

# *Annual Report*

# *2001*



WASHINGTON  
**TOXICS**  
COALITION

*In 2001 we took groundbreaking steps forward in our campaigns to reduce pesticide use, eliminate persistent pollution, educate citizens about reducing toxics, and organize community activists. The details and our victories are summarized inside.*



## Mission Statement

Washington Toxics Coalition is a membership organization which advocates reduced reliance on toxic chemicals and the elimination of the production, use and release of those toxic chemicals which persist and bioaccumulate, threaten species survival, or cause severe injury. Through staff and volunteers, the Toxics Coalition seeks to achieve its goals through proactive education and advocacy, distributing model alternative policies and practices, challenging existing premises about pollution control, empowering activists by providing information and technical assistance in grassroots organizing, working with diverse coalitions in local and global forums, engaging in litigation, and acting as a credible and accurate information resource for policy makers and the general public.

## Staff and Board



*From left to right: (front row) Jeff Cohn, Kristina Logsdon, Laurie Valeriano (with daughter Isabella), Cheryl Holzmeyer; (second row) Tanya Barnett, Lori Mudge, Jennifer Dold, Brandie Smith, Erika Schreder; (third row) Philip Dickey, David Stitzhal, Chris Luboff, Ken Steffenson; (back row) Dave Coffman, Sharon Howard, Don Bollinger, Gregg Small.*

*"I just wanted to send a quick note to say how much I enjoyed reading the 'Beyond Recycled Paper ...' article in the Spring 2001 issue of Alternatives. Aside from being informative, Mr. Dickey had me rolling in laughter at his cheese comparisons and commentary on Mr. Whipple. Well done! I'll be sharing this one with others."*

—Matt Fikejs  
Program and Marketing Manager  
Business and Industry Resource Venture

## Board of Directors

- Tanya Marcovna Barnett** is a Program Associate with Earth Ministry, and works with individuals and congregations to help connect faith and ethics with eco-justice concerns; Seattle, Washington.
- Don Bollinger, Treasurer**, is an energy consultant at Braco Energy Services; Seattle, Washington.
- Dave Coffman, Co-Secretary**, is an instructor at Pierce College; Tacoma, Washington.
- Martha Dale** is a representative for Antique Logs Unlimited, and is a former Microsoft print production manager; Seattle, Washington.
- Jean Day** is a grassroots leader with the Older Women's League and others; Seattle, Washington.
- Jennifer Dold, Co-Secretary**, is an environmental attorney at Bricklin and Gendler;<sup>1</sup> Seattle, Washington.
- Sharon Howard<sup>2</sup>** is a television writer and producer, runs her own production company, and has produced many documentaries on nature, wildlife and the environment; Snohomish, Washington.
- Shirley Leckman** is former in-house legal counsel for the Lummi Indian Tribe; Shoreline, Washington.
- Chris Luboff** is strategic planning supervisor of the Seattle Solid Waste Utility; Seattle, Washington.
- Karen McDonell** is a grassroots leader for chemically sensitive citizens; Gig Harbor, Washington.
- Lin Nelson<sup>2</sup>** is a long-time labor and environmental activist and a member of the faculty at The Evergreen State College; Olympia, Washington.
- Jon Stier** is an attorney at the National Environmental Law Center; Seattle, Washington.
- David Stitzhal, President**, is the owner of Full Circle Environmental Consulting Services; Seattle, Washington.
- John Wyble** is a principal at the political consulting firm Moxie Media, and a former political director for Washington Conservation Voters; Seattle, Washington.

<sup>1</sup> At printing date Jennifer is with the new firm of Bricklin, Newman, & Dold, LLP.

<sup>2</sup> Left the board in 2001.

## Message From the President

Looking back at 2001, I could not have imagined a more substantial outcome for Washington Toxics Coalition's 20th Anniversary year. The strength and vitality of the organization itself, and the accomplishments and successes of our campaigns and outreach, demonstrate an organization in its stride.

The year began with the state legislature's passage of the Children's Pesticide Right-to-Know Act, the culmination of a five-year effort to obtain notification before pesticides are used in schools in the state.

The Home Safe Home series of fact sheets continue to be in great demand, with over 130,000 copies distributed since its inception in 1989; some titles are now in their seventh printing.

Hard work also met success in our efforts to eliminate persistent pollution from key sources, including wood-treatment facilities that use pentachlorophenol, toxic waste in fertilizer, incinerators, and pulp mills. At the state level we are forcing policy change and securing major resources, such as the \$800,000 the legislature appropriated last year for phasing out persistent pollution, and the \$1,100,000 it appropriated for protecting salmon from pesticides.

Our Green Gardening Program and Information Services Hotline helped to educate thousands of residents of Washington and other states about pesticide alternatives. And we filed suit against the EPA for failure to take adequate steps to protect endangered salmon from the impacts of pesticides.

In addition to these concrete victories, we also made considerable headway in building our own organization as well as our ties with communities and other organizations. WTC provided critical and effective support to communities fighting pulp-mill pollution in Bellingham and medical-waste incinerators in Seattle. We also built and fortified our ties with strategic organizations across the state, including religious, public health, medical, and environmental groups. We recognize that pollution prevention will not be possible without strong roots in communities and powerful relations with organizations.


The year culminated in an inspiring gala celebration of our 20-year history. This sold-out event, complete with auction and first-class dinner, drew together moving, invigorating national speakers and twenty years of supportive WTC community.

Board and staff alike were fully recharged for our next two decades.

Perhaps WTC's current strength and resolve is in response to the ever-increasing presence of toxics in our products, our environment, and in our bodies. Certainly our staff's stamina, their technical credibility, and their strategic organizing have been honed against the whetting stone of industrial caprice and greed, and a public not yet aware of the perils we face. While most of us find it unbearable to sit on the sidelines of this high-stakes struggle, I believe that few are more prepared, resolved, and creative than WTC's administrative, management, outreach, and campaign staff.

None of WTC's achievements would be possible without the financial support of individuals and foundations, and the wonderful assistance of volunteers. On behalf of the board and staff of WTC, I want to thank each and every one of you as we look forward to continued success in 2002.

For a toxic-free world,



David Stitzhal  
Board President



WTC Board President David Stitzhal with daughter Kaya.

*"As always, you folks are a wealth of knowledge."*

—Dave Peters  
Recycling Coordinator  
Kitsap County Solid  
Waste Division

## Creating a Toxic-Free Legacy

### **Finalizing the State's Persistent-Pollution Elimination Plan**

In December 2000, the Department of Ecology released their long-awaited strategy for reducing and eliminating environmental releases of persistent pollutants in Washington (these are toxic chemicals such as dioxin and mercury that build up in the food chain). Since then, we have been working to assure implementation of the plan, to target reductions of specific sources of persistent pollution, and to establish a model persistent-pollution reduction plan for Seattle.

WTC spearheaded a large, diverse coalition of groups to ensure funding for the strategy, resulting in an \$800,000 appropriation from the legislature.

The next major step for WTC and our partners is to advocate for policy reform to address the problem of mercury, a pollutant of particular concern. In 2001, WTC did extensive research on the sources of mercury in the state and the policy solutions that have succeeded in other states.

### **Eliminating Persistent Pollutants at Key State Sources Now**

**Pulp Mills** ⇨ A day before a final pollution permit was issued, Georgia Pacific announced the closure of their mill in Bellingham. This was a victory for the many people who worked on this pulp mill because it was a particularly bad actor that threatened the health and environment of the community. The permit, which WTC and others worked on, was going to be a step in the right direction and move the industry closer to chlorine-free technology. Now WTC will pressure Ecology to make sure that they use this model for future permits.

**Fertilizer** ⇨ Our efforts in 2001 centered on pressuring the EPA to adopt strong rules that severely limit the use of toxic waste in fertilizer. EPA proposed the rules in November 2000 as a result of a lawsuit we brought together with the Sierra Club. To press for EPA to strengthen the rule, we mobilized for the comment period, conducted our own testing of fertilizers, and organized for the public hearing.

We generated more than 500 comments to EPA on the rule, calling for a ban on toxic waste in fertilizer. We also submitted our own detailed technical comments that contained the results of our independent testing. The results confirmed that fertilizer made from toxic waste is highly contaminated and may not serve its intended purpose. We

compiled the results in a report entitled  *Holding the Bag: How Toxic Waste in Fertilizer Fails Farmers and Gardeners*.

**Wood-Treating Facilities** ⇨ Pentachlorophenol is banned in 26 countries, but it is still used in Washington at four large wood treatment plants that sit directly on important waterways. We focused on one facility, Cascade Pole and Lumber, located in Tacoma. Cascade Pole discharges a number of highly toxic chemicals, including penta, dioxin, copper, arsenic, and chromium. Ecology's draft permit proposed to allow Cascade Pole to dump these chemicals into the Puyallup River, home to a number of salmon runs, including one listed under the Endangered Species Act.

WTC has already successfully used many strategies in this campaign, including: meeting with stakeholders; organizing a media tour outside the facility; facilitating turnout of more than 70 people to a public hearing; and working with the staffs of involved agencies.

**Incinerators** ⇨ Since the summer of 2000, WTC has been leading a campaign against a local garbage incinerator owned by the City of Tacoma. The City was seeking a permit to burn large amounts of industrial wastes, resulting in a toxic soup of emissions including dioxin, PCBs, mercury, lead, arsenic, and other chemicals.

Through efforts including organizing citizens, media exposure, and submitting detailed comments, we thought we had the incinerator shut down. Then, Tacoma obtained an executive order from the governor to burn roofing tear-off. Our continued work finally convinced the governor to revoke the order, citing many of the concerns we raised. ■

## Healthy Schools

**School Pesticide Use** ⇨ The year 2001 began with a great victory: the state legislature's passage of the Children's Pesticide Right-to-Know Act, the culmination of a five-year effort to obtain notification to interested parents before pesticides are used in schools. The law also mandates the posting of notices indoors when pesticides are used, improvement of notices posted outdoors, and the requirement that schools publish annual reports of their pesticide use.

We also succeeded in getting strong Integrated Pest Management policies passed in three school districts: Sedro-Woolley, Bainbridge Island, and Oak Harbor. ■

### **Victory! Pesticide Right-to-Know Bill Passes**

*"Erika- Your persistence and HARD WORK has paid off! Thank you and congratulations! I hope you and the staff take time to celebrate. On behalf of grateful parents in Washington state,"*

—Cindy Franklin  
WTC Member

## Clean Water for Salmon

**National Level** ✧ In early 2001, the Washington Toxics Coalition and two other groups sued the EPA under the Endangered Species Act for failure to protect salmon from pesticides. Our goal was to force the EPA to follow the law and prevent pesticides from harming endangered salmon. While as of the end of 2001 we had not yet obtained a court decision or settlement on the case, it is clear that our lawsuit has already led to substantial change in the agency and has great potential to result in real reductions in pesticide use.

As a result of our suit, EPA is reconfiguring its Endangered Species Protection Program, which has been in draft form for twelve years and therefore completely ineffective. We were also able to use the lawsuit to obtain excellent media coverage as the case developed, bolstering our position with the public that pesticides are a serious problem for salmon.

WTC has also worked for years on the issue of chemicals that can interfere with hormone systems in humans and wildlife. We have placed emphasis on alkylphenol ethoxylate (APE) detergents, a widely used class of ingredients in household and industrial cleaning products that break down slowly into endocrine-disrupting chemicals that are extremely toxic to fish.

Throughout 2001 we have had conversations with several cleaning-product and pesticide manufacturers regarding their product formulations, and we are very pleased to report a major victory. Huish Detergents, one of the country's largest makers of laundry detergents (house brands for Safeway, Fred Meyer, and others, and their own Sun brand), has told us that they are removing APEs from their products.

**State Level** ✧ The state of Washington has moved forward in developing restrictions on pesticides that harm salmon. The state's Pesticides/Endangered Species Act Task Force has developed a strategy for evaluating pesticide impacts to salmon and restricting their use. We provided extensive input and mobilized people throughout Washington to pressure the Task Force and coordinated a response that included submitting a joint letter signed by 19 organizations and bringing together concerned organizations to meet with Task Force members.

**Local Level** ✧ In 2001, we worked to strengthen existing pesticide phase-out policies, such as the Seattle and King County policies that went into effect at the beginning of 2000, and assisted

## Healthy Homes and Communities

**Green Gardening Program** ✧ The Green Gardening Program (a joint project of Washington Toxics Coalition, Seattle Tilth Association, and WSU Cooperative Extension King County) presented two sets of workshops for staff at 8 garden stores around King County. Staff scientist Philip Dickey also helped present two-hour workshops for horticulture students at several local colleges. The annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) conference drew 350 landscapers.

**Pesticide Labeling** ✧ We won a major victory in convincing EPA to change the disposal instructions for household pesticide products. Currently the labels carry the instruction to wrap partially full bottles in newspaper and place in the trash. Along with a group of local and state agencies we proposed that the labels should instead direct consumers to their local solid waste agency, since disposal requirements vary around the country but usually require disposal as a household hazardous waste. Despite fierce opposition from the pesticide industry, we were successful, and EPA published the new label guidance in the Federal Register in September.

**Presentations** ✧ WTC staff members made 64 presentations to a wide variety of groups during the year, directly reaching a total audience of more than 2,000.

**Toxics Hotline** ✧ We responded to nearly 2,300 requests for information during the year. This represents a 24 percent increase over the previous year.

**Outreach Materials** ✧ We issued the fourth edition of our popular *Grow Smart, Grow Safe* guide, which provides health and environmental ratings of lawn and garden products; added new Home Safe Home fact sheets titled "Getting Along with Yellow-jackets," and "Household Guide to Protecting Clean Water"; and produced a "Healthy Schools Pesticide Action Kit" containing tools for activists. Our website was visited more than 82,000 times — a 64 percent increase over the previous year. ■

activists in a number of other jurisdictions in establishing similar policies that will protect salmon and people.

For example, the City of Lynnwood declared a moratorium on pesticide use while a complete policy is developed. Bainbridge Island is currently considering reduced pesticide use as part of its salmon recovery efforts, and the Port of Olympia has committed to adopting a policy to reduce pesticide use. ■

*"After attending the EPA hearing about hazardous wastes in fertilizers, I am ever more grateful for Washington Toxics Coalition. Thank you for being there."*

*—Jane Groppenberger  
Urban Gardener*

**Special Thanks**

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and businesses who made our **20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Auction** a huge success! Thanks to the event sponsors, donors of beverages and auction items, those who generously bid on auction items and made monetary donations, all the volunteers for their hard work, table captains, and all who attended!

Thanks also to our amazing volunteers! Throughout the year, **63 volunteers donated a total of 745 hours** assisting with administration, research, outreach, fundraising, and campaign work.

**Individuals**

Washington Toxics Coalition is very grateful for the support of all of our donors in 2001. We thank all of you for your generosity — it truly makes our work possible. We regret that we do not have the space to list all of our members and donors here, but we wish to recognize the following individuals who donated \$100 or more to WTC during 2001. We also extend special thanks to those who supported us through our monthly donor program, workplace giving, and with employer matching gifts.

Anonymous  
Daniel Adams and Cynthia Toops  
Winifred Adams and Bob Gamble  
Jill Albinger  
Kathryn Alexandra  
Barbara Allen and Joe Leinonen  
Shirli Axelrod and Michael Seamans  
Ann Baldwin  
Susan Ballinger  
David Bartley and Mary DeFelice Bartley  
Cathy and Michael Benson  
John Birnel and Mary Lou Dickerson  
Kristin Hyde Block  
Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth  
Don Bollinger  
William and Beatrice Booth  
William Broadhead  
Jack and Pat Bujacich  
Sylvia Burges  
Barbara Cahill  
Phoebe Caner  
Zimmie Caner  
Eddy Cates and Beth Doglio  
Joey Corcoran  
Lisa Crosby and Paul Becker  
Jane and Paul Crowder  
Therese and Jim Cushing  
Carol Dahl  
J. Elizabeth Davis  
Jennifer Dold  
Cornelia Duryée Moore and Terry Moore  
Barbara and Jacob Engelstein  
Mary and Paul Ferrari  
Michael Ferro  
Jim Flint  
Cindy and Jon Franklin  
Constance Gandolfi Voget  
Steven Gilbert  
Marcella Smith Gilson  
Claude Ginsburg and Lynne Hyerle  
Sally Goodwin and Kurt Hoelting  
Harold Goree  
David Graves  
Daveen Green  
Michael Gross  
Charles Hadd  
Ursula Hall  
Irene Haynie  
Elizabeth Hebert and Donald Guthrie  
Lynn Henderson  
Bob and Phyllis Henigson

Bruce and Nancy Herbert  
Diane Horn  
Marcia Hunt  
Doreen Johnson  
Jacoba Johnson  
Sara Jane Johnson  
Angeline Johnston  
Dave Jones  
Christine Keyt  
Carolynn Kim-Prelutsky and Jack Prelutsky  
Kathleen Kronz  
Andrea Kruger  
Shirley Leckman  
Ann Lennartz  
Mark Levensky  
Craig Lorch  
Chris Luboff  
Linda and Scott Lunda  
Ruth MacGinitie  
Heather MacPhail  
Darlene Madenwald  
David Mann and Ellen Witebsky  
Gail and Mike McCormick  
Thom and Ingrid McDonald  
Karen McDonell  
Ann McDowell Liu  
Lana McFadden  
Suellen Mele  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Kate Nelson  
Kathy Overhauser  
John Perkins  
Frances Petryshen  
Kay Planting and Ken Pfluger  
Bill Pope  
Toni Potter  
Colleen Quinn and Paul Tomita  
Tracy Reed  
Regional Commission on Airport Affairs  
Paula Riggert and Thomas Grismer  
Darby Ringer  
Randy Robinson  
Zöe Rothchild  
Dale Rudd  
Cynthia Rust Greaves  
Jean Diamond Sargent  
Corey Satten  
Erika Schreder and Gregory Peters  
Dennis Shaw and Julie Howe  
Eva and Ron Sher  
Gregg Small  
John Smersh  
Laura Smith  
John Soderberg  
Mary Ann Spahr  
Mark Stevenson and Cheryl Esposito  
Jon Stier  
David and Laurel Stitzhal  
Matthew Sweeting  
Maryanne Tagney-Jones  
Alexa and Kirman Taylor  
Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner  
Jo Van Patten  
Shawn Waliser  
Manny Weiser

## Foundations

Grants and in-kind gifts from foundations and agencies are important in enabling us to continue our efforts for pollution prevention. We wish to thank and recognize the following for their support in 2001:

- Beldon Fund
- Ben & Jerry's Foundation
- The Bullitt Foundation
- Environmental Support Center
- Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
- Horizons Foundation
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation
- Northwest Fund for the Environment
- Public Welfare Foundation
- Rockefeller Family Fund, Inc.
- Social Venture Partners
- Temper of the Times
- TREC
- W. Alton Jones Foundation
- Wallace Genetic Foundation, Inc.
- Washington State Department of Ecology
- Winky Foundation
- Wyman Youth Trust

## Workplace Giving Campaigns

We also wish to thank those who made contributions through workplace giving campaigns with these organizations:

- Earth Share of Washington
- United Way of King County

*"We've been dealing with a case of illegal dumping of a banned pesticide at the Oak Harbor School District. We've been working for more than a year with a whistle-blower who simply could not stand by and say nothing. With tremendous help from WTC and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, we were able to convince EPA that this was real. EPA found the buried material and cleaned it up. EPA investigated, and eventually indicted two people, who pled guilty. On January 14, the school district adopted a Least Toxic Grounds Maintenance policy largely written by Cheryl Holzmeyer of WTC. We still need to work on implementation, but at least we have a policy to implement.*

*Thank you, WTC, for being there when we need you."*

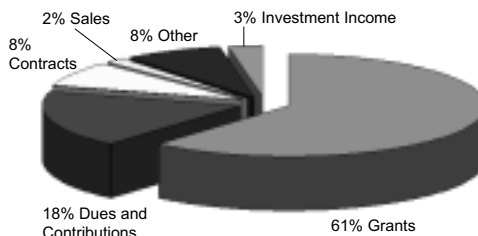
—Marianne Edain

Whidbey Environmental Action Network

## Financial Statement

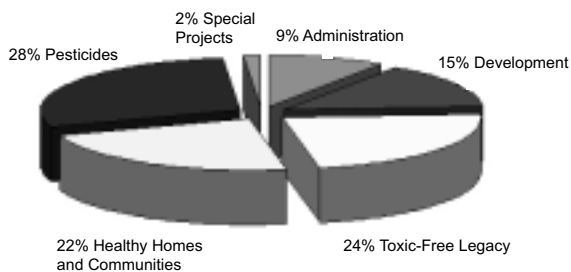
### Income

Grants .....	359,441
Member Dues and Contributions .....	105,236
Contracts .....	47,008
Sales .....	9,204
Other .....	46,084
Investment Income .....	18,150
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>585,124</b>



### Expenses

Pesticides .....	153,504
Healthy Homes and Communities .....	126,324
Toxic-Free Legacy .....	118,866
Development .....	78,516
Administration .....	50,263
Special Projects .....	8,073
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>535,546</b>



## **Washington Toxics Coalition Staff**

Jeff Cohn, *Administrative Director, joined the staff in 1993*

Philip Dickey, *Staff Scientist, joined the staff in 1989*

Kristina Logsdon, *Campaign Assistant, joined the staff in 2001*

Lori Mudge, *Development Director, joined the staff in 2000*

Erika Schreder, *Staff Scientist, joined the staff in 1997*

Gregg Small, *Executive Director, joined the staff in 2001*

Brandie Smith, *Toxics Campaigner, joined the staff in 2001*

Ken Steffenson, *Communications Director, joined the staff in 1996*

Laurie Valeriano, *Policy Director, joined the staff in 1995*



Linda Gaulke, *Information Specialist, on staff 2000–2001*

Cheryl Holzmeyer, *Toxics Campaigner, on staff 1999-2001*

Bonnie Rice, *Persistent-Pollution Campaigner, on staff 1999-2001*



*Photo credits: Cover: Fritz Schreder; Page 2: Mike Rosen; Page 3: Laurel Stitzbal*

# **WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION**

**4649 Sunnyside Avenue North  
Suite 540  
Seattle, WA 98103**

**206-632-1545**

**E-mail: [info@watoxics.org](mailto:info@watoxics.org)  
Website: [www.watoxics.org](http://www.watoxics.org)**

