

**Contact :**

**Beyond Toxics:** Emily Matlock, Communications Coordinator,

**Phone:** 541-543-2457 **Email:** [ematlock@beyondtoxics.org](mailto:ematlock@beyondtoxics.org)

<http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



## For Immediate Release – October 13, 2023

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### **Proposal for Eugene Gas Station Moratorium: New Report on Threats of Petroleum Contamination**

*Issues underlying pollution arise as the Eugene City Council considers a moratorium on new gas station permitting. A press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17th.*

**Eugene, OR.** – Eugene City Council is considering a moratorium on the construction of new gas stations within the city. As the sale of electric vehicles in Oregon rises, the need for new gas stations will decrease to the point that many will likely be unprofitable by 2035. A new report from **Beyond Toxics** details the harms of petroleum contamination, as, in the near term, gas stations are abandoned and underground storage tanks left behind.

At least six new gas stations have been built in the Eugene city limits recently. Yet, the Beyond Toxics report demonstrates nearly every resident in the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary has access to at least one gas station within a five-minute drive of their home.

Gas stations pose a threat to public health and safety via airborne and underground pollutants and risk of explosion. Additionally, decommissioned gas stations result in high cleanup costs and potential property damage to nearby businesses.

“It is counterproductive for the City of Eugene to allow the construction of more gas stations,” **Lin Woodrich, Active Bethel Community Co-Chair** said during a city council meeting. “Additional gas stations are unnecessary and compromise nearby residential air quality. We ask you to ban new gas stations and the expansion of existing gas stations and make it easier to transition to electric vehicles and charging stations.”

**Beyond Toxics will hold a virtual press conference on Tuesday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m.** to discuss the findings of this report and recommendations for new city policy. Please find a link to the scheduled Zoom conference [here](#), the password is **gasreport**. Here is a link to the PDF Report, [Dropbox](#) link to media materials, and more information is on our [website](#).

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Beyond Toxics provides leadership to build a community-driven environmental justice movement for a thriving and just Oregon. We envision a society where everyone has equitable access to healthy food and clean air and water, and underserved communities are included in decision making processes that affect them. Together, we move beyond the damaging environmental practices of the past and collectively work to support and maintain ecological resilience and balance.