



PesticideSmart News - Acting Local: Your New "Superpower"

January 2017 Newsletter

Greetings!

If you share our concern about rollbacks on current environmental laws, regulations, and policies, and new ones that will negatively impact our health and the health of wildlife, waterways and aquatic life, our air and the planet— take heart! The Smart on Pesticides Campaign, is working hard in concert with many local, state and national groups, to protect our health and the wellbeing of the natural world that sustains us. Local action will be all the more important this year, judging by campaign promises and the agendas of the new administration.

Hot issues we need your help on:

1) Maryland General Assembly begins. In the next few months, during the Maryland General Assembly, you will be hearing from us a bit more frequently. MPEN will be actively involved in pushing protections for pollinators and supporting other pesticide-related bills. Your involvement was key to our success in 2016, and we will be contacting you about actions you can take to support 2017's important efforts.

2) Start today with this important action: sign on to our Ace Hardware Campaign! (details below).

3) Leveraging the power of our dollars. We can use our considerable power as consumers to create the positive changes we want to see! Like our Ace Hardware campaign, our new "Go Organic" Campaign focuses on the very effective tactic of voting with our wallets and forks! This is an immediate and powerful action that we can take everyday—and it also benefits our health in so many ways! . By increasing our purchasing of organic foods and products, we grow the demand and support for organic agriculture and manufacturing of healthy cleaning, cosmetic and baby care products. As agrochemical conglomerates merge from 6 companies to 3, shifting our financial support to organic cannot be more crucial, as one of the ways we combat toxics in our world and our bodies (more below)

Read on--we have good news and important warnings, and some excellent resources and tips for healthier living.

We appreciate your feedback on our monthly newsletter!: info@mdpestnet.org

Take Action!



While the 2016 Maryland Pollinator Protection Act will eliminate sales of products containing bee-harming pesticides by January 2018, according to a [new Friends of the Earth report](#), retailers, including ACE Hardware, still sell plants treated with these pesticides. And some of these plants are mislabeled "bee-friendly"! [Sign our petition now. Tell ACE Hardware and other Maryland retailers: STOP selling bee-killing pesticide treated plants.](#)

Join us for the 2017 Environmental Legislative Summit Thursday, January 26th from 4-6 pm in the Miller Senate building, 11 Bladen Street in Annapolis. Keynote speaker, Dr. Leana Wen, the Baltimore City Commissioner of Health, will discuss some of the most important environmental issues of the 2017 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session with advocates, elected officials, and conservation-minded voters. Admission is Free.



Good News



Majority of Americans opt for organic food and about half prefer GMO-free. [Read more.](#)

France Bans Pesticides in Public Green Spaces. The new law also stipulates that pesticides will be prohibited in private gardens from 2019. [Read more.](#)

Somewhat Good News

Environmentalists gird for battle with a Trump administration. Even before Trump could change or rescind a regulation, though, there's a lot of red tape for a Trump EPA to get through...They have to seek public comment, they have to make sure their actions are consistent with science and the law, founded upon studies that just cannot be made up by people who are climate deniers, for example. [Read more.](#)



Important Warnings



US government interferes with Europe's efforts to stringently regulate toxic endocrine disrupting pesticides. [Read more.](#)

Endocrine-disrupting chemicals are present in our everyday environment and capable of hijacking the hormonal system of living beings. They are linked to prostate and breast cancers, and Del-Mar-Va is a hotspot for these cancers nationally. [Read more.](#)

NY Times reports: **toxic pesticide paraquat causes Parkinson's** and is banned in Europe, but remains widely available in the USA. [Read more.](#)



Top 10 issues of 2017 for food and farming, From action on GMO labeling, to plastic bag bans to a potential shift away from policies that support local and sustainable agriculture, 2017 is shaping up to be an important year in our fight for a more sustainable food system. You can help. [Read more.](#)

The dirty secret about your clothes. Issues arise at almost every stage of the process ...the pesticides used in cotton fields, the harsh chemicals used in dyes, the toxic waste that pollutes rivers, and the chemically treated clothing that ends up in landfills. What can you do? [Read more.](#)



Please support our work on protecting our Babies, Bees & the Bay:

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Bee Buzz



Scientists warn of the "dire threat to human welfare" if **bee and butterfly numbers continue to decline**. [Read more.](#)

City of Chicago considering a ban on bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides. [Read more.](#)

General Mills is co-funding a project with the federal government to restore the habitat of pollinators such as bees and butterflies on North American. [Read more.](#)



Tips for Healthy Living



A guide to buying **non-toxic, kid-friendly toys**. [Read more.](#)

How to clean your stainless steel appliances without chemicals. [Read more.](#)

10 superfoods that can improve your life. [Read more.](#)

A guide to recent films about **key issues in food and farming**. [Read more.](#)

What do the **code stickers on fruits and veggies** mean? [Read more.](#)



Please help us continue to protect our Babies, Bees and the Bay.

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Our mailing address is:
Maryland Pesticide Education Network
1209 N. Calvert St.
Baltimore, MD 21202
USA