become a more-and-more compelling basis for repealing preemption of local authority—in all the states that currently deny local governments the democratic right to stop hazardous pesticide use on all private land within their jurisdiction, not just public land.

# Moving Beyond Individual Chemical Strategies

As we build public awareness of the chemical threat at the community level, we increase understanding of the deficiencies in regulations and statutes that govern overall pesticide use. In this context, replacing a pesticide like glyphosate (Roundup), which has captured mainstream attention, with another toxic weed killer does not solve the problem. While it may be simpler and cleaner to advance a proposal to ban a pesticide, our program adopts a holistic strategy that stops chemical-dependent land management practices. This requires community understanding of soil health, changes in management practices, and different inputs that are not harmful to health and compatible with ecosystems. It requires understanding of ecological impacts and health effects, from soil microbiota to aut microbiome. This is the charge of Beyond Pesticides' program, as more people and decision makers are listening and ready to act.

#### **ADVANCING A REGULATORY OVERHAUL**

We spearheaded a letter and analysis to EPA—joined by 37 environmental and health groups, farm organizations, and beekeeper councils—after a news outlet disclosed corruption at the agency. With a list of inadequate actions by EPA, we called for the agency to: (i) utilize the "unreasonable" adverse health effects standard of law to be holistic and precautionary, (ii) conduct proper alternatives analyses to determine the availability of practices and products that eliminate toxic chemicals, (iii) reject corrupt data with a moratorium on accepting registrations from fraudulent manufacturers, (iv) apply the science of endocrine disruption, affecting more than 50 pesticides that have not been regulated as required by law, and (v) engage in holistic reform, as authorized by the Presidential Memorandum, Modernizing Regulatory Reform, which sets the stage for the urgent adoption of agency policy across government to seriously confront the climate crisis, biodiversity collapse, and disproportionate harm to people of color communities (environmental racism) and those with comorbidities/underlying health conditions.



# Center for Community Pesticide and Alternatives Information

## NATIONAL FORUM SERIES: HEALTH, BIODIVERSITY, AND CLIMATE: A PATH FOR A LIVABLE FUTURE

he Center is the place where people and organizations, elected officials, and government managers and staff can contact us for information and strategic brainstorming. This is where we house our databases, produce publications, post our Daily News, and disseminate Action of the Week. It is also the place where we bring people together and provide an opportunity to meet leading scientists, organic practitioners, and activists.

### **National Forum Series**

This year we planned a new approach to our annual Forum, a 3-part seminar series, Health, Biodiversity, and Climate: A Path for a Livable Future, available for free, and then available on our website. Over 630 people registered from the U.S. and 16 other countries. In each category of our involvement with health, biodiversity, and climate—whether working with professionals or laypeople, local elected officials or concerned advocates —we play a critical role in enhancing public understanding of the science and the practical hands-on experience to inform the urgent steps that must be taken at the local, state, and national levels. In this context, we teach that with these existential threats there is disproportionate risk to people of color communities and those with health vulnerabilities.

### **SEMINAR 1** HEALTH



The Problem: We start the Forum Series with a medical doctor who has both treated and studied the effects of toxic chemical exposure, with a focus on pesticides, throughout our daily lives. Claudia Miller, MD, MS provides us with a framework for

understanding the dire health implications of the current dependency on pesticides and toxic chemicals and the failure of the regulatory system to fully evaluate and control for the range of adverse effects and complexity of their interactions. Dr. Miller is professor emerita at the University of Texas San Antonio. Her work has documented what is called Toxicant Induced Loss of Tolerance (TILT), which captures the disease process and range of nervous system symptoms that individuals develop as a result of

low-level chemical exposures, raising connections to a wide range of public health diseases. Dr. Miller is the coauthor of numerous peer-reviewed publications, and the professionally acclaimed book, Chemical Exposures: Low Levels and High Stakes. Dr. Miller's current research involves the relationship between synthetic chemical exposures and disruption of the gastrointestinal microbiome.



The Solution: The solution is found in a transition to management practices that are no longer dependent on toxic inputs and respect the value of nature and works in partnership with the diversity that it offers. This discussion is led by an indigenous

farmer, Kaipo Kekona, who is working in Hawai'i to regenerate and sustain traditional farming production on former sugarcane land. Mr. Kekona manages a 12.5 acre-farm site for the Ku'ia Agricultural Education Center in the ahupua'a of Ku'ia on Legacy Lands of Keli'i Kulani (foothills of the West Maui Mountains). Critical to the mission for the site is to not only reclaim space as a native historical food property, but also introduce to the community the practices that encourage a healthier food system and the soil health that forms the foundation of productive land management. Mr. Kepona brings the teachings from indigenous practices that have proven to be resilient, healthy, and respectful of life. He serves as the educational coordinator and project director at the Center.

## **SEMINAR 2 BIODIVERSITY**



The Problem: By some scientific estimates, published in Science, "Current rates of extinction are about 1,000 times the likely background rate of extinction. Future rates depend on many factors and are poised to increase." (2014) According to

the Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, produced by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), "Harmful economic incentives and policies associated with unsustainable practices of fisheries, aquaculture, agriculture (including fertilizer and pesticide use), livestock, forestry, mining and energy (including fossil fuels and biofuels) are often associated with land/sea-use change and overexploitation of natural resources, as well as inefficient production and waste management." Lucas Alejandro Garibaldi, PhD, professor and director, Institute for Research in Natural Resources, Agroecology and Rural Development, Universidad Nacional de Rio Negro, Argentina, is part of an international community of scientists both documenting the existential biodiversity crisis and calling for transformative change. He is a contributor to the IPBES report and co-chair the Transformative Change Assessment, which is charged with outlining the options for achieving the 2050 vision for biodiversity.



The Solution: The IPBES report endorses the transition away from pesticide-laden agricultural practices and toward sustainable agriculture to meet the challenges of protecting and enhancing biodiversity. Organic land management systems that

eliminate fossil fuel-based toxic pesticides and fertilizers makes a substantial contribution in addressing the dire threat to biodiversity. Bob Quinn, PhD, farmer and miller (Montana Flour and Grains) in Big Sandy, Montana has lived the value of organic food production and land management since the full conversion of his 2,400-acre family farm in Montana in 1989. His experience charts a course that can and must be embraced as a solution in the U.S. and worldwide. He coauthored Grain by Grain: A Quest to Revive Ancient Wheat, Rural Jobs and Healthy Food (2019) with Liz Carlisle (professor in the Environmental Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara). Bob served on the first U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Standards Board and has also served on a USDA agriculture research advisory committee and on Montana's first organic certification advisory board.

#### **SEMINAR 3** CLIMATE



The Problem: As stated in the United Nations Environment Program and World Health Organization report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, "The

report recognizes the interactions of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies, and integrates knowledge more strongly across the natural, ecological, social and economic sciences than earlier IPCC assessments." As the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, told the leaders of more than 40 countries at the 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue in Berlin in 2022, "We have a choice. Collective action or collective suicide. It is in

our hands." Rachel Bezner Kerr, PhD, is a professor in Global Development at Cornell University, and does research in Africa on sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, food security and nutrition. She has published over 80 scientific articles. She was a Coordinating Lead Author for the 2022 UN IPCC report. Dr. Bezner Kerr also served as a member of the High Level Panel of Experts for the UN Committee for World Food Security, coauthoring the 2019 report on agroecology. She does long-term research in Malawi and Tanzania, using participatory research methods to test the impacts of agroecological approaches on livelihoods, nutrition, and sustainable land management for rural communities.



The Solution: The Rodale Institute produced a White Paper, Regenerative Organic Agriculture and the Soil Carbon Solution (2020), which outlines a strategy, based on the Institute's research, for combating the climate crisis. The report analyzes

the explosive amount of data available on soil carbon sequestration potential in the past decade to conclude that a global switch to regenerative crop and pasture systems could draw down more than 100 percent of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The report builds upon findings first released by the Rodale Institute in the widely read 2014 white paper, Regenerative Organic Agriculture and Climate Change: A Down-to-Earth Solution to Global Warming, integrating the newest research data while providing actionable steps for consumers, policymakers, farmers, and more. The publication shows that a global switch to a regenerative food system could not only feed the world while reducing chemical exposure and improving biodiversity and soil health but could also be the key to mitigating the climate crisis. The paper was compiled through extensive peer-reviewed research data and interviews with leaders in the fields of soil microbiology, ranchland ecology, agronomy, and more, as well as research conducted in Rodale Institute's world-renowned long-term trials comparing organic and chemical-intensive practices—the 40-year-old Farming Systems Trial. Andrew **Smith, PhD**, chief operations officer at Rodale Institute, is passionate about growing the organic movement, is coauthor of the 2020 report, and is a trained entomologist with over 20 years of experience working in the organic industry as an agronomist, researcher, and farmer. He owns a 140-acre organic farm with his wife where they raise Shetland sheep, grow fiber and fruit crops, and manage a Seed-to-Share garden and provide educational programming.

Recordings of these sessions are available at bp-dc.org/2022ForumRecordings.

# **Stopping Biodiversity Collapse**

## **Managing Landscapes and Ecosystems with Biodiversity**

e address the decline in pollinators as a crucial part of the crisis leading to the collapse of biodiversity. To this end, we support efforts in the states to adopt legislation that seeks to support pollinators through the establishment and protection of habitat and the restriction of pesticides. While these strategies are not always holistic, but focus on specific chemicals, they provide an opportunity to educate on the systemic nature of pesticide poisoning and contamination, and their adverse effect on ecosystems. We contributed to the drafting of revisions to the Saving America's Pollinators Act (SAPA) that improves the regulatory standard under which the proposed Pollinator Protection Board (PPB) determines whether the pesticide presents a hazard—based on the potential to cause harm, including injury, illness, or damage to honey and native bees, and other pollinators or pollinator habitat. This language would put pesticide regulation more in line with the precautionary approach of the European Union and other international bodies.

#### **NETWORKING WITH THE POLLINATOR FRIENDLY ALLIANCE** (MINNESOTA)

We spoke at the Best Practices for Pollinators Summit. The talk, Holistic Systems for Land Management, provides an overview of the hazards of pesticides and the need to eliminate hazardous pesticide use through the adoption of organic systems—pointing out the severe limitations of a chemical-bychemical approach to restricting pesticides.

#### **MOSQUITO SPRAY PROGRAMS'** INTERSECTION WITH ECOSYSTEM **HEALTH**

In addition to our collaboration with a broad coalition in Massachusetts to push back against a widespread spray policy for mosquito management, we continue to distribute widely our mosquito doorknob hanger to educate neighbors about prevention steps that can be taken to eliminate breeding sites and avoid pesticide spraying.

## **2022 Pollinator Week**

Pollinator Week integrated protection of pollinators with our organic transition work, as well as efforts to adopt policy. The piece we ran and campaigned on follows:

## **Our Action for Pollingtor Week** and Yearlong

## **Pollinators Still Need Help**

During Pollinator Week and yearlong, we work to track the science on threats to support action. Pollinators—bees, butterflies, birds, bats, and other organisms—make a critical contribution to plant health, crop productivity, and the preservation of natural resources, but their existence continues to be threatened by their pesticide-contaminated habitat.

#### Our actions include:

- Provide organic habitat on your own property and encourage your town to go organic. Since plant starts in many garden centers across the country are grown from seeds coated with bee-toxic neonicotinoid pesticides, or drenched with them, Beyond Pesticides has compiled and updates our Pollinator-Friendly Seeds and Nursery Directory of companies and organizations that sell organic seeds and plants to the general public.
- Tell your U.S. Representative and Senators to support the Saving America's Pollinators Act. By introducing this critical piece of legislation, U.S. Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) continues the fight against pesticides to protect pollinators in the face of the vested economic interests.
- Tell Kroger, the largest supermarket operator in the U.S., to adopt a pollinator protection policy that adequately addresses toxic pesticide use. Some of Kroger's competitors are taking action on pollinator health.
- Tell EPA and President Biden to ban all pesticides and coated seeds that harm pollinators—from neonicotinoids, fipronil, synthetic pyrethroids, organophosphate insecticides to the herbicide glyphosate—and assist land managers, from farmers to landscapers, to transition to organic practices that prohibit the use of these deadly chemicals.

iStockphoto/Jessica Zaccaria

# **Strategic Publications** and Communication

## **Informing Action**

eyond Pesticides' communications strategy continues to provide people, organizations, and influencers in their community with the information that is needed to effect change. We view our information channels and the issues we cover as an opportunity to engage with our approach to eliminating toxic pesticides and fertilizers and advancing the adoption of organic practices and products. To ensure that those we work with have the most up-to-date information, we are continually tracking the science on adverse effects and alternatives, updating our databases on hazards and safe practices, and developing materials that empower action. (See back cover for list of databases.)



#### Parks for a Sustainable Future

Steps to transition communities to organic land management.





#### **Share Your Art**

We ask people to share a photo, drawing, painting, or writing of their choice about a garden, favorite bug, favorite flower, etc., for a chance to be featured in the next issue of our Pesticides and You journal, our social channels, website, or Daily News. All appropriate art submissions post to the Art Page weekly.



## 2021 Financial Statement

#### REVENUE

TOTAL	\$4,725,911
Other Income	673
Interest Income	(678)
Rental Income	67,350
Settlements from Litigation	100,000
Publications Sales	10,053
Membership Dues	2,977
Contract Revenue	30,000
Contributions	937,360
Grant Support	1,207,000
Endowment (Jan. 1, 2021)	\$154,772
Fund Balance (Jan. 1, 2021)	\$2,216,404

EXPENDITURES	
Salaries, Taxes & Benefits	\$817,085
Printing & Duplication	39,679
Postage & Shipping	6,363
Telephone & Webpage	24,417
Travel	24,234
Consultants	481,653
Legal & Accounting	76,296
Supplies	3,769
Publications/Subscriptions	1,588
Grants	37,552
Interest Expense (on mortgage)	34,886
Utilities	7,082
Repairs & Maintenance	9,655
Security	2,780
Insurance	5,858
Real Estate Taxes	48,218
Depreciation	31,441
Licenses & Registrations	899
Bank & Credit Card Fees	5,289
Miscellaneous	2,193
TOTAL	\$1,660,937
Fund Balance (Dec. 31, 2021)	\$2,909,927

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 2021.

\$155,047

Endowment Fund (Dec. 31, 2021)

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Beyond Pesticides/Jay Feldman

## **Key Issues serving** as the basis for action

**Pesticide Contamination in Waterways Raises New Alarm** for Aquatic Life, Citing Poor Regulation — June 23, 2021

Second Highest Honey Bee Loss in 15 Years Documented — July 2, 2021

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Proposes to Drop 1.5 Tons of Rodenticide on National Wildlife Refuge — July 10, 2021

Typical Neonicotinoid Insecticides at Any Level Likely to Kill Off Wild Pollinators —August 4, 2021

Of Multiple Stressors, Pesticides Are the Most Harmful to Bees by Acting Synergistically to Increase Mortality — August 11, 2021

**Studies Show How Pesticides Harm Organisms that Form** the Foundation of Freshwater Ecosystems — September 15, 2021

**Conventional Agriculture Decreases Diversity of Gut Bacteria in Foraging Bats** — September 29, 2021

Fungicide Found to Jeopardize Male Pollinator's Ability to Find a Mate, as EPA Ignores Risk — May 3, 2022

**Climate Change and Industrial Agriculture Are** Supercharging the Insect Apocalypse — May 4, 2022

Study of Dramatic Flying Insect Declines Reinforces Earlier **Findings** — May 17, 2022

**Bat Losses Costing American Farmers Half a Billion Dollars Annually** — May 18, 2022

DDT Still Harming Birds of Prey, 50 Years After Its Ban — May 31, 2022

**Plastic Coated Pesticides Adding to Soil and Ecosystem Contamination with Microplastics** — June 3, 2022

Protect a Treasured National Wildlife Refuge from Shellfish Farming — June 6, 2022

Glyphosate Weed Killer Disrupts Bumblebees' Nest **Temperature, Leading to Colony Failure** — June 7, 2022

**Bird Conservation Needs Help from Policy Makers** — June 13, 2022

Disappearance of California Bumble Bees Calls for **Urgent Protection of Pollinators Nationwide** — June 23, 2022

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## **Beyond Pesticides works with allies in protecting** public health and the environment to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides.

ur work is based on two science-based premises: (i) scientific understanding of the toxic pesticide and fertilizer problem is key to motivating action, and (ii) proven, efficacious, and cost-effective solutions are available. The clarity and urgency of our conversation and strategy in communities have come into exquisite focus on: first, a frightening range of pesticide-induced health threats; second, biodiversity collapse and associated contamination of air, land, and water; and third, the climate emergency. All these crises—which intersect with fossil fuelbased pesticides and fertilizers—are upon us. To turn things around requires us to be holistic in our thinking—and put an end to petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers.

We facilitate activism of a broad range of community leaders and emerging leaders to: (i) transform their community's and state's approach to land management with organic practices, and (ii) hold public officials at all levels accountable to standards of health and environmental protection. We provide technical assistance to: (i) elevate community understanding of the health and environmental threats associated with pesticide use (including cradle-to-grave effects); (ii) understand current policy deficiencies and chemical and allied industry influence in government decision making; (iii) and effect the transition to holistic organic systems (practices and products) that eliminate the use of toxic pesticides and the associated hazards.

Beyond Pesticides' program uniquely operates at the intersection of policy (as it relates to organic and toxic chemical laws at all levels of government) and practices that implement a vision for sustainability and regeneration to protect health and the environment. In daily contact with grassroots people and organizations, we are purposefully flexible in responding to issues in real time and provide assistance to the public on a daily basis.

Donations to Beyond Pesticides are tax-deductible. The organization is incorporated in Washington, DC as a 501(c)(3) organization under IRS tax code.



## **BEYOND PESTICIDES**

701 E Street, SE ■ Washington, DC 20003 ■ 202-543-5450 info@beyondpesticides.org ■ beyondpesticides.org

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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 300 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 over 1,200 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.