



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Beyond Pesticides' program responds to the urgent need to address the public health and environmental crises of our times—climate crisis, insect apocalypse, pesticide-induced illness, and the dramatic decline in biodiversity. With on-the-ground practices and local policies, we replace fossil fuel-based, toxic, synthetic pesticides and fertilizers with organic management strategies.

Thank you for supporting  
Beyond Pesticides!

## TAKING A STAND

Beyond Pesticides' program supports a clear message: End toxic pesticide use and embrace organic practices and policies that respect the power of nature to heal—in the face of devastating and destructive toxic chemical-dependency. This past year elevated important public discourse on the threats that pesticides pose to health and the environment. We see in the mainstream culture increased understanding that pesticides threaten health, wreak havoc with ecosystems, create imbalances in nature that escalate threats—and are not needed for cost-effective land and building management. Also, reinforced in the last year, is a deep appreciation for the reality that local advocacy drives the changes that are critical to a livable future—scientific facts coupled with action advance the adoption of solutions that are within our reach.

## TAKING ACTION IN COMMUNITIES

Local land management and ordinances across the county are just as much about preventing hazards and filling an increasing gap in protection from regulators, as it is about recognizing the viability of sound land management practices. These practices do not use toxic chemicals and result in healthier and more resilient plant life that stands up to stress and is less reliant on limited water resources.

## PUTTING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS IN PLACE

Outdated chemical-intensive practices are tied to the belief that parks, playing fields, home lawns, and agriculture require toxic chemicals and synthetic fertilizers to meet expectations. So, an approach that recognizes the importance of soil biology in cycling nutrients naturally to feed plants is often new to many land managers who have not evaluated and nurtured the web of microorganisms living in the soil. Attention to soil systems has been foundational to the success of organic agriculture nationwide. Critics, who often have a vested interest or history in pesticide use and proclaim that organic does not work, are, in effect, challenging the underlying principles of soil management that have enabled the exponential growth of the organic agricultural sector—a \$50 billion industry and the fastest-growing part of the agricultural economy.

## ELEVATING SCIENCE THAT CALLS FOR THE URGENT NEED TO ACT

From a public health and environmental protection perspective, these are challenging times. Amid the attack on institutions and laws established to protect children, families, and the environment under the current federal administration, there is an incredibly positive groundswell of activity seeking to achieve these protections in communities across the U.S. We are inspired by the level of effective advocacy and changes in practices that are moving forward nationwide.



## MEETING THE CHALLENGES WITH A TRANSFORMATIVE STRATEGY

Our efforts focus on shifting communities' approach to land and building management to address critical health and environmental issues. To move this goal forward, we carry out activities that advance a holistic awareness of the complex adverse effects and unknowns associated with pesticide-dependent management practices and policies. On a daily basis, we bring attention to and broader understanding of the actual hands-on practices that are protective of health and in sync with nature.



# BEYOND PESTICIDES

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## CREATING MODEL COMMUNITIES

We effect changes in communities that serve as a model for other communities. We continue to develop tools that support change agents, whether they are advocates or elected officials. By providing technical skills to land managers, we ensure effective implementation of organic land management practices. Our organic transition on pilot sites continues in Richmond (CA), University of California Berkeley (CA) and the CA university system, Salt Lake City (UT), Hyattsville (MD), South Portland (ME), Dover and Portsmouth (NH), Longmont (CO), and Maui (HI) and the entire state, including the state school system. New projects have begun in University Heights and South Euclid (OH), Minneapolis (MN), New York City (NY), Pittsburgh (PA), Mt. Pleasant (SC), and Eugene, Springfield, and Talent (OR).

## CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PESTICIDE AND ALTERNATIVES INFORMATION

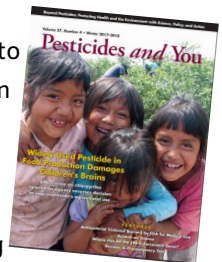
The Center serves as a hub for a range of regulatory and policy advocacy, information services to people nationwide and around the globe, networking through coalition work and the convening of our National Forum, and on-site training on organic land management in communities that are collaborating with Beyond Pesticides on demonstration organic parks and playing fields. **ManageSafe**, our database of practical solutions to pest issues, is a central clearinghouse of information on eliminating hazardous pesticide use. Our message is getting out through our neighbor-to-neighbor program, having distributed 286 Pesticide-Free Zone (ladybug and bee) signs and nearly 3,000 doorknob hangers on safe lawns and mosquito management in 43 states.



## REPORTS FOR CHANGE

### PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Beyond Pesticides issues unique reports to support local activism to move changes in practices and policies that eliminate pesticide use. Reports include: **Good Health Harmed by a Cascade of Complex Pesticide Effects**—Inadequate attention to complex human biology, underestimation of hazards, and the urgent need to transition to organic; **Pesticide Exposure and the Obesity Pandemic**—Exposures to endocrine disrupting pesticides echo down the generations; **Protecting Biodiversity with Organic Practices**— Study finds organic farming helps maintain healthy pollinator populations; **Pesticide Use Harming Key Species Ripples through the Ecosystem**—Regulatory deficiencies cause trophic cascades that threaten species survival; **Monsanto: Decades of Deceit**—Glyphosate/Roundup is the poster child for the bigger pesticide problem; and **Thinking Holistically When Making Land Management Decisions**—Regulatory analyses that support pesticide use ignore complex ecological impacts.



## BEE PROTECTIVE

### PROTECTING POLLINATORS AND THREATENED SPECIES; REVERSING THE INSECT APOCALYPSE



We released our animated short film, *Seeds that Poison*, which frames the pollinator issue in the context of pesticide-dependent land management practices that are harmful to biodiversity and positions organic as the solution. The film points to accumulated studies and data that have found pollinators, including native bees, butterflies and birds, are in decline. *Seeds that Poison* describes the impact of pesticide use and related factors such as parasites, improper nutrition, stress, and habitat loss.

## KEEPING ORGANIC STRONG

To elevate our voice, Beyond Pesticides announced the formation of a new investigative arm, OrganicEye. This watchdog agency will focus on defending the “time-honored philosophy and legal definition of organic farming and food production.” With Beyond Pesticides’ executive director having served on the National Organic Standards Board, this is a critical time to advocate for organic integrity.



The Forum, *Organic Neighborhoods: For healthy children, family, and ecology*, held in April 2018, contributed important science and strategy to participants and our extensive video library for pesticide and organic activism. The Forum was convened by Beyond Pesticides, University of California Irvine’s Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, and Non Toxic Irvine, with over a dozen state and local cosponsors.