

20th Anniversary Issue



INSIDE

Our 20th Anniversary issue - p. 2
NEAT Camp report - p. 4
West Eugene air monitoring - p. 5
20 years of bold leadership - p. 6 & 7
End aerial sprays in public forests! - p. 8
Protecting our native bees - p. 9
Southern Oregon toxicity report - p. 10

Honoring Pollinator Diversity

Welcome to Our 20th Anniversary Issue!

In this special edition of our newsletter we are celebrating our twenty year track record of transformative grassroots organizing, organizational leadership, policy tactics and policy triumphs.

We've captured a few kind words from our founders and recent donors, without whom we would not be the thriving, active leaders in the environmental justice movement we are today.



Few organizations focus as successfully, enthusiastically, and competently on both the environment for humans and the environment for itself as Beyond Toxics. The diversity of its staff and programs and its positive, concrete contributions are astounding. Our gratitude for its first 20 years of excellence.

- Bob and Mary O'Brien, co-founders

I have been an environmentalist all my adult life. Working with Beyond Toxics is the most satisfying relationship I have ever had in all these years. They address pesticide and environmental concerns from state-wide strategic planning reform as well as local reform. Lisa and staff are brilliant, responsive to requests, proactive. Their ties to state wide decision-makers get things done. What a joy to see progress being made. They give me the tools to work locally to get other issues done locally. I am honored to know them and to help all of the important environmental programs.

- Barb Rumer, Bend, OR donor

Beyond Toxics is getting things done at the local and state level to leave an environmental legacy for our children and all the creatures that inhabit this planet. Take a quick look at their accomplishments and you will see that dollar for dollar there is no better way to use your money for our health and the health of the planet we live on. And our time to act is short.

- Greg McLauchlan and Linda Fuller, early champions of Beyond Toxics

FRONT COVER

The **cover illustrations** were created by our University of Oregon intern, **Chloe Kov**. Chloe was part of our 2021 Rise As Leaders Cohort, which focused on providing environmental and climate leadership training for BIPOC youth. Chloe stayed involved with our work afterward and created these illustrations to recognize some of the native species that frequently visit our pollinator plot at the Churchill Community Garden in West Eugene. This garden is an important food-growing space for low-income families and is managed by our ally, Huerto de la Familia. Our work in West Eugene not only supports healthy pollinators, it also inspires young artists to develop their illustration and graphic design skills.

Message from the Executive Director



Lisa Arkin, Executive Director
Photo by Emily Cook

The future of our environment and public health has never been more at risk. You and I are seeing harrowing changes in our daily lives from a climate crisis worsening far faster than the world's scientists had predicted. Climate disasters have taken the lives of dozens of Oregonians and filled many more

of us with worry for our children's future.

These changes are expected to become increasingly severe over the course of our lifetimes. So much hangs in the balance.

We need your help now to push back ever harder against efforts to take Oregon in the wrong direction!

We are taking bold and decisive action to end environmental devastation and injustice.

We need you standing with us in the work to win important change for the greatest issues of our time: ecological survival, a renewable energy economy and environmental justice for vulnerable communities.

During this year alone, Beyond Toxics . . .

...won a bipartisan victory to pass inspiring legislation for Oregon's 2021 Environmental Justice Framework. This Joint Resolution is the first of its kind in the nation! State agencies are already using it as their guideline for doing their jobs.

...introduced legislation for climate justice. Our bill HB 2488 stimulated a new statewide discussion about adding climate and equity to land use laws. As a result of our initiative, climate and equity have become a top priority for lawmakers and state agencies.

...provided key leadership in the passage of the 100% Clean Energy legislation, putting Oregon first in the nation for ambitious timelines for a 100% renewable energy future.

...organized multiple communities to stop repeated dumping of dioxin, heavy metals and PCBs into vulnerable neighborhoods. We build community leadership to end decades of polluters poisoning air, water and soils.

Please support us as we continue to win victories for a clean, just and healthy Oregon. We are celebrating our 20-year track record of transformative grassroots organizing, organizational leadership, policy tactics and triumphs.

Four generous donors plus former board members have created a special 20th Anniversary Matching Fund of \$50,000. We thank Barb Rumer, Greg McLauchlan, Linda Fuller and Sarah Douglas for their generosity to launch this fund!

Your contribution will have a significant impact during our 20th Anniversary Campaign because every dollar will be

matched up to \$50,000 for a total of \$100,000!

Please use the remittance envelope attached in the center of this newsletter and help us reach our 20th Anniversary goal of \$100,000.

I am deeply grateful for your support. Thank you for making it possible to win cutting-edge campaigns for clean energy, environmental justice and enduring air and water protections!

NEAT Camp: An Outdoor Adventure for Youth!

by Jennifer Eisele, Pesticide Program Manager



Campers hiking on the oak forest trail at Hendricks Park.

Beyond Toxics partnered with the Museum of Cultural and Natural History and the NAACP Eugene/Springfield Chapter to host a new project - Nature Outdoor Exploration Teams (NEAT) Camp.

NEAT Camp featured three sessions of youth outdoor education camps. Base camp was at the Cultural and Natural History Museum on the UO campus and the kids took trips to many nearby sights to explore natural environments in an urban setting. The summer camps were designed to attract low income and BIPOC middle school students.

The camp provided unique cultural and natural history experiences, museum tours, arts and crafts, and a social justice/civic engagement component.

A variety of educational components got the kids to explore nearby urban forests, wetlands and streams to increase their awareness of biological diversity and ecological health.

We are grateful for support provided by our grant donor, **The Gray Family Fund**, and our community partners and volunteers who contributed to this unforgettable experience for community youth.



A camper smells incense cedar basket weaving material during a native basketry demonstration.



Middle School youth learning about native seeds at NEAT Camp.

Beyond Toxics staff members Jennifer Eisele, Krystal Abrams and UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History Education Coordinator Robyn Anderson organized the camp and designed curriculum and activities with assistance from Ana Molina, Haley Case-Scott and Wendy Mintey. Special presentations were provided by Brenda Brainard, Coquille Tribal Member & Indigenous Storyteller; Karyn Knecht, Education Director, Eugene Science Center, and Christina Bentrup, City of Eugene Hendricks Park Volunteer Coordinator.



Campers collected macroinvertebrates (water insects) from the Canoe Canal, historic mill race waterway at Alton Baker Park during a water activity.

Our Community in Action: The Fight for Clean Air

by Ana Molina, Statewide Environmental Justice Manager

Since 2011 Beyond Toxics has worked in the West Eugene Community. We developed an environmental justice bus tour, a community health survey, workshops and worked to highlight the health disparities between the community in West Eugene compared to the rest of Eugene. For years community members have called us to make complaints about the bad air.

Beyond Toxics has engaged Eugene government, the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), Oregon Health Authority, Lane Regional Air Protection Agency and so many more to advocate for strong health based standards for air pollution. We continue to be committed to the community in West Eugene.

Beyond Toxics is making considerable headway in raising the issue of air pollution in West Eugene. Since March of 2021 we have been hosting virtual community meetings with passionate community members who want to be involved for change in West Eugene.

For example, community members have written their own Statement of Environmental Justice Principles they presented to the City of Eugene and four regulatory agencies articulating the commitments to clean air and community involvement they envision for their community.

Beyond Toxics is bringing 6 regulatory agencies and community members together in a unique collaborative team. The tough discussions we're initiating are breaking down barriers between agencies and community, which results in more effective inspections and monitoring. That, in turn, catches more pollution violations. Listening to community knowledge and values is creating new environmental justice



Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault, West Eugene Environmental Justice Organizer, installs air monitors in West Eugene.

frameworks that agencies are using to protect vulnerable people.

We are proud that using environmental justice is resulting in significant benefits for both communities and regulatory agencies.

In October we started an air monitoring study in partnership with Oregon State University and community members.

In her role as Environmental Justice Community Organizer, Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault has been organizing community members in West Eugene to host an air monitor on their property. The goal of this project is to capture the toxins that are in the air and to better understand what air pollutants are impacting the lives of residents.



Bird's eye view of J.H. Baxter facility in West Eugene.

The response we got from the community is so inspiring and re-affirming to the work we do at Beyond Toxics. Many residents and local businesses are excited to see our air monitoring in action. For decades, people have filed complaints about the

chemicals in the air with very little response from regulators. We believe that the community has the right to know what is in the air they breathe to make the best informed decision for themselves and their family.

Through impactful community organizing and collecting environmental data, we will continue to hold regulators accountable to protect community health! ***Stay tuned for more!***

20 YEARS OF BOLD, FEIS

2001

Oregon's first environmental health and justice group is born!

2002

Took action on Umatilla Chemical weapons depot to reduce highly toxic air emissions

2005

First organization to call out harm caused to rural communities from timber aerial herbicide sprays develop policy reform

2005

Stopped construction of a 900 megawatts fracked gas power plant in Coburg

2008

Won a victory to pass a statewide "No Top Off" and Vapor Balancing law for gas stations

2009

Proposed and championed the Ban on Grass Seed Field Burning in the Willamette Valley

2009

Won the passage of School IPM Legislation, the strongest school pesticide policy in the nation.

2010

Changed name to Beyond Toxics and adopted our commitment to environmental justice and organizing for vulnerable underserved communities

2011

Union Pacific vinyl chloride groundwater pollution project. Increased visibility for West Eugene issues

2012

Held Oregon's 1st Environmental Justice Bus Tour in West Eugene

2012

Published Oregon's first report on industrial timber uses of herbicide tank mixes and impacts to fish habitat



**2011-
2015**



**2006-
2010**

2013

Galvanized public awareness while supporting the Gold Beach community after 40 people were sickened by an aerial herbicide drift tragedy

2015

Pushed forward HB 3364 to modernize the Forest Practices Act on aerial herbicide spray and catapulted it into state and national awareness



**2001-
2005**

STY, CREATIVE LEADERSHIP!

2016

Eugene became America's Bee-Friendliest City when we won the first ban on bee-killing neonics

2017

Founding member of the Oregon Just Transition Alliance to build a powerful statewide movement



2016-2020

(still on the Steering Committee)

2018 Key research and advocacy role in passing the Farm Worker Protection Standards to protect farm workers from pesticide exposures at work and in labor housing

2019 Worked with PCUN to champion HB 3058 calling for a ban on chlorpyrifos in the legislature

2020 Oregon is 4th in the nation to adopt a phase-out of chlorpyrifos, a brain-damaging insecticide

2020 We organize the First Environmental Justice Pathways Summit featuring over 35 leaders on winning critical environmental health



2021

2021

Filed the nation's first petition to restrict pesticide combinations of 2,4-D ester and triclopyr due to extreme toxicity and volatility

Formed the Air Quality and Environmental Justice Community Coalition in West Eugene to keep working towards cleaner air for West Eugene communities

Oregon nearly passes HB 2488, kicking off statewide action on equity and climate justice in land use laws

Oregon officially adopts SCR 17, our proposed Resolution for Environmental Justice Principles at the state legislature

Helped with the passage of 3 pioneering green energy bills



2022

2022

Co-lead of the Fossil-Free Eugene & Lane County coalition

Key work to help Oregon adopt a Habitat Conservation Plan protecting streams in all forests

Helping fire-damaged communities in Southern Oregon test address toxic fire residues in air/soils. Give trainings, build leadership and provide air filters and emergency "go bags"

Working with two Tribes to protect rare native plants and create a cultural education project

Organizing communities to hold nearby big polluters accountable to reduce pollution

Water justice projects to protect drinking water and community health

Aerial Sprays in Our Public Forests Must End!

by Grace Brahler, Oregon Climate Action Plan & Policy Manager

Beyond Toxics has been raising awareness and demanding change to stop aerial helicopter sprays in Oregon's forests for years. Despite well-funded opposition from Timber Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs), the Oregon Forest Research Institute (OFRI) and chemical companies like Dow Chemical, we have stayed strong. We see a horizon of change and victory in the near future.

In 2019, Beyond Toxics worked with state legislators to introduce Senate Bill 926, which would have banned aerial spraying of herbicide in state forests. We presented evidence that helicopter sprays of herbicide cocktails presented a risk to the drinking

water of hundreds of thousands of Oregonians whose intake points were within or very near to state forest spray operations. For example, in the Tillamook State Forest alone, 1,140 acres of designated drinking watersheds in state forest land were sprayed from the air over a three-year period.

In 2020, we presented evidence to the Oregon Board of Forestry that, over the past five years, 1,045 pesticide applications were made to "manage" state forests. Of those, 525 or 50% were sprayed by helicopters. Of course, each of those 525 aerial sprays spread tank loads of multiple chemicals mixed together across the land.

This summer we presented our research again. Studying only the last 20 months of data, we reported that 34% of sprays approved by the

Oregon Department of Forestry were aerial sprays routinely containing as many as four different active ingredients plus another four chemical additives, which are used to increase the toxic potency in the environment. Aerial sprays pose risks to drinking water, public health, worker safety, fish and wildlife habitat. Making pesticides, driving chemical batch trucks out to remote areas,

and flying helicopters to spray them releases countless tons of greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate warming.

Using pesticides to "manage" timberlands is wrong in so many ways! Thus, we asked the Board to place a moratorium on aerial herbicide

applications in state forests and initiate a comprehensive study of the impacts of aerial herbicide sprays to communities, water, climate and the environment. Over 200 people wrote to the Board echoing this demand. We will continue raising concerns to the Board of Forestry until our water sources are no longer jeopardized by aerial spray.

Aerial sprays in our public forests must end. This destructive management choice is out of alignment with the stated vision of our state forest agency to steward "[h]ealthy and resilient forested ecosystems and watersheds, with functional aquatic and terrestrial habitat, supporting vibrant local communities and providing quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians." Oregonians deserve resilient state forests, not pesticide-laden water sources.



Photo by Francis Eatherington

Pesticides and Bees Don't Mix!

by Krystal Abrams, Regenerative Ecosystems Manager

Native Bees Need Our Help...Now!

According to a February 2021 petition filed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the iconic American bumblebee population has decreased by 89% across the U.S. Eight states, including Oregon, have zero or close to zero American bumblebees left. Action must be taken quickly or it will be too late, as it has been for the Franklin's Bumblebee that once inhabited Southern Oregon and Northern California, but has not been seen since 2006.

Why Protect Native Bees?

Healthy and diverse native pollinator populations are a cornerstone in the larger structure of worldwide ecosystem balance and health. When a plant has been well pollinated, it produces larger and more nutritious leaves, fruits and seeds, which in turn feeds and supports the next generation of pollinators, as well as humans and wildlife.

Wild bee populations are critical to strengthen food sovereignty and maintain flowering plants. Pollinators have always been important to diverse cultural knowledge and traditions to grow healthy, culturally appropriate foods and to maintain sacred ceremonies and cultural practices.

Pollinators and Climate Change

Amid rapid climate changes and other impacts of human activities, we are witnessing continuous declines in pollinator health across the planet. Bumble bees have lost nearly 200 miles off their historic wild range in both the U.S. and in Europe, largely as a result of global warming (Kerr, 2015). Anticipated to continue at a rate of about five

miles every year, this trend will result in the loss of nutrient-dense plants such as fruits, nuts and nectar producing flowers. Floral biodiversity will be replaced largely by self-pollinating and wind-pollinated crops like rice, corn and wheat.

Pollinators and Pesticides

Many different pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides are commonly used in urban areas, public lands, agricultural and timber landscapes to kill insects and weeds. However, pesticides indiscriminately kill pollinators and native flowering plants. The stress of pesticide exposures and fewer places to forage will ultimately contribute to further pollinator deaths.

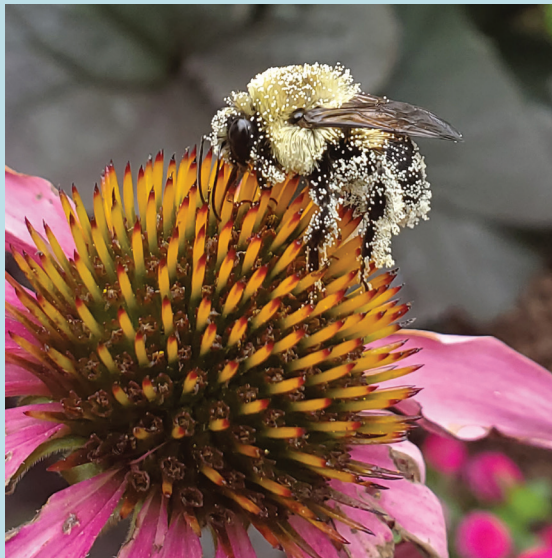
In fact, pesticide contamination is so widespread in the United States that we cannot produce legitimately organic honey since bees travel several miles to forage and they encounter pesticides and other pollutants in their search for pollen and nectar. More than 90% of pollen samples from North American bee hives in agricultural landscapes are believed to be contaminated with more than one

pesticide. (Mullin, CA et al. 2010)

We must adopt a transition to organic practices, slow down the widespread uses of toxic synthetic pesticides and begin thinking about pest management in a way that improves soil quality and increases plant diversity. And we are taking action! Beyond Toxics introduced legislation to ban chlorpyrifos in 2019, leading to the successful passage of a phase-out in Oregon.

The intensification of agricultural monocropping, climate warming, drought and widespread pesticide use is creating many more problems for bees than they can handle. It's unclear if they are going to be able to bounce back at any point.

Help us act quickly to protect native bees and their habitat.



Bumblebee photo by Jennifer DiFrancesco.

Fire Toxicity in Southern Oregon

by Wendy Mintey, Southern Oregon Environmental Justice Organizer

"We left with the clothes on our backs and drove out through a wall of fire (to escape)." ~ Jenet Johnson, senior living in Bear Creek Mobile Home Park, Phoenix

The 2020 Almeda Fire forced people living in Phoenix and Talent to flee at a moment's notice, driving away from their homes and all of their possessions. The majority of those who became houseless were working class families, many of them Latinx farm workers or seniors on fixed incomes. The sprawling mobile home parks located between Highway 99 and Interstate 5 were the places they could afford to live.

Many of these trailer homes were built prior to 1980, before there were laws restricting asbestos and other toxic building materials. Also, many automotive repair businesses and apartments burned down, leaving hazardous chemicals in the residue.

During the year following the fire, we held community town halls and webinars and helped with food distribution efforts. During these

"A lot of mobile homes where our families lived were old, so when they burned down there was a lot of toxicity." ~ Victoria Bencomo, Southern Oregon Educational Service District Migrant Counselor

events, residents reached out to ask what might be causing coughing, headaches and nosebleeds they'd never had before. Parents ask if it's safe to move back to an area that was burnt and let their children play outside.

Answering these questions takes environmental sampling, community health surveys and lots of outreach and education. Beyond Toxics is teaming up with our partner Unite Oregon Rogue Valley to conduct a massive outreach campaign in the community.

Together with the Unite Oregon team, we'll be sending teams to do door-to-door health surveys, help people install air monitors and educate people about the hazards of fire-ravaged landscapes.

We've already begun the work to take soil samples to analyze for the presence of asbestos, ash, silica and heavy metals. Once we've collected

all the data, we will report back to the community and take steps to keep people safe from toxic fire residues. This is all part of the ongoing and remarkable fire relief efforts that the Rogue Valley communities have so successfully taken on for the past year.

For more information contact me:
I'm the Beyond Toxics Southern Oregon Environmental Justice Organizer working out of our Phoenix office:
wmintey@beyondtoxics.org



Chris Ryan, Senior Project Manager, Advantage Environmental, Inc., sets up air monitor pumps to collect air samples (left) and bulk soil samples of charred soil from the damaged site (right).

Beyond Toxics welcomes new faces to our team!



Beyond Toxics welcomes Kim Kelly, a Eugene business leader!

Kim has lived in Oregon since 2007 and owns her own health insurance business. She has been on several health insurance industry boards. She spends much of her time volunteering for worthy causes and pursuing a dedication to environmental protection. In particular, she believes that everyone has a right to clean air and water.

Welcome to the Board of Directors, Kim!



Morgan Snow, Membership and Events Manager

We're pleased to announce that Morgan Snow, who served as a development intern this summer, has been hired to serve some of the same functions in her position as Membership and Events Manager. Morgan graduated this spring with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Oregon and the Clark Honors College with a major in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her research interests include the bridging of intersectional eco-feminism and environmental justice to uncover the link between human and environmental health disparities.

Emily Cook, Environmental Science Coordinator

We're happy to announce that Emily Cook joined our team as Environmental Science Coordinator in October. Emily graduated in June 2021 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and a B.S. in Spatial Data Science at the University of Oregon. With experience in geographic information mapping and as a freelance photographer, she brings a wealth of skill to Beyond Toxics. Emily's interests include natural and social sciences and political studies, to pursue a future in environmental justice-related fields.



Sophia Larabee, Environmental Justice Intern

We're glad to welcome our new intern, Sophia Larabee, who started this past summer. Sophia grew up in Denver, Colorado. She is a third-year student at the University of Oregon pursuing a double major in environmental science and music, with a minor in geography. She is a member of Divisi, the womxn identified a capella group at UO. She also works in a laboratory examining tephra samples from various volcanoes. Sophia is passionate about environmental justice and hopes to work with a governmental agency ensuring vulnerable communities are not subjected to environmental harm.



Leadership for a Clean and Just Oregon

120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd.,
Suite 280
Eugene, OR 97401
and
312 N. Main St., Suite B
Phoenix, OR 97535
Phone: 541-465-8860
info@beyondtoxics.org

beyondtoxics.org

Board of Directors:

Nicole Metildi, President
Kristina Lefever, Secretary
Wayne Lottinville, Treasurer
Pradnya Garud
Felice Kelly, Ph.D.
Kim Kelly
Kathleen Sullivan
Rayna Viles

Executive Director:

Lisa Arkin

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
EUGENE OR
PERMIT NO. 19



Beyond Toxics weaves social justice and human rights advocacy into environmental protection policies.

JOIN US!



*Holiday
Open House
Party*

**WEDNESDAY
DEC 15
2021
4-7 pm**

**120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd.
Suite 280, Eugene, OR**

Light refreshments provided. Masks required.