



# BEYOND PESTICIDES

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November 21, 2023

Dear Friend of Beyond Pesticides,

Happy Thanksgiving! We are honored and thankful to work with and support those leading community campaigns that are foundational to the change necessary for a livable future. We would be honored and thankful to have your support this holiday season.

I believe in bottom-up grassroots change amid the environmental and political chaos in the country and around the world. But, it's more than a belief. This is what we do every day at Beyond Pesticides, [with your support](#), as we search deep within ourselves—together with people and organizations in communities across the nation—and set out to meet the existential challenges of our time—the crises of chronic public health diseases, biodiversity collapse, and the climate emergency.

Yes, it is the time of year when [we ask you to support our exciting and important program](#). So, I am enthusiastically asking you to consider [supporting Beyond Pesticides this holiday season](#). I would like to tell you what we're up to and why our program is a **bright spot at a time when solutions seem out of reach**.

The bottom-up change I'm talking about begins in a community park, a playing field, or a schoolyard for children. It is here where we look at how the land is being managed and begin the process of creating, with hands-on assistance, a model for management practices. Why do we start here? This effort directly relates to (i) health of families, children, and pets, (ii) protection of pollinators, wildlife, and biodiversity, (iii) clean water and air, and (iv) an opportunity to tackle the climate crisis by eliminating petrochemical pesticide and fertilizer emissions and, additionally, drawing down atmospheric carbon. Our program at Beyond Pesticides informs the steps helpful to the adoption of this model, informed with science and access to experts in practices that adopt foundational principles of protecting health and the environment that supports life. It complements our work to advance organic agriculture.

Your [gift to Beyond Pesticides supports our three pillars](#):

- **We are values-based.** We start with the notion that we can and must protect the health of people and ecosystems, and confront the existential environmental crises that threaten life.
- **We are science-based.** We track the latest scientific literature and make it available in simple language, empowering communities to act.
- **We are practice-based.** We collaborate with community decision makers and land managers on a plan of action, imparting the skills to adopt organic practices in sync with nature.

The process of foundational change has begun in dozens of communities, where Beyond Pesticides is providing technical support to both rally the community and provide land management skills.

Our goal is to facilitate the transition to organic practices in hundreds of communities in the next five years until we reach a tipping point to eliminate these toxic practices in communities nationwide over the next decade.

What is happening at the grassroots is transformative in eliminating our dependency on toxic substances and adopting practices that improve public health and environmental quality. This is a necessity in the face of studies showing that we are threatening, beyond planetary boundaries, the ecosystems on which life depends. [Model parks, from Portland, Maine to Longmont, Colorado, exemplify the foundational change that is possible and practical.](#) As we advance change, these models show that it is no longer adequate to tinker with undefined “sustainable” or “regenerative” strategies. Rather we can eliminate the use of toxic materials starting from the ground up with defined organic practices.

Communities are seeing that the regulatory system in place at the state and federal level has failed to stave off the crises that we are experiencing nationally and worldwide. As a part of community education, we teach that **peer-reviewed science is not captured by the regulatory review of widely used pesticides**, so real impacts of the chemicals go unevaluated—including the effect of endocrine disruptors defying classical dose-makes-the-poison toxicology, epigenetic and multigenerational effects, impacts on the gut microbiome and the relationship to disease, and synergistic effects of multiple chemical exposures, to name a few. This information empowers local decision makers and land managers to move forward.

Our program focuses on the [“how-to” practical steps](#), utilizing organic practices and materials defined in the federal organic law that Beyond Pesticides helped to write, with a soil-building approach that enhances biodiversity.

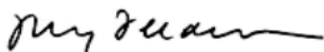
The **true cost of dependency on synthetic pesticides and fertilizers is extraordinary**. Studies consistently document that the harm of petrochemical-use-externalities (morbidity and health care, lost pollination, water contamination—and now the costs of floods, fires, mudslides, and storms)—must be incorporated into more realistic environmental cost accounting.

We define meaningful change based on the need for urgency to empower action with science, protect community health and ecosystems, and end disproportionate harm to people of color who, in many communities, are landscapers or farmworkers handling highly toxic pesticides.

We can and are moving forward. [I ask you to please consider supporting Beyond Pesticides](#) to meet the urgency of the moment and expand our work to an exponentially greater number of communities in the coming year. We can do it with your support.

[Please consider a gift this season](#) on our secure website at [bp-dc.org/give2023](https://bp-dc.org/give2023). Your support of any size makes a tremendous difference!

**Sincerely and all best wishes for the Thanksgiving holiday,**



**Jay Feldman**

**Executive Director**