

# *Annual Report*

# *2002*



## **WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION**

*In 2002 we enjoyed great success in passing policies to reduce pesticides and toxic pollution by schools, government agencies, and businesses. We continued to push the state Legislature to pass a progressive mercury-reduction law. And we helped thousands of individuals reduce their own use of toxic products.*

## Mission Statement

Washington Toxics Coalition protects public health and the environment by eliminating toxic pollution. WTC promotes alternatives, advocates policies, empowers communities, and educates people to create a healthy environment.

*"I wanted to let you know that I enjoyed volunteering with Washington Toxics Coalition very much. When I get ready to volunteer again I would love to come back to work with you all!"*

– Paula Garrett  
WTC Volunteer

## 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.

**Paul Bogart** spent 13 years with Greenpeace and currently serves as a campaign coordinator for the Healthy Building Network in 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; Olympia, Washington.

**Martha Dale, Co-Secretary**, 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 other groups; Seattle, Washington.

**Jennifer Dold** is an environmental attorney at Bricklin Newman Dold LLP; Seattle, Washington.

**Steven G. Gilbert** is director and founder of the non-profit Institute of Neurotoxicology and Neurological Disorders, and is an affiliate associate professor in the Department of Environmental Health at the University of Washington in Seattle.

**Shirley Leckman**<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Jon Stier, Vice President**, is an attorney who has litigated with the National Environmental Law Center; Seattle, Washington.

**David Stitzhal, President**, is the owner of Full Circle Environmental Consulting Services; Seattle, Wash.

**John Wyble**<sup>1</sup> is a principal at the political consulting firm Moxie Media, and a former political director for Washington Conservation Voters; Seattle, Washington.

<sup>1</sup> Left the board in 2002.

*"I'm coming to rely on your service as a research well. Your considered responses to my questions are very influential in decisions I make when purchasing materials. Thanks!"*

–Tom Armentrout  
WTC Member

## Staff and Board

Left to right, front row (sitting): Erika Schreder (with daughter Hannelore), Chris Luboff, Jeff Cohn, Lori Mudge, Martha Dale, Karen McDonell; Middle row (kneeling): Ken Steffenson, Steve Gilbert, David Stitzhal, Laurie Valeriano, Kristina Logsdon, Brandie Smith, Gregg Small, Angela Storey; Back row (standing): Sibyl Diver (Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign Coordinator), Jennifer Dold, Philip Dickey, Jon Stier, Don Bollinger, Paul Bogart, Tanya Marcovna Barnett, Doug Collins, Sharon Chen (joined the board in early 2003), Dave Coffman, and Jean Day. (See back cover for full staff list.)



## Message From the President

This past year I have witnessed a resolute calm in the offices of the Washington Toxics Coalition. It is the calm, I think, that comes from travelling in the eye of the storm. Despite on-going damage to the environment, and growing financial challenges facing the environmental community, WTC has managed another banner year of successes and strong institutional growth.

On the policy front, WTC was instrumental in the Seattle City Council unanimously passing a precedent-setting resolution to get the City to buy items that don't contain or create persistent toxic chemicals. In early 2003, the King County Board of Health banned the sale of mercury thermometers throughout the county. WTC formed diverse coalitions of groups and individuals and worked tirelessly throughout 2002 to get both of these policies passed.

At the state level, this past February the House of Representatives unanimously passed SHB 1002, a bill to reduce mercury pollution in the state. The Senate then passed a substitute version of the bill by a 47-1 vote. The bill was then signed into law by Governor Locke in early 2003. WTC was certainly in the eye of this storm throughout 2002, serving as a driving force since the bill's inception. The bill will reduce mercury in schools, hospitals, and homes by banning the sale of certain mercury consumer products, like thermometers and thermostats, and requiring hospitals to develop plans for reducing the use of mercury products.

We also expanded our signature Home Safe Home fact sheet series by producing "Vinyl Exam: Eliminating PVC in Your Home." 2002 also saw a very well received series of trainings for gardeners and landscape professionals on alternatives to pesticides.

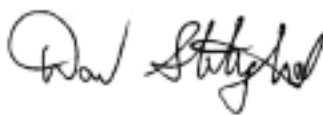
Significantly, two Washington cities and four school districts passed pesticide phase-out policies this year to protect salmon and health. To pass these policies, WTC provided individualized assistance, trainings on topics such as planning and dealing with

the media, held various workshops on how to pass a strong policy, and published the "Clean Water for Salmon Pesticide Action Kit" and the "Healthy Schools Pesticide Action Kit," both packed with tools and resources for creating and running successful pesticide phase-out campaigns.

On the outreach and education front, WTC serviced 2,059 inquiries from the public on our toll-free hotline in 2002, and received more than 106,000 visits to our newly redesigned website. And thanks to our hiring of a full-time outreach coordinator in 2002, WTC had 121 volunteers who contributed a total of more than 1,500 hours of volunteer work to the organization.

I am pleased to report that the winds of fortune have also filled our financial sails. WTC closed 2002 on strong financial footing, with increases in virtually every major income category. We also met our two financial goals for 2002 by increasing money raised from non-foundation sources, and by securing a new major foundation source to replace funds historically received from W. Alton Jones and other foundations now buffeted by the slowed economy and changed priorities.

As WTC continues to battle against persistent bioaccumulative toxics, pesticides, and other environmental hazards, our challenge as an organization, and as individuals, is to prove more persistent in our efforts and more accumulative in our victories than the harms we seek to prevent. I am proud to be a fellow traveler with this organization, and appreciate the powerful support of our members, allies, foundation and agency funders, and coalition partners.



David Stitzhal  
President, WTC Board of Directors

*"Why anyone would want to turn their God's Little Acre into a chemical dumpsite is beyond me. I've seen dads spreading weed and feed while their kids are rolling around on the same grass.*

*It's going to take a sea change in ethics and values ... and toward that end your organization is helping. Thank you. As a commercial salmon fisher who depends on a healthy marine ecosystem for his living, thanks again."*

– Bill Black  
Commercial Salmon  
Fisherman

## Creating a Toxic-Free Legacy

Our strongest coalition is our Toxic-Free Legacy coalition, which has active involvement from faith-based groups, physician's associations, other environmental groups, and children's advocates.

### Local Policies to Reduce Persistent Pollution

In July 2002, the Seattle City Council unanimously passed a first-in-the-nation policy encouraging the city government to buy items that don't contain persistent toxic chemicals or come from a manufacturing process that produces them. The policy sets the city on a course to move away from penta-treated utility poles, chlorine-bleached paper, and PVC building materials, and is an opening victory in a nationally coordinated campaign to alter the market for these products. Mayor Greg Nickels and Councilwoman Heidi Wills joined WTC in announcing the passage of the policy.

In March 2003, the King County Board of Health unanimously passed a ban on the sale of mercury thermometers. WTC spearheaded coalitions in 2002 to pass both of these policies.

### Eliminating Persistent Pollutants at Key State Sources Now

**Pulp Mills** ✧ The Toxics Coalition provided comments on the Georgia Pacific (Camas) mill water-pollution permit, calling on the state Department of Ecology to require chlorine-free technologies. Although the state did not require chlorine-free, the permit does require the company to do an analysis of converting to a chlorine-free bleaching process. We also facilitated a meeting with key state agency staff members and local groups working on the permit.

**Fertilizer** ✧ Because of the lawsuit we settled with EPA, in the spring the agency issued final rules restricting metals levels in fertilizer. While the final rule is not everything we hoped for, it does eliminate the use of the most toxic type of waste — unprocessed steel-mill waste — in fertilizer.

**Wood-Treating Facilities** ✧ We, along with WashPIRG, formally filed our lawsuit against the Oeser wood-treating facility in Bellingham, Washington. Oeser violated its water-pollution permit limit for pentachlorophenol 18 times in the last few years. We also met with the company to hear about the improvements they have made to their facility in the past few years and to convince them to stop using penta. We recently proposed a settlement with Oeser

and are waiting for a response from their attorney.

**Incinerators** ✧ We are thrilled to report that due to our efforts, the last solid-waste incinerator in western Washington has been shut down. We have been working for several years using media, organizing, and other advocacy to convince state and regional policymakers to shut down the City of Tacoma's incinerator. During the energy shortage, Governor Locke, using a special executive order, allowed the incinerator to operate, but since then the incinerator has been unable to meet the more stringent regulations imposed by the state Department of Ecology and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. We still need to be vigilant to ensure that the facility stays closed, but for now, we have eliminated a large source of persistent pollutants including mercury and dioxin! ■

*"Philip Dickey gave an outstanding talk at our recent 'Safer for You and for the Earth' series. This was our first year and our turnout was modest, but we will only build, I hope. His booklet 'Grow Smart, Grow Safe' is now in the hands of everyone I come across!*

*Angela and Doug have been great to talk to about all sorts of issues. I have enjoyed your free handouts. I can certainly make a recommendation that people use you as a resource."*

— Sheila B. Taft, H.R.T.  
Cancer Lifeline, Seattle

## Healthy Schools

**School Pesticide Use** ✧ In 2002 we worked with community groups to pass policies that ban highly hazardous pesticides in four school districts: Oak Harbor, Vancouver, Mercer Island, and South Whidbey. To pass these policies, we provided organizing, technical, and strategic assistance to parent activists; created and distributed our "Healthy Schools Pesticide Action Kit;" and held a very successful conference, drawing more than 250 people, that featured workshops on how to pass a policy and on the use of alternatives to pesticides. We also began to more effectively network activists together by establishing a listserv and convening a statewide strategy group. ■

## Clean Water for Salmon

**National Level** ✧ The Clean Water for Salmon Campaign had a tremendously successful year in our work to get pesticides out of our waters in the Northwest. In July we won a major victory with a ruling in U.S. District Court that will force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect salmon from pesticides. In the ten years that Pacific salmon have been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the EPA has failed to meet its legal obligations to ensure that salmon are not harmed by pesticides. Our lawsuit and this court ruling will change that. Now, EPA has been given a court-ordered schedule under which it must analyze the effects of pesticides on salmon and consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). EPA has already started preparing and submitting packages to NMFS as a result of the ruling.

**State Level** ✧ We have also laid excellent groundwork for restrictions at the state level. The Washington Pesticides/ESA Task Force received a state budget appropriation this year to expand its work, and as a result, it will launch an extensive surface-water monitoring program in 2003.

We also challenged a major pollution source, the use of the pesticide carbaryl on tidelands in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. Many of our members commented on the permit issued to the oyster growers that allowed them spray carbaryl to control native burrowing shrimp that hamper oyster cultivation. With the assistance of pro-bono attorney Margaret Archer, we were able to mount an appeal of the permit to the Pollution Control Hearings Board that led to successful settlement discussions to phase out the use of carbaryl.

**Local Level** ✧ We sought pesticide phase-out policies in various cities and counties during 2002. We assisted community groups in developing and carrying out campaigns, and two cities passed strong policies that phase out the use of the most hazardous pesticides. These policies have strong pre-notification requirements as well as prohibitions on certain types of pesticide uses such as space spraying or use for cosmetic purposes. We are thrilled that we were able to help get these strong policies passed.

To help pass these policies we published the "Clean Water for Salmon Pesticide Action Kit," to give activists tools and resources for developing and implementing campaigns; held a very successful

## 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 workshops for employees at garden stores around King County. The annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) conference drew more than 300 landscapers.

**Presentations** ✧ WTC staff members conducted 48 trainings and presentations to a total of 1,119 people, including 35 Master Home Environmentalists, 20 Master Recycler Composters, 48 Watershed Stewards, 166 through Green Gardening, and 230 professional landscapers. We also staffed our information table at 20 community events throughout the year.

**Toxics Hotline** ✧ We responded to nearly 2,100 requests for information during the year, and to those who called and e-mailed we provided information, referrals, and publications to help them avoid toxic products and use safer alternatives.

**Outreach Materials** ✧ We added a new fact sheet to our popular Home Safe Home series, titled "Vinyl Exam: Eliminating PVC in Your Home"; produced a "Clean Water for Salmon Pesticide Action Kit" containing tools for activists; created a set of concise fact sheets that explain our main campaigns; wrote several fact sheets on specific chemicals to support our Toxic-Free Legacy Campaign; and created various other materials to support our work and educate consumers and activists.

**Website** ✧ We completely redesigned and modernized our website in 2002. The new site features improved navigation, a search feature, easy-to-use action alerts, many more of our publications as PDF files, and many new sections on our current work. During the year the site was visited 106,879 times — a 30 percent increase over the previous year. ■

### — Clean Water for Salmon, continued

conference that featured workshops on how to pass a policy and on the use of alternatives; and provided one-on-one assistance to community groups, including trainings on planning and media. In addition, we researched and published a report, *Growing Trends*, which profiles ten cities, counties, school districts, and other programs that are successfully using alternatives to pesticides. ■

*"We are so happy knowing that your group is watching over the environment, which the Bush administration doesn't seem to care about."*

—Rosemary Murphy  
WTC Member

## Special Thanks

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and businesses who made our 2002 Annual Celebration Dinner and Auction a huge success! Thanks to the event sponsors, table captains, donors of beverages and auction items, those who generously bid on auction items and made monetary donations, all the volunteers for their hard work, and all who attended!

Thanks also to our amazing volunteers! Throughout the year, a record 121 volunteers donated a total of more than 1500 hours assisting with administration, research, outreach, fundraising, website development, and campaign work.

## Individuals and Businesses

We would like to sincerely thank all of our members for your thoughtful support in 2002.

With your help, over the past year we were able to achieve a number of important accomplishments in our work to reduce toxic pollution.

Our successes would not have been possible without all of you. We deeply appreciate your concern

for toxics issues and your support of Washington Toxics Coalition. Thank you!

We truly appreciate all of our members and donors, and wish we could list all of them here — but space limitations prohibit it. This list acknowledges the individuals and companies who made monetary donations of \$100 or more to WTC in 2002.

Charles and Florence Abbott  
Daniel Adams and Cynthia Toops  
Tom and Jackie Andrewjeski  
Shirli Axelrod and Michael Seamans  
Mikhaila Barg Reudink and Mark Reudink  
Tanya and Aaron Barnett  
Margaret Bartley  
Lolly Bates and Mark Early  
Tom Bate  
William Belknap  
Michel Bellamy  
Trudy Bialic  
John Birnel and Mary Lou Dickerson  
Jabe Blumenthal and Julie Edsforth  
Beatrice and William Booth  
Deborah Bower  
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Bridget Dacres and Philip Dickey  
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Martha Dale  
Suzannah Dalzell  
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Jean Day  
Sue and Jim Dehmlow  
Jean Diamond Sargent  
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Chris Feise  
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Constance Gandolfi Voget  
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Fred Geisler  
May Gerstle  
Emil and Robin Giese  
Steven Gilbert and Janice Camp  
Claude Ginsburg and Lynne Hyerle  
Melinda and David Gladstone (David and  
Melinda Gladstone Foundation)  
Chris Goelz and Joanne Abelson  
Jennie Goldberg and Peter Stekel  
Marcy and Hellmut Golde  
Sally Goodwin and Kurt Hoelting  
Henry and Jennifer Gordon  
John and Kathryn Greenberg

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Grady Hughes  
Marcia Hunt  
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Emily Mandelbaum  
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John Soderberg  
Elsie Sorgenfrei  
Mary Ann Spahr  
David and Shannon Steffenson  
Ken and Yasuko Steffenson  
Jon Stier and Susan Elderkin  
David and Laurel Stitzhal  
Nancy Streiffert  
Matthew Sweeting  
Liz Tennant and Peter Maier  
Amy Theobald and Cara Beth Lee  
Heather Trim  
Kate Turpin  
Gabriella Uhlar-Heffner  
Phil and Susan Unterschuertz  
Arlene Wade  
Shawn Waliser  
Marion Weber  
Joyce White  
Sharon Wilson and Van Bobbitt  
Lisa Wolterink  
John Wyble and Jackie Brutz  
Cheri Zehner and Kevin Fagerstrom  
Steve Zemke and Catherine Griffith  
Ed Zuckerman  
  
Anonymous (2)  
  
PCC Natural Markets  
Country Save Corporation  
Ecographics  
In Harmony  
Regional Commission on Airport Affairs  
Environmental Home Center  
Bricklin Newman Dold LLP  
ToST Lounge  
Carolyn Boyle (New Roots Organics)  
Pat Fagan and Mel Bankoff (Emerald Valley Kitchen Inc.)  
Ron Steward (Columbia Gorge Organic Fruit Company)  
Hendrikus Schraven (Hendrikus Schraven Landscaping Construction and Design)  
The Law Offices of David Mann

## 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 2002:

Bauman Foundation  
 Beldon Fund  
 Ben and Jerry's Foundation  
 Bullitt Foundation  
 Burning Foundation  
 C.S. Fund and Warsh-Mott Legacy  
 The Dudley Foundation  
 Gill Foundation  
 David and Melinda Gladstone Foundation  
 Horizons Foundation  
 Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation  
 John Merck Foundation  
 Mitchell Kapur Foundation  
 New Priorities Foundation  
 North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation  
 Northwest Fund for the Environment  
 Public Welfare Foundation Inc.  
 Rockefeller Family Fund

## 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



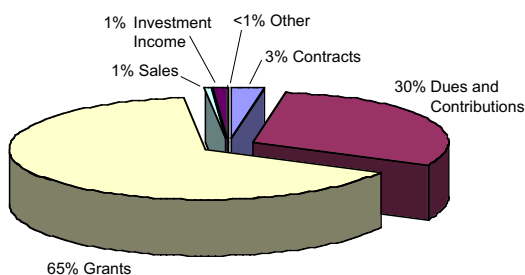
To find out more about donating to Washington Toxics Coalition through payroll deduction, contact your employer's Human Resources office or contact Earth Share of Washington at 206-622-9840, [eswinformation@esw.org](mailto:eswinformation@esw.org), or visit their website at [www.esw.org](http://www.esw.org).

Russell Family Foundation  
 Social Venture Partners  
 Tortuga Foundation  
 W. Alton Jones Foundation  
 Wallace Genetic Foundation  
 Washington State Department of Ecology  
 Winky Foundation  
 Women's Voices for the Earth  
 Zuckerman Family Fund

## Financial Statement

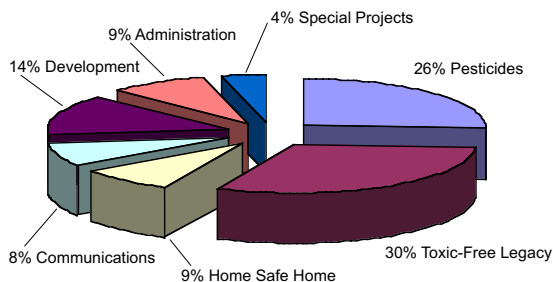
### Income

Grants .....	553,350
Member Dues and Contributions .....	247,385
Contracts .....	22,119
Sales .....	8,742
Investment Income .....	4,933
Other .....	547
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>837,077</b>



### Expenses

Toxic-Free Legacy .....	206,685
Pesticides .....	171,259
Development .....	90,959
Administration .....	59,236
Home Safe Home .....	58,652
Communications .....	51,880
Special Projects .....	26,543
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>665,214</b>



*"You are the most effective of the environmental groups that I have followed for over these many years. Congratulations on all that you have accomplished, and are still working to accomplish."*

—Janette D. Sherman, M.D.  
 WTC member and author of the books "Life's Delicate Balance: Causes and Prevention of Breast Cancer" and "Chemical Exposure and Disease"  
[www.janettesherman.com](http://www.janettesherman.com)

## **Washington Toxics Coalition Staff**

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

Doug Collins, *Information Specialist, joined the staff in 2002*

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

Kristina Logsdon, *Outreach Coordinator, joined the staff in 2002*

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*

Angela Storey, *Pesticides Organizer, joined the staff in 2002*

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



*Photo credits: Cover: Sibyl Diver; Page 2: Ken Steffenson*

# **WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION**

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