BEYOND PESTICIDES

# Creating Community-Based Models for Change

SCIENCE-BASED ADVOCACY; MODEL ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY | JULY 2022-JUNE 2023

he time for systemic change is upon us, as we reflect on crises in health, biodiversity, and climate that are increasingly documented in the scientific literature and playing out in family and community catastrophes that are experienced across the U.S. and worldwide. Beyond Pesticides has structured its program to ensure public access to science that empowers action and focuses its resources on the implementation of model land management practices that eliminate reliance on toxics. These replicable models across the country support our call for the elimination of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers by 2032.

### Creating Models for What Change Looks Like

We call for the elimination of toxic pesticides and fertilizers as we show it can be done, documenting that reliance on these deadly toxics are unjustifiable and unnecessary. Our daily tracking of science and policy and the maintenance of databases provide decision makers and advocates with the justification for moving ahead—and moving urgently.

### Integrating Science, Policy, and Action

Beyond Pesticides' program for getting off the pesticide treadmill distinguishes itself from strategies that seek to amend or enforce a broken regulatory system propped up by deficient federal and state laws. The toxic pesticides we evaluate are merely the poster children



for a failed regulatory and statutory approach that continuously fuels the syndrome of pesticide dependency.

### ACTION OF THE WEEK-386,670 MESSAGES

Through Action of Week, our supporters and network submitted concrete actions to challenge policies and practices that harm the environment and public and worker health, maintain or increase pesticide use, or undermine the advancement of organic, sustainable, and regenerative methods.



### Hands-On Organic Land Management—Parks, Playing Fields, Lawns

We work with communities to transition their land to organic practices, having worked with over 50 communities, continued to facilitate the transition in over 25, and added Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA), Novato Unified School District (CA), and Austin, TX this year.

### Press Conference in New York City

Eco-Friendly Parks for All (a coalition spearheaded by Beyond Pesticides, The Black Institute, Grassroots Environmental Education, and Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai) held a press conference with the New York City Parks Deputy Commissioner for Environment



Jay Feldmai

and Planning, parks staff, and a City Council member, to announce demonstration park projects across the city. The event was held at Morningside Park in East Harlem.

### Advocating for Local Community Policy

As part of our testimony in Hallowell, ME, we presented our new factsheet, *Myths and Facts about Lawn Care Restrictions.* 



### **Keeping Organic Strong**

Some of the issues that we brought to the National Organic Standards Board to strengthen organic include: eliminating plastics; ending the 5% allowance of nonorganic ingredients in processed organic food when the organic form is viable; and, prohibiting ion exchange for creating synthetic resins in processed food.



### **Critiquing Government** Decisions

#### **OBJECTION FILED FOR FOREST** SERVICE SPRAY PROGRAM

In submitted comments, we objected to the U.S. Forest Service moving forward with a pesticide spray program under its Invasive Plant and Interfering Vegetation Treatment for the Allegheny National Forest.

### **RESTRICTING RODENTICIDES**

We evaluated rodenticides, like all pesticides, in the context of the availability of nontoxic approaches. We raised issues of 11 anticoagulants and non-anticoagulant poisons and their nontarget exposure to wildlife.

### **Unnecessary Chemical Exposure to Farmworkers**

We opposed California EPA's proposal to remove existing limits on the use of the highly toxic fumigant 1,3-D (Telone), highlighting the dangers to which farmworkers are routinely exposed. As an alternative, we advanced organic practices.



## Pesticides and You



### **Giving Voice** to Local **Rights**

We strived to protect local authority-now being negotiated



in the 2023 Farm Bill-to restrict pesticides more stringently than the state and federal government.

### **Protecting Hawai'i with Vision**

Our Hawai'i program protects a fragile ecosystem and its residents, serving as a model for work in the U.S. and worldwide.

### **40th National Forum: Forging a Future with Nature**

We gathered to empower effective action, with three Forum sessions that addressed biodiversity health and the organic solution, environmental justice, and community strategies for advancing, adopting, and implementing change.

A recording of Forum sessions is available at bp-dc.org/Forum2023.

For the complete Annual Report, see bp-dc.org/AnnualReport22-23.

### **Publications** and Communications

Daily News, Weekly News Update, Pesticides and You journal, Infographics, factsheets, including the updated 40 Most Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides (Health and Environmental Effects), and updated databases. Our website received 363,630 page views across 211 countries. To view our current and back issues, go to bp-dc.org/resources/journals.

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### **Protecting Biodiversity**

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We produced hard-hitting critiques of pesticides that serve as poster children for urgently needed systemic change.

### DEADLY FUNGICIDE

We tracked the widely used, broadspectrum, fungicide fenbuconazole, classified as "slightly toxic or nontoxic" to pollinators by EPA, but devastating to male mason bee mating behavior jeopardizing future generations of critically important pollinators.

#### THREATENED AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

We commented on, then sued, the U.S. Department of Interior with Protect the Peninsula's Future and the Coalition to Protect Puget Sound Habitat to stop a lease for a 50-acre industrial aquaculture operation in the Dungeness Wildlife Refuge (Washington state)—due to the known harm to migratory and residential birds, salmon, forage fish, other wildlife and their primary feeding areas.

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### **GIVE TODAY**

for a sustainable future without toxic pesticides and fertilizers! bevondpesticides.org/dona All donations are tax-deductible.

### **BEYOND PESTICIDES**

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