

INSIDE

- Land Acknowledgement - p. 2
- A Climate-Resilient Oregon - p. 3
- Forests & Watersheds are Vital - p. 5
- Beyond Toxics Turns 20! - p. 6
- Our Health Depends on Clean Air - p. 8
- Elevating Non Toxic Oregon - p. 9
- Building an EJ movement - p. 11



Pictured (L to R) Beyond Toxics staff members: Krystal Abrams, Jennifer Eisele, Haley Case-Scott and Ana Molina. Posters designed by Nancy Miller | Photo by Emily Cook

Climate Change is an URGENT justice issue

As this year's climate-driven wildfires so tragically demonstrate, climate change is devastating our communities now. There is no more waiting! We must address the challenges our changing climate brings.

Over the past 20 years, our dedicated members have passionately supported our pioneering efforts to establish environmental justice in Oregon. Now, as Beyond Toxics heads into our next two decades, we need your help to pursue climate justice for our fellow Oregonians most impacted by climate change.

Join us in our effort to achieve long-term solutions. We must end a broken system that ignores environmental destruction and burdens the communities facing the greatest share of harsh environmental injustices. There has never been more urgency. We're at the forefront, fighting for meaningful



Haley Case-Scott, Climate Justice Grassroots Organizer, is the organizer of Lane County's Climate Equity and Resilience Task Force.

climate policy changes, bolstering community support and ensuring that justice, equity, diversity and inclusion are practiced in the real world.

To support our decisive leadership, Mountain Rose Herbs has generously agreed to match your gift to Beyond Toxics in December, up to \$10,000 in total donations. By giving now, you double your impact in support of climate justice. On #GivingTuesday, December 1st, 2020, you can join us online at 6:30 p.m. for a **virtual membership party, Rise Up for Climate Justice**. Join us to learn about and get engaged in our climate work.

We remain fierce advocates for diverse communities on the front lines of climate impacts. Our statewide leadership in environmental justice, serving as co-leads for the Oregon Climate Action Plan and the Lane County Climate Equity and Resilience Task Force, are shaping how our communities respond to the unique challenges of a changing climate. Our focus is on centering the needs and the voices of those who have the most to lose.

You are our close partners in this work. Please donate today with the enclosed envelope or online at beyondtoxics.org/donate. With your help we can provide the next 20 years of leadership for a clean and just Oregon climate.

Land Acknowledgement

The Beyond Toxics staff wish to share our Land Acknowledgement. Our intention is to honor the forgotten histories of the original people of this land and the knowledge and culture of their descendents who are living here today.

We respectfully acknowledge that the Eugene Beyond Toxics office is on Kalapuya Ilihi, the homelands of the Kalapuya people. This land is still occupied by descendents of the first nations of the Willamette Valley. We are honored to share the land and have a part in safekeeping the resources for future generations. While we are guests in their home, we set our intention to care for the land, its waters, its airs and protect the gifts of these lands. We are committed to respecting the rights, traditions and knowledge of the Kalapuya people.

Striving Towards a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Oregon

by Haley Case-Scott



Beyond Toxics plays a key role advancing clean air rules and strong protections from pesticides. As a nimble environmental justice organization, we are continuously assessing our campaigns. We do this to make sure we are achieving environmental justice that benefits everyone and is sound in science and the principles of sustainability. That is why our team has begun to look at climate through an environmental justice lens. In order to achieve environmental justice you must have climate justice as well.

"Climate change is a defining human rights issue at the intersection of environmental justice, racial justice, consumption and greed, and natural resource protection."

- Beyond Toxics staff shared principle

The 2019 Fourth Oregon Climate Assessment found that "the Willamette Valley experienced some of the worst air quality on the planet owing to smoke from wildfires near and far." Two years later, we unfortunately find ourselves in a similarly dire situation. The report also highlights the disproportionate impacts on overburdened communities including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, Tribes, and rural communities.

Fires, Climate and Air

The late summer fires that raged throughout

Oregon and the West Coast displaced thousands of people, and wiped out whole communities and towns up and down the McKenzie and Willamette valley, Southern Oregon, and Eastern Oregon. Although the wildfires were primarily caused by arson and downed power lines, unprecedented easterly hot winds and high humidity combined with drought created prime conditions for fires to spread into communities and forests. Those communities are still dealing with the aftermath of the destruction. Although these times present many challenges, Oregonians were still able to come together during the crises to build relief efforts.

It's more important now than ever that we coalesce in a similar fashion to solve and address the climate crisis. **If we do not take action, climate change will continue to impact our way of life and wellbeing.**

"Climate change creates new risks and exacerbates existing vulnerabilities in communities across the United States, presenting growing challenges to human health and safety, quality of life, and the rate of economic growth."

(4th National Climate Assessment)

(continued on page 4)

Striving Towards a Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Oregon - cont.

What is Beyond Toxics doing to advance climate justice?

We are taking action locally and on the state level to advance equitable climate action and policy. My job is to use our experience in environmental justice to help shape how Oregon will adopt climate-wise forest, agriculture and water policies with equity and inclusive mandates.

We're also building and strengthening new and existing partnerships on the ground. Beyond Toxics, in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Eugene/Springfield, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lane County Public Works Department. Through the MOU, Beyond Toxics and the NAACP have been tasked with the important job of creating a Climate Equity and Resilience Task Force. The Task Force's main goals are to advise Lane County's Climate Advisory Committee on equity and resilience principles. We've brought together community leaders and technical experts to

identify the vulnerabilities that exist in our communities and have begun to lay out a roadmap to creating equitable and sustainable strategies to address climate change and create resilience.

It's time for us all to come together to solve the current climate crisis at hand. ***This is no time for band-aid approaches!***

We are all called upon to realign our values and connection to the lands that we call home and the resources we need to survive. We must find solutions that benefit us all, and we must do so quickly and boldly.



Welcome to Danny Noonan, Climate Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager!



Danny Noonan is an advocate, strategist and campaigner whose early career has been dedicated to solutions to the climate crisis. Danny was a Climate Law Fellow and then Global Program Coordinator at Our Children's Trust from 2017-2020, where he developed and supported human rights-based climate change litigation in the United States, Canada, Mexico and elsewhere, and contributed to the scholarship on the role of litigation in the broader climate movement.

Originally from Sydney, Australia, Danny holds a J.D. from Sydney Law School and a Bachelor of International and Global Studies from The University of Sydney.

Danny is excited to bring his legal background and experience in national and international climate campaigns to Beyond Toxics' climate justice work in Oregon.

Forests and watersheds vital for trailblazing climate policy

by Lisa Arkin

In 2021 Beyond Toxics is working to create a bedrock of state laws advancing a new future of bold climate resiliency policies and solutions. It is up to all of us to make it impactful, dynamic and trailblazing! We're counting on you to join us to take on climate change!

In March 2020, Governor Brown issued Executive Order 20-04 that establishes new science-based greenhouse gas emissions goals for the state. Under EO 20-04, each state agency is directed to take actions to reduce emissions and address the impacts of climate change. Grassroots and climate policy organizations came together to form the Oregon Climate Action Plan (OCAP) coalition in response. Beyond Toxics is taking a leading role with the OCAP coalition, and will provide support to the Natural and Working Lands Policy Table. Under our review is how to use an environmental justice lens to look at managing forested lands, agriculture and waterways for carbon sequestration and resilient communities. Indeed, forests, agriculture and water are three critical systems forming the backbone of Oregon's climate health.

As the co-lead in this effort, we've created a new position at Beyond Toxics! **Danny Noonan**, our Climate Policy and Legislative Affairs Manager, will work to guarantee that the agencies managing Oregon's natural resources adopt the strongest possible actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on equity and ecological mandates. Supported by our seasoned environmental justice staff, we will connect

climate, environment, the history of colonization and socio-political issues to open up opportunities for impacted communities to be heard and supported.

I'm excited to share some of Beyond Toxics' non-negotiable guiding principles on climate policy.

Embed Equity into Decision-making: We must not only embrace, but require building racial and social justice into climate policy. We do this by valuing and inviting diverse representation from impacted communities at all decision-making levels. It also means public transparency and an end to backroom deals with corporate lobbyists.

End Legacy Pollution and Repair Communities: We want to see bold investments to end carbon and air pollution in a way that creates economic opportunity. That means ending the legacy of pollution that has poisoned tribal communities, communities of color and low-income communities. Repair means

building green jobs and sustainable energy infrastructure investments in communities that have been ignored and used as pollution "sacrifice zones."

Create Benchmarks and Monitor for Corporate Accountability: We must set high standards for carbon polluter accountability and meet benchmarks that benefit and rebuild impacted communities in a people-centered and regenerative way.

As Oregon transitions away from a fossil fuel-based economy and towards renewable energy and a regenerative economy, our climate and environmental team is up to the challenge of winning bold climate justice mandates.



A Beyond Toxics team investigates climate-wise strategies for forest management. L to R: Jennifer Eisele, Krystal Abrams, Lisa Arkin and tour guide, Dave Eisler.

Beyond Toxics is 20 years old!

20 years of organizing & policy victories



Mary O'Brien,
co-founder
of Oregon
Toxics Alliance,
the precursor
to Beyond
Toxics

Beyond Toxics comes into its 20th year of grassroots campaigns during a time of unprecedented challenges. A viral pandemic. The devastation of climate-induced droughts and fires. Racially-charged police and vigilante street violence. Collapsing ecosystems and food scarcity. Attacks on fair elections. The dire issues society faces mount one upon another. Of course, these are interconnected and systemic problems. Our environmental justice leadership and racially diverse staff is exactly what is needed to take on the challenges we collectively face. We are organizing without falter, *virtually* for the time being, and building upon our two decade history of winning victories for all Oregonians.

Twenty years ago at Breitenbush Hotsprings retreat center, a group of visionary environmental leaders, spearheaded by Mary O'Brien, gathered to create an environmental health non-profit, something that was absent in Oregon despite the work of many fine conservation organizations. Oregon Toxics Alliance was incorporated in January 2001. Ten years later, we committed to leading an environmental justice movement in Oregon, embracing a vision of winning protections to take us beyond toxic policies and practices. Soon after creating the new name, **Beyond Toxics**, we hired the first Latinx, bilingual full-time staff member and pursued projects to help the most impacted communities. In just twenty years, we've grown from a one-staff to a nine member team of dedicated, savvy, inter-generational and diverse people winning victories in all aspects of environmental health and justice.



Organizing support for rallies and testimony in favor of Clean Energy and Jobs legislation. In 2020, Gov. Brown stepped in with an Executive Order to mandate what groups like Beyond Toxics have been working toward for years.



Won IPM law to protect state-owned land from pesticide use in 2015. Pictured: Rep. Alyssa Keny-Guyer (left) and Lisa Arkin.



Organizing a multi-community fight against clear-cuts and aerial herbicide sprays in timber plantations, including Triangle Lake, Gold Beach, Rockaway Beach, Halfway, and more. In memory of Lynn Bowers (pictured) who sparked the timber herbicides movement in Lane County. You are not forgotten.

Beyond Toxics is 20 years old!



Hosting the first EJ Bus Tour to expose unjust air toxics policies. Pictured: Alison Guzman (center), former Environmental Justice organizer.



A strong team of advocates organized by Beyond Toxics and PCUN testified at the 2020 legislative hearing for the bill to ban chlorpyrifos in Oregon.



Ana Molina, Statewide EJ Manager (center), joins with Just Transition allies to advocate for social and environmental justice legislation in Salem.

Joel Iboa, our former EJ organizer, serves as the Chair of the Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force.



Tyrone Hayes, UC Berkeley scientist and professor did a 3-day residency with Beyond Toxics, UO and the community to present his Atrazine research.



Kat Herrera, dedicated board member: Treasurer, 2013-2016; VP, 2016-2018; President, 2019. Thank you for your years of service!

The pandemic makes clear: our health depends on clean air

by Lisa Arkin, with research assistance from Kylen Tromblay, OSU graduate student in Public Health and Nick Theis, UO graduate student

Breathing clean air is a human right. The inverse, breathing polluted air, is linked to serious health effects and underscores the truth that air toxics is a costly public health crisis. Air pollution touches us all, but undeniably harms communities of color and working class families in devastating ways that can extend into the generations that follow. Yet, we also know: the problem is preventable.

Our staff are appointed advisors to important policy decisions that will be presented to the public in 2021. We intend to use our seat at the policy tables to incorporate an environmental justice and a public health framework into Oregon's air quality and climate action laws.

Our local environmental justice and health research serves as a case study of how polluted local air is associated with chronic health conditions.

Our 2019-2020 West Eugene Environmental Health Community Survey highlights the fact that residential areas of West Eugene are surrounded by a circle of 35 manufacturing facilities, all of which emit volumes of air and water pollutants. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, our team of canvassers spent over 9 months interviewing residents to collect data on the community's experience with chronic air toxics exposures and health concerns.

Residents in the Roosevelt, Royal, and Danebo neighborhoods receive chronic and cumulative exposure to dozens of chemicals and tiny toxic

particulates mixing in the air. Multiple exposures to carcinogens, cardiovascular poisons and neuro-toxins from the industrial corridor puts this community into a category of highly exposed and susceptible populations. Here are the main conclusions from our data analysis:

- Households that detect local air pollution were 3.91 times as likely to report respiratory problems relative to households that did not report detection of toxics, controlling for other factors such as education, race and smoking in the household. This suggests that environmental contamination is associated with poorer health outcomes.
- Households in the Royal and Roosevelt neighborhoods who report experiencing polluted air are nearly twice as likely to report asthma than households farther from polluters.
- Households in the rest of Eugene reported stroke (0.5%) less than Danebo (9.6%), Roosevelt (6.1%), Royal (2.2%), and Trainsong (3.3%), showing a relationship between proximity to pollution and stroke incidence.

Bad air and higher incidence of respiratory problems, more common in West Eugene, are also linked to susceptibility to the SARS-CoV2 virus. This fact is corroborated by a nationwide analysis showing a clear link between long-term exposure to pollution and COVID-19 death rates.

These patterns played out in our own communities. As of September 30th, the West Eugene 97402 zip code reported twice as many cases

of COVID-19 per 10,000 people compared to the neighboring 97405 zip code and 1.19 times more cases of COVID-19 per 10,000 people compared to the University neighborhoods in the 97403 zip code (The Oregonian, 2020).

(continued on page 9)



Photo of West Eugene factory by Jake Jackson.

The pandemic makes clear: our health depends on clean air- cont.

As of September 30th in Lane County, Latinx residents comprise 18.2% of COVID-19 cases but they are only 9% of the county's total population (Tableau Public, 2020).

As the data clearly shows, communities of color, including those located in West Eugene, are disproportionately suffering from COVID-19. To some extent this may be related to air pollutants as a risk factor for respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

The results of our West Eugene case study underscores the known science that breathing dirty air causes respiratory illness and a range of other health problems, including pandemic viruses. Community-generated science is critical to our goal to end "politics as usual" that allows polluters to ignore the health of the communities downwind of their smokestacks.

“ Multiple exposures to carcinogens, cardiovascular poisons and neurotoxins from the industrial corridor puts this community into a category of highly exposed and susceptible populations. ”

Elevating Non Toxic Oregon Updates on our pesticide policy advocacy by Lisa Arkin

Our **Non Toxic Oregon Project** protects communities across Oregon from toxic pesticides. Our goal is to help those who care for the land - from park supervisors to farmers - be mindful stewards of our natural resources by choosing organic land care practices over synthetic pesticides.

Protect Oregonians from Pesticides – Upcoming 2021 Legislation We defend your right to be free from pesticide exposure and harm. We're working with state legislators and agencies on critical pesticide protection issues impacting our members.

Protecting school children. We've heard from parents that their school children are being subjected to carcinogens, hormone disruptors and neurotoxins from pesticide applications on school grounds. It's time to build upon our first legislative victory, the School Integrated Pest Management law (2009). What children deserve is an Organics First policy! Dousing



During the 2020 legislative session Beyond Toxics and PCUN organized a lobby day to give testimony in support of legislation to end the use of chlorpyrifos in Oregon.

weeds with pesticides is never more important than a child's right to a healthy and toxic-free childhood.

Chlorpyrifos – No more WWII chemicals in our food and bodies! By year's end, our unceasing work to protect Oregon farm workers and children from chlorpyrifos, an insecticide that causes brain-damage and cancer, should make a tremendous difference!

(continued on page 10)

Elevating Non Toxic Oregon Updates on our pesticide policy advocacy - cont.

Working with our partners PCUN, Oregon's farm worker union, we've exerted intense pressure on elected leaders and agency officials to put an end to all uses of this WWII nerve agent. Chlorpyrifos residue in food often exceeds safety levels, sometimes by as much as 140 times. Federal regulations fail to protect us, making it imperative for Oregon to completely phase out chlorpyrifos and stand up to the Trump Administration's refusal to follow the science.

2,4-D and Triclopyr – A volatile herbicide mix. Two more warfare chemicals are being marketed as residential herbicides to unsuspecting consumers. 2,4-D is half of the ingredients of Agent Orange, the notorious Vietnam War defoliant. Triclopyr was manufactured to replace 2,4,5-T, the banned ingredient in the other half of Agent Orange. Certain formulations of these two herbicides are now combined in common consumer products. The mixture can result in powerful toxic fumes. We've found numerous reports of health and property damage in Oregon. We're taking action to stop corporations selling deadly chemical technologies to unsuspecting consumers for backyard weed control. Join us in the fight to protect families from warfare chemicals too dangerous to be on consumer shelves. *Do you have a story about volatile herbicides like Crossbow? Call us for help!*

Clopyralid – The poison that won't decay. Many working class families started COVID victory vegetable gardens to help make ends meet during the pandemic shut down. However, when dozens of Portland families noticed their vegetables turning brown with stunted, curling leaves, they felt devastated. The problem turned out to be contaminated compost purchased at local gardening stores. An Oregon Dept. of Agriculture investigation determined that the problem was Clopyralid, an herbicide that is highly persistent in soil. Clopyralid contaminated the organic compost they purchased, which in turn, killed their garden veggies. Unless they remove all their garden soils, this Clopyralid contamination will last for years. We're helping these families find answers and reparations for their loss. Help us keep Clopyralid out of Oregon!

Atrazine – Soon to be banned in forest use! Our friends at the Center for Biological Diversity recently won an important battle to stop Atrazine, a weed killer widely used in private timber management and conventional agriculture. Not only is Atrazine a cancer-causing herbicide, it is also widely known to chemically "castrate" male frogs and reptiles, making them impotent. Atrazine is persistent in streams and springs that rural residents use for drinking water. The EPA agreed to prohibit Atrazine use along U.S. roadsides and on conifer trees, including forests and Christmas tree farms.

Rayna Viles, Board Member



Rayna Viles is an undergraduate student at the University of Oregon majoring in Arts Management with minors in Planning, Public Policy and Management, Native American Studies and Business Administration. Her research interests include Indigenous feminism and cultural revitalization. She is pursuing a career in strengthening

communities through cultural programming and planning initiatives. A citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians with Sixes, Joshua and Chinook ancestors, Rayna grew up in the West Eugene Area.

Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault, W. Eugene Community Organizer Fellow



Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault was born in Turkey where her father was stationed in the Air Force. She moved to West Eugene in 1993 to raise a family. Arjorie became interested in the work of Beyond Toxics after her 13-year old daughter was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She says, "Joining the environmental justice team at Beyond Toxics allows me to be a voice for

West Eugene's community. My passion is to speak up for those individuals who have not been heard. I can serve as an example for the West Eugene Community, because I am one of those families harmed by the poor air quality in Eugene."

Building our Movement for Environmental and Climate Justice by Ana Molina

As we approach the end of the year with uncertainty about our future, we face the daunting challenge of unprecedented calamities, including a worldwide pandemic; economic disaster; loss of life, careers and homes; wildfires and ongoing conditions of drought and community exhaustion.

If the pandemic and the widespread fires in Oregon have taught us anything it is that inviting diverse leadership from BIPOC communities is essential to arriving at solutions that work for everyone.

We are excited to announce our new movement-building training in environmental and climate justice leadership. This training, called *Rise as Leaders: BIPOC Environmental Justice Leadership Training*, will be provided through a collaborative project called **LOCAL** (Liberation of Communities and Land), under the leadership of Beyond Toxics, NAACP and Unete. We are inviting BIPOC communities in both the Rogue and Willamette Valleys

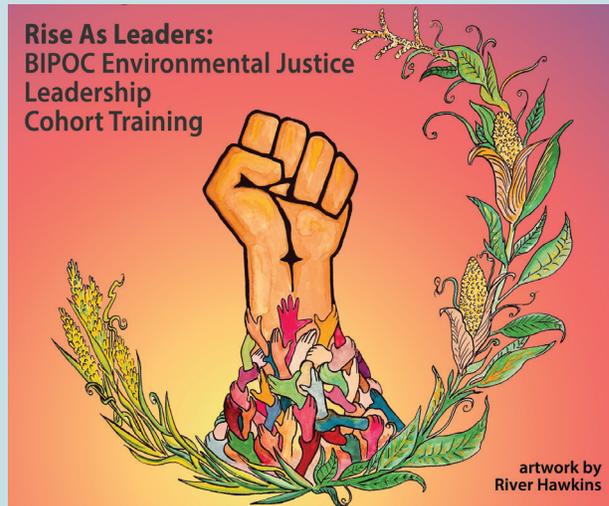
(and beyond) who are called to be transformative leaders for positive social change in racial and environmental justice.

This training series is designed to confront current and upcoming crises that hit our frontline communities the hardest. Our strategy is to equip our communities with the skills to enact change in our neighborhoods, plan for emergencies and build a network of environmental justice leaders. The training will be led by the environmental justice staff at Unete, Beyond Toxics and NAACP.

We are excited to learn with our participants and build fresh relationships in this new digital era. These relationships will

grow our movement towards a greater capacity to create environmental justice in our society.

Our training will be starting in January and will be offered online. Participants will receive an honorarium and we've created a paid internship position for youth. Look for details on our website and social media channels.



Goodbye to Super Organizer, Bianca Ballar



Bianca was our first environmental justice organizer working out of our office in Southern Oregon. What a fantastic community organizer and leader she is! Starting this fall, Bianca will be devoting her time to starting and stewarding a BIPOC land collective in the Rogue Valley called *Native WomanShare*. We already miss you Bianca and wish you much success!

Welcome to our Environmental Justice Fellow



Mashal Rahmati Copperman joined the Beyond Toxics Team this fall to provide much needed assistance in our broad environmental justice outreach work. We are thrilled to have Mashal on our team! She brings so many skills and so much enthusiasm to this work. We first worked with Mashal in the 2019-2020 academic year. Mashal is a McNair Scholar at the University of Oregon pursuing a Post-Baccalaureate in Environmental Science.