

Annual Report

2003



WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION

In 2003 we pushed the state Legislature to pass a progressive law to reduce mercury pollution, we continued our work to eliminate toxic flame retardants, and we stepped up our lawsuit to force the Environmental Protection Agency to protect salmon from pesticides. We also 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.

Ken - Just a quick note to thank you (or whomever at WTC is responsible) for the great website. I needed to get some quick information about carpenter ants and controls. The information on the website is easily accessible and informative. It's a nice resource!

Chris Carrel
Executive Director
Friends of the Hylebos Wetlands

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.

Paul Bogart¹ spent 13 years with Greenpeace and currently serves as a campaign coordinator for the Healthy Building Network.

Don Bollinger, Treasurer, is an energy consultant at Braco Energy Services.

Sharon Chen is a group program manager in the Financial Product Group of the Microsoft Corporation.

Dave Coffman,² **Co-Secretary**, is an instructor at Pierce College in Tacoma, Washington.

Martha Dale, Co-Secretary, is a representative for Antique Logs Unlimited, and is a former Microsoft print production manager.

Jean Day is a grassroots leader with the Older Women's League and other groups.

Jennifer Dold is an environmental attorney at Bricklin Newman Dold LLP.

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.

Chris Luboff is strategic planning supervisor of the Seattle Solid Waste Utility.

Karen McDonell is a grassroots leader for chemically sensitive citizens.

Jon Stier, President, is an attorney who has litigated with the National Environmental Law Center.

David Stitzhal, Vice-President, is the owner of Full Circle Environmental Consulting Services.

¹ Left the board in 2003. ² Left the board in early 2004.

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, Dave Coffman, and Jean Day. (See back cover for full staff list.)



Message From the President

Every year, polluters dump millions of pounds of toxic chemicals into Washington state's air and water, and onto the land. Much of this pollution is utterly unnecessary. Yet it builds up in our bodies, passes on to our children, and threatens our signature Northwest species such as salmon and orca whales.

For 23 years, the Washington Toxics Coalition has fought for a clean, healthy environment and a toxic-free legacy for future generations. We've been here this long for two reasons: first, the need for reform remains acute; and second, we get amazing results in the face of better-financed opposition, year after year.

In 2003, the Toxics Coalition built on its past victories, making precedent-setting strides toward ridding our state of hazardous chemicals and pointing the way toward safer alternatives. To cite just a few examples, with the help of our members and allies, we:

- ❖ Passed a bill to significantly reduce mercury pollution in Washington state;
- ❖ Convinced King County to ban mercury thermometer sales;
- ❖ Helped Bainbridge Island activists pass the toughest pesticide policy in Washington;
- ❖ Played a major role in a groundbreaking scientific study showing that mothers' breast milk is contaminated with toxic flame retardants;
- ❖ Convinced Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor oyster growers to phase out the use of a highly toxic insecticide, in order to settle our case against the Ecology Department;
- ❖ Intensified our lawsuit against the Bush administration to protect salmon from pesticides, and sought sweeping protections which were granted this year;
- ❖ Launched a campaign to stop the Bush administration's proposed pesticide rules aimed at circumventing endangered species protections;
- ❖ Fought and partially blocked a proposed state rule allowing expanded garbage incineration; and
- ❖ Activated citizens to oppose roadside pesticide spraying by the Washington State Department of Transportation.

These advances generated 78,303 visits to our website and 2094 information requests to our Toxics Hotline. Supporting our campaigns, 104 people volunteered 1837 hours of their time to Toxics Coalition activities.

Our 2003 victories are especially worthy of celebration coming in a year when the nation and world were gripped by our government's march

toward war with Iraq, and by the war's volatile aftermath. Against the backdrop of an ongoing international emergency, how did we manage to generate the public support necessary to advance the toxics reform agenda? The answer is determination, experience, strategic vision, and organizational stability.

In my 15 years of involvement with non-profit organizations — as a volunteer, employee, and legal advocate — I have encountered no group more effective than the Toxics Coalition. I attribute this to several factors:

- ❖ Our veteran staffers are highly motivated and tend to stay with us. Our eleven staff members have a total of 66 years of experience working with WTC.
- ❖ Our board of directors works hard to support every facet of our mission.
- ❖ Our solutions are grounded in good science and thoughtful policy.
- ❖ We dedicate tremendous effort to empowering the public for toxics reform.
- ❖ We generate power by building and working in unique and effective coalitions that include nurses, doctors, environmentalists, commercial fishers, and the faith community.
- ❖ Philanthropic foundations and our members know our 23-year history of persistence and follow-through, and support us with generous financial contributions.
- ❖ Year after year, our members volunteer their time, take action in their own communities, and inspire us with their passion and vision of a healthy, toxic-free future.

Thank you so much for your support of the Toxics Coalition in 2003. As you read this Annual Report, I hope you will feel as deeply proud of our successes as I do. All of us at the Washington Toxics Coalition look forward to working with you in the future to make Washington a cleaner, healthier place to live.

Warmest regards,



Jon Stier
President, WTC Board of Directors



Jon Stier and his wife Susan Elderkin enjoying the northwest outdoors.

Creating a Toxic-Free Legacy

Mercury ⇨ In May 2003, Governor Gary Locke signed legislation that will reduce mercury in schools, hospitals, and homes by banning the sale of certain mercury consumer products such as thermometers and thermostats, requiring hospitals to develop plans for reducing the use of mercury products, and requiring the state government to reduce its purchase of mercury products.

Earlier we had a huge local victory when the King County Board of Health unanimously passed a mercury thermometer ban. The timing of the regulation was perfect as it built the momentum for passing the statewide mercury bill. WTC worked for several years to achieve these victories.

Also in 2003, the Department of Ecology, as part of its mercury chemical action plan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Washington State Dental Association designed to reduce their release of mercury into waterways. While the MOU fell short of our goal, it is a major step forward in addressing this important water-pollution source.

Toxic Flame Retardants ⇨ We also decided to continue to pursue a broader Executive Order to support our policy objectives. In January 2004, Locke signed a sweeping Order that directs the Department of Ecology to develop a plan to eliminate the toxic flame retardants PBDEs, implement its plan to reduce mercury, and have the state purchase alternatives to products that contribute to persistent pollution. We are focusing our efforts in 2004 on PBDEs.

PVC ⇨ We are working to get two major hospitals to phase out PVC (vinyl) products. With Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility, we began to educate doctors and other healthcare professionals about the dangers of PVC. We gave presentations to more than 30 healthcare professionals from various locales and to 35 staff members at Harborview Hospital in Seattle involved in purchasing for the facility.

Pulp Mills ⇨ We fought for a reduction of toxic pollution at two pulp mills in 2003. At the request of oyster growers and community members in Cosmopolis, Wash., we commented on the Weyerhaeuser pulp mill water-pollution permit. Although we were unsuccessful in getting requirements for the facility to eliminate chlorine compounds for bleaching, we did get a requirement for the company to conduct a study showing how they could switch to chlorine-free processes.

WTC also worked with community groups in Everett on the Kimberly-Clark pulp mill. We achieved limits on chlorinated pollution, which were not originally proposed for the mill's new permit. However, overall the permit is extremely weak and we filed an appeal seeking improvements.

Purchasing Policies ⇨ We continued to work with the City of Seattle as they implement their first-in-the-nation policy to phase out the purchase of persistent toxic chemicals. They have made good progress, although a number of challenges remain. The City has stopped purchasing telephone poles treated with pentachlorophenol, and we are now focusing our efforts on ensuring that the City reduces and eliminates PVC materials and chlorine bleached paper. We also have very exciting campaigns going on in Clark County and Olympia to pass policies that will phase out the purchase of products that contribute to persistent toxic pollution.

— continued on page 5

Dear Doug: Thank you so much for your good advice. You guys are great. It is so good you are there to ask these things of and I do appreciate it.

Jennifer Blomgren
WTC Member

Healthy Schools

School District Pesticide Reductions ⇨ We focused our local efforts on assisting districts implementing new policies, finding specific alternatives to pesticides, and ensuring community participation. We worked with other districts to create new policies, and finally succeeded in getting the Lake Washington School District to adopt an Integrated Pest Management policy that includes a ban on highly toxic products. We have also continued to work with community members in several other districts to implement pest-management policies, and expect the adoption of more policies in 2004.

WTC now maintains a database, created in Spring 2003, of least-toxic and IPM policies for school districts in Washington.

We also sent a survey on pesticide use and compliance with the new state law to all districts in Washington with more than 5,000 students. Our findings show that most districts continue to use many high-hazard pesticides, but that districts with pesticide-use policies have significantly reduced or eliminated the use of all pesticides, especially those with significant human health impacts. Our report *A Lesson in Prevention: Measuring Pesticide Use in Washington Schools* summarizing the findings is available on our website. ■

Clean Water for Salmon

Salmon-Stream Buffers ✧ After hard work throughout 2003 we won one of the biggest victories in our history when U.S. District Judge John Coughenour ruled in January 2004 to impose no-spray buffers along salmon streams in western states. We filed a request for this injunction in November, 2002, and with strong expert support and representation by Earthjustice we convinced the judge that buffers are a simple and effective means to keep pesticides out of water while EPA puts permanent protections in place. As a result, the judge imposed ground and aerial application buffers for 38 pesticides to prevent their use along salmon streams. The order also requires "Salmon Hazard" warnings to be posted where certain pesticide products are sold.

Carbaryl Phaseout ✧ We were able to settle a long-standing environmental and human health problem by negotiating a phaseout of the use of the insecticide carbaryl in Willapa Bay. With the assistance of pro-bono attorney Margaret Archer, we partnered with the Ad Hoc Coalition for Willapa Bay to challenge the Clean Water Act permit of the Willapa Bay/Grays Harbor Oyster Growers Association. Following our strong appeal, the growers settled with us to immediately begin reductions and end all use by 2012. We are now working together to identify safer alternatives.

Local Phaseout Policies ✧ As a result of our efforts working with communities, the City of Bainbridge Island adopted the strongest pesticide-reduction policy in the state, allowing only least-toxic products to be used on a regular basis. In addition, the City of Snohomish passed a moratorium on pesticide use in 2003 until it adopted a final policy in early 2004, and the City of Oak Harbor adopted a pesticide-reduction policy. We also launched a campaign in Renton in 2003 to pass a pesticide phaseout policy.

Roadside Spraying ✧ Responding in part to a growing call from our members, WTC has taken a leadership role in state and local campaigns to reduce pesticide use by the state Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and local counties to control vegetation along roadsides. WTC and local activists met with WSDOT Director Doug MacDonald, and we collected over 2,000 postcards urging them to reduce their reliance on pesticides. MacDonald has pledged a decrease in pesticide use by the department. ■

Healthy Homes and Communities

Pesticide Free Zone Project ✧ This year we distributed more than 1,000 signs and have seen them displayed in yards and at schools and other institutions around the state. The signs have also received extensive media coverage, including a feature story in *The Seattle Times*, and articles in many gardening-related publications.

Green Gardening Program ✧ WTC once again co-hosted the annual Seattle IPM workshop held by the Green Gardening program. This year's successful conference attracted more than 330 school staff members, city and county employees, university staff members and students, and community members to learn about least- and non-toxic pest management. This year's workshop was particularly applicable to schools.

Presentations ✧ WTC conducted 36 presentations and displayed our outreach booth at 10 community events in 2003, directly reaching more than 1900 people. These are very effective methods of educating citizens about reducing use of and exposure to toxics.

Toxics Hotline ✧ In 2003 our Information Services Program responded to nearly 2100 information requests. The most common questions were about pesticides and alternatives, followed by building materials.

Publications ✧ We researched and wrote three new Home Safe Home fact sheets: "Mosquito Megabites: Effective Mosquito Control;" "Preventing Plant Diseases: Roots;" and "The Fruitful Northwest Home Orchard." We distributed a total of nearly 2000 publications in 2003.

Website ✧ Our website was visited nearly 80,000 times in 2003, and almost 150,000 pages were viewed. Activists have also widely utilized the action alerts featured, with nearly 1000 comments being sent to policymakers on various topics. ■

- Toxic-Free Legacy, from page 4

Wood-Treatment Facilities ✧ In October 2003, WTC and WashPIRG reached an agreement with the Bellingham-area wood-treatment facility The Oeser Company for illegally discharging stormwater contaminated with the pesticide pentachlorophenol into a local waterway. Under the agreement, Oeser must pay for the development and implementation of a comprehensive pollution prevention plan to ensure long-term compliance with environmental laws, and pay penalties if it further violates its Clean Water Act discharge limits. The settlement also requires an independent analysis of less-toxic chemicals that Oeser could use for treating wood. ■

Hello. This 68-year-old member has her first computer and, of course, I checked out your (our) website. Good job. Easy to understand and use. ... Also want to tell you how much I appreciate the way you (we) focus on issues and bring pressure to bear on the Legislature to act, rather than "shot-gunning" it. (So much to be done, I know.) The mercury campaign is the most recent example that comes to mind. Congratulations.

Margaret Lee
WTC Member

Special Thanks

We are extremely grateful to all the individuals and businesses who made our **2003 Auction for Action** annual celebration and dinner a record-breaking 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, **104 volunteers** donated a total of **more than 1800 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 2003. With your help we were able to achieve a number of important accomplishments in reducing 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 WTC. Thank you!

7 Anonymous
Daniel Adams and Cynthia Toops
Winifred Adams and Bob Gamble
Jason and Ann Allen
Laurie and Stan Anderson
Tom and Jackie Andrewjeski
Margaret Archer
Karl Arne
Lisa Arnold
Dave and Penny Atcheson
Shirli Axelrod and Michael Seamans
Donna and Paul Balle
Susan and Paul Ballinger
Mikhaila Barg Reudink and Mark Reudink
Tanya and Aaron Barnett
Margaret Bartley
Lynly Beard Ewel
Allison Beezer
William Belknap
Cathy and Michael Benson
Trudy Bialic
John Birnel and Mary Lou Dickerson
Diane Blankenship
Don Bollinger
Deborah Bowler
Rachel Bravmann and Chris Bevans
William Broadhead
Liz Brown
Heather Brynn
Jack and Pat Bujacich
Michele Burns
Eddy Cates and Beth Doglio
Sharon Chen and Peter Carlin
Janet Clingaman
Fritzi Cohen
Aileen Conover Gagney and Barbara Sewell
Joey Corcoran
Dale Cox
Barbara Crook and Richard Ely
Lisa Crosby and Paul Becker
Jane and Paul Crowder
Therese and Jim Cushing
Martha Dale
Suzannah Dalzell
Carol Dansereau and Mike Anderson
Fredric Danz
Marc Daudon
Debby Davies
J Elizabeth Davis
Jean and Dwayne Day
Rick Debroux and Ingrid Wertz
Bailey deLongh and Jay Williamson
Vincent Depillis
Jean Diamond Sargent
Martha Dickey
Philip Dickey and Bridget Dacres
Chris Diehl
Alison and James Dildine
Cynthia Dold
Jennifer Dold and David Graves
Joanne Donohue
Judy Drake
Elaine and James Dubuar
Barbara and Jacob Engelstein
Guy R. Eroncig
Chris Feise
Mary and Paul Ferrari

Saul Fortunoff
Cindy and Jon Franklin
Dave and Mary Sue Galvin
Constance Gandolfi Voget
Irene Gendron
Jennie Gibbons and Eric Fox
David Giglio
Steven Gilbert and Janice Camp
Claude Ginsburg and Lynne Hyerle
Chris Goelz and Joanne Abelson
Marcy and Hellmut Golde
Sally Goodwin and Kurt Hoelting
Harold Goree
Stacia Green
Keala Hagmann and Bur Davis
Ursula Hall
Douglas Hanson
Phyllis Harper
Jan Hasselman and Claire Carver
Pam Hawes
Elizabeth Hebert and Donald Guthrie
Tracy Hendershott and Greg Slayden
Lynn Henderson
Bob and Phyllis Henigson
Juliane Hill
Candice and Ted Hoffman
Diane Horn
Cheryl Houser and Dennis Wackerbarth
Grady Hughes
Marcia Hunt
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Kate and Dennis Kasprzyk
Dr. Natasha Kassell
Elizabeth Katz
Christine Keyt
Carolynn Kim-Prelutsky and Jack Prelutsky
Robert Koon
Kelly Krieger
Jennifer and Marc Kropack
Tanya Kwast and Paul Shoeman
Judith Laddon and Lawrence Shook
Barbara LeBrun
Shirley Leckman
Ann Lennartz
Pauline Lindblom
Craig Lorch and Julia Haack
Chris Luboff
Linda and Scott Lunda
Robert Maas
Ruth MacGinitie
Heather MacPhail
Yvonne Marquis and Jon Halper
Stella Marrs
Howard and Sandy McCandless
Gail and Mike McCormick
Ingrid McDonald
Karen and John McDonell
Lillian McDonell
Ann McDowell Liu
Jill McGrath and Richard Gelb
Erick McWayne
Suellen Mele
Tony Mestres
Maxine Miller
Elizabeth and Sean Mitchell
Peggy and Robert Monroe

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 2003. Names in *italics* are members of our Advocates Circle and support WTC through our monthly donor program.

Karen Murphy and Charlie Tebbutt
Kate Nelson
Patricia Novotny
Susan Olson
Linda S. Park
Lorie Parker
Irene Pasternack and Ed Mills
Chuck Perov and Mary Jo Bishop
Jim Peschel and Sue Gundy
Debora Petschek
Christine Plected
Bill Pope
Rick Poulin and Christine Bounds-Poulin
Christopher Pringer
Colleen Quinn and Paul Tomita
Mary and Gregory Rabourm
Lemoine and Foster Radford
Marney Reynolds and Page Read
Bonnie Rice
Therese Rickman-Bull
Paula Riggert and Thomas Grismer
Gail Rinehart
Darby Ringer
Juliette Ripley-Dunkelberger
Valerie Rose
Corey Satten
Erika Schreder and Gregory Peters
Kurt Schreder
Sally and Fritz Schreder
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Eva and Ron Sher
John Shimer and Cay Fortune
Lauren Shuck and Allison Bingham
Eric and Lisa Marie Sieverling
Eileen Small
John and Frances Smersh
Marjorie Smith
Richard A. Smith
Marcella Smith Gilson
Elsie Sorgenfrei
Johan Spieker
David and Shannon Steffenson
Jon Stier and Susan Elderkin
David and Laurel Stitzhal
Margaret Swain
Matthew S. Sweeting
Anne Takekawa
Alexa and Kirman Taylor
Liz Tennant and Peter Maier
Amy Theobald and Cara Beth Lee
Chuck Tompkins
Kate Turpin
Leonie Van Gelder
Jo Van Patten
Marion Weber
Manny Weiser
Rabbi Shifra Weiss-Penzias
Elaine Willey
Ed Zuckerman
Altshuler, Berzon, Nussbaum, Rubin & Demain
Bricklin Newman Dold LLP
Environmental Home Center
Green Hotels Association
Horizon Organic Dairy, Inc.
In Harmony
Sound Home Inspections
StonyField Farm

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 2003:

Beldon Fund
 Ben & Jerry's Foundation
 The Loyal Bigelow and Jedediah Dewey Foundation
 Bullitt Foundation
 Burning Foundation
 C.S. Fund and Warsh-Mott Legacy
 The Dudley Foundation
 Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation
 David and Melinda Gladstone Foundation
 Health Care Without Harm
 Mitchell Kapor Foundation
 Kongsgaard Goldman Foundation
 John Merck Fund
 Northwest Fund for the Environment
 Patagonia
 Public Welfare Foundation Inc.
 Russell Family Foundation
 Seattle Biotech Legacy Foundation
 Seattle Foundation
 Social Venture Partners

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, or visit their website at www.esw.org.

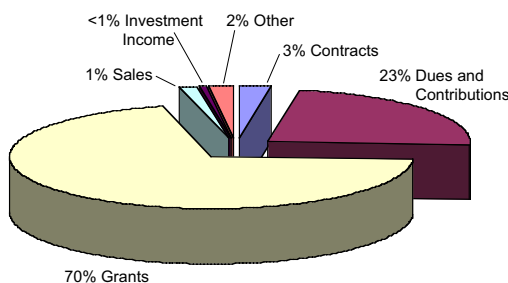


Tortuga Foundation
 Wallace Genetic Foundation
 Washington State Department of Ecology
 Winky Foundation
 Wyman Youth Trust

Financial Statement

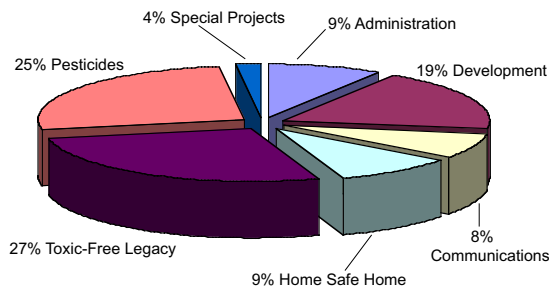
Income

Grants	563,957
Member Dues and Contributions	186,903
Contracts	21,113
Sales	11,617
Investment Income	4,765
Other	14,577
Total	802,932



Expenses

Toxic-Free Legacy	182,623
Pesticides	167,335
Development	126,070
Administration	59,145
Home Safe Home	63,871
Communications	52,333
Special Projects	28,892
Total	680,269



I'm so thankful there are organizations like yours and the thousands of others, large and small, that stay on top of these issues and make it possible for people like me to jump in and add support in a quick and easy manner. I have been working with Angela Storey and with Cheryl Holzmeyer before her on reducing pesticides on school grounds. ... Again, thank you for all you do. Where would we be without people like you?

Elizabeth Koch
 WTC Member

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*



Cover Photo: This photo by Philip Dickey shows part of the grounds of the historic Good Shepherd Center in Seattle, in which our office is located. The beautiful grounds have been maintained without pesticides for many years, and proudly feature our Pesticide Free Zone signs in several locations.

Other photos: Page 2: Ken Steffenson; Page 3: Jennifer Stier.

WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION

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