

Fall/Winter 2025

NEWSLETTER



**BEYOND
TOXICS**

Leadership for a thriving and just Oregon

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with deep gratitude and a profound sense of purpose that I step into the role of Executive Director at Beyond Toxics. I am honored to join you and this community of changemakers who believe in the power of collective action to create a healthier, more just world for all.

We are living through extraordinary times. Across our nation, we are witnessing increasing polarization, federal funding freezes and cuts, rollbacks on critical environmental protections, and direct attacks on immigrants and other frontline communities. These challenges weigh heavily on all of us who are committed to justice and sustainability. And yet, even in this difficult landscape, I see opportunity—opportunity to stand together, to strengthen our resolve, and to be unwavering in our fight for a more equitable future.

At Beyond Toxics, we remain steadfast in our mission to advance environmental justice across Oregon. Our work is grounded in the voices and leadership of frontline communities who are most impacted by pollution, climate change, and systemic inequities. We are committed to pursuing bold legislation at both the local and state levels that protects

vulnerable communities, invests in disadvantaged neighborhoods, and ensures future generations inherit a safer, healthier planet.

We are dedicated to educating and empowering the next generation of environmental justice stewards, because we know lasting change is built on leadership that reflects the diversity and resilience of our communities.

In the coming months, I look forward to listening deeply, learning from our partners and members, and working alongside you to strengthen the fabric of our movement. Your support makes it possible for us to take on the urgent fights of today while nurturing the seeds of tomorrow's transformation. One of my favorite sayings is that "A rising tide lifts all boats." Together, we can change the tide. Together, we will continue to rise, resilient and inspired by the vision of justice for all people and our planet.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I am excited for the path ahead and honored to walk it with you.

With gratitude and determination,



Jennifer Davis



A JUST, HEALTHY & SUSTAINABLE OREGON IS POSSIBLE WITH YOUR HELP.

Picture an Oregon where every child breathes clean air, every family has safe drinking water, and every community thrives free from toxic harm.

That vision has guided the work of Beyond Toxics for over two decades, and we are so grateful to you for standing with us. Together, we've stood with communities across the state to fight polluters, reform harmful policies, and advance just and sustainable solutions that put people first. With your help, we've held industries accountable, championed pesticide reform, and brought environmental justice to the forefront of Oregon's agenda.

But the work is far from over. Fossil fuel expansion, unchecked pesticide use, and toxic industry practices continue to threaten our health and climate. At the same time, climate change is reshaping Oregon, from record-breaking wildfires to extreme heat events that put our most vulnerable communities at risk. The stakes could not be higher.

Beyond Toxics is ready to meet this moment. With your support, we will:

- Advance bold climate justice policies that protect the most impacted communities.
- Champion healthy ecosystems by defending pollinators, forests, and farmlands.
- Ensure clean air and water for every Oregonian; especially frontline communities.

This is a vision worth fighting for, and one we can only achieve together. Your generosity fuels community-driven campaigns, builds grassroots power, and ensures justice is not just an aspiration, but a reality.

That's why we are asking you to help us raise \$150,000 before the end of the year. Every gift, no matter the size, moves us closer to an Oregon that is healthier, more equitable, and more resilient for generations to come.

Now is the time to act. Please make your year-end gift today and continue to stand with us as we build a future where every community in Oregon can thrive. Your generosity makes this work possible!

Scan this code to make a donation
at beyondtoxics.org/donate



WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR WORK

Give a meaningful year-end donation

Become a monthly supporter

Give appreciated stock

Contribute through your IRA (for those
70 ½ & older)

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



Tony Arnell

Director of
Development

Tony joined Beyond Toxics this fall after holding fundraising leadership positions at a variety of other Oregon-based environmental nonprofits over his career. Within our team he works with members, foundations, and businesses whose support fuels the environmental justice work being done every day. He looks forward to further strengthening the connection between this incredible group of supporters and Beyond Toxics as we embark on our next 25 years.



Alejandro Garcia Iboa

Youth Education
Coordinator

Alejandro joined our team this summer. As a Eugene native, he has a love for the outdoors, nature, and the people in his community. His passion lies in working with youth of all ages: He believes that youth leadership is the foundation for change in the modern world and that leaders can come from all walks of life. When he's not organizing or leading workshops, he can be found in coffee shops enjoying a matcha latte or riding his bike along the riverfront.



Meredith Goehring

Development
Associate

Meredith joined Beyond Toxics this spring, coming from other local development work in Eugene. She is passionate about community-based environmental justice and is excited to put her extensive fundraising and grant writing experience into practice. Meredith's knowledge and background have quickly become pivotal in helping us reach our development goals. Outside of the office, you can likely find her trail running, at her community garden plot, or baking at home.



INTRODUCING NEW INTERACTIVE PESTICIDE APPLICATION MAP

Beyond Toxics has a long history of engagement with pesticide reform in Oregon's industrial forests due to their toxicity to people and impacts on water quality. In 2020, we worked to pass amendments to Oregon's Forest Practices Act with a coalition of nonprofits to improve transparency and reduce toxics exposure. Changes included added transparency around the use of forestry pesticides and Oregon Department of Forestry implemented changes to the Forest Activity Electronic Notification System (FERNS).

Providing information and protecting people and public resources from the harmful effects of pesticide exposure are close to the heart of our mission. To that end, we are excited to debut a new tool on our website!

Beyond Toxics' FERNS Web Map is an interactive web map that displays the Oregon timber industry's pesticide applications from 2014 to 2024. We have collaborated closely with the InfoGraphics Lab at the University of Oregon to bring this map to life, utilizing data from the FERNS

database managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

In it, you can navigate to individual plots of private, state, or county land where pesticides have been applied to see information about:

- Landowners, operators, and pesticide applicators
- Types of pesticides applied
- Method of application such as aerial or ground spray
- And much more!

While this map is not the first of its kind in Oregon, it is the only one available right now. This makes it an important resource, compiling publicly available data into an easy-to-use tool that dramatically improves transparency in pesticide use.

Whether you suspect historical pesticide drift in your area or are simply curious about what sorts of applications have been happening around you, FERNS is a great starting point.

*Scan this code to see
the map for yourself!*



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

COFFIN BUTTE LANDFILL

Our partners at Valley Neighbors for Environmental Quality and Safety (VNEQS), saw tremendous success in the July public hearings opposing the proposed expansion of Coffin Butte Landfill in Benton County! After more than 20 hours of hearings and 5,000 pages of written testimony on the proposal, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to deny the expansion application from landfill operator Republic Services.

Republic Services, however, appealed the denial, and the issue was passed to the Benton County Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners held a public hearing over two days mid-October, and a decision expected by November 26.

RESILIENCE MARKETS

Access to healthy and nutritious food is an integral part of climate justice. This summer and fall, we brought back Resilience Markets to give away free organic produce to low income families. Resilience Markets help fill a void left by cuts to SNAP benefits, addressing a growing need for local food support. With generous support from the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, we greatly expanded the program from five markets in 2024 to 15 markets in 2025.

With support from volunteers, we gave away roughly 700 pounds of fresh produce each market—totaling nearly 11,000 pounds of produce to more than 700 people! The markets are hosted at the Amicus Memorial Garden Collective, the site of the former Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. Our partners at SquareOne Villages acquired the closing church, allowing markets to continue and creating a hub for community support.



Resilience Markets have been an Amicus Memorial Garden fixture this year.



*Above: the mostly empty J.H. Baxter site after recent demolitions.
Photo courtesy of US Environmental Protection Agency.*

J.H. BAXTER RECEIVES SUPERFUND DESIGNATION

The site of the former J.H. Baxter wood treatment facility in west Eugene is now largely empty. In July, the EPA added J.H. Baxter to the Superfund National Priorities List—a hopeful step forward for the community. Toxic materials like creosote, dioxins, heavy metals, and volatile organic compounds remained in the tanks and pipes since the facility's closure in 2022. Now, large chemical storage tanks and retorts, the boiler room, and a hazardous materials shed have been removed as a part of the EPA's Time Critical Removal Action, an effort to stop any further release of these hazardous substances into the environment.

During a July community meeting, EPA representatives outlined the next steps of the cleanup. The EPA will conduct a remedial investigation, assessing ongoing human health and environmental risks, as well as soil sampling to determine the extent of pollution beyond J.H. Baxter's property line. Community members will be invited to attend meetings and provide input on the cleanup process. **The EPA's work is ongoing despite the federal government shutdown.**

A NOTE ON WEST EUGENE

Whether you've been following Beyond Toxics for a long time, or are just getting to know us, you may recognize Arjorie Arberry-Baribeault as our West Eugene Community Organizer. After more than five years working directly with the West Eugene community and fighting industrial polluters like J.H. Baxter, we're excited to share some news about Arjorie's role. She will be shifting her focus to Portland, concentrating on policy work to continue supporting our efforts for environmental justice across Oregon. No matter what, we will always advocate for West Eugene and strive for policies that protect human health and the environment!

Cleanup is already underway at J.H. Baxter and much has been demolished. Photos courtesy of US EPA.



Before



After

TOXIC FREE LIVING: SAFER HOME CARE

Picture this: you're getting ready for the holidays, cleaning your kitchen and bathrooms for your guests. You go to grab a bottle of surface cleaner and decide to read the ingredients, of which there are many. After a few minutes, you're wondering how safe this product is. Surely there are natural, safe alternatives.

That's where Toxic Free Living comes in. We have been steadily expanding a free online database of do-it-yourself, natural, and safe alternatives to many common household products. Not just cleaning products, but also cosmetics, personal care, and pest control.

Resources Found on Toxic Free Living

- Natural mold treatments
- Skin, hair, nail care and fragrances
- Baby, bath, oral, and period care
- DIY cleaning supplies and pesticides
- And more!

Toxic Free Living is For Everyone

We have made Toxic Free Living with accessibility in mind. Whether you've been making your own natural products for awhile and are looking for new inspiration, or you're brand new and are looking for something easy to start with, there's something for everyone.

This work was generously supported by the Oregon Health Authority. Stay tuned for more Toxic Free Living content in 2026!



Surface Cleaner/Disinfectant Spray

WHAT YOU'LL NEED



- Spray Bottle
- Distilled Water
- Liquid Castile Soap
- White Vinegar [for disinfectant]
- Isopropyl Alcohol or Peroxide [for disinfectant]
- Essential Oils [optional]

HOW TO PREPARE

- Fill your spray bottle with 2 cups of water
- Add 1 tablespoon of castile soap.
- Cover the bottle and shake well.
- For disinfectant, replace one cup of water for one cup of white vinegar.
- Add 2 tablespoons of isopropyl alcohol or peroxide.

****Optional: 20 drops of essential oils****

Find DIY instructions like these and more on our website!



Explore all our toxic free resources by scanning this code.

MASCARILLAS CAPILARES NATURALES

MASCARILLA DE ALOE VERA Y ACEITE DE COCO

Qué Necesitará Y Instrucciones:

1. Mezcla 3 cucharadas de gel de aloe vera con 2 cucharadas de aceite de coco hasta obtener una mezcla homogénea.
2. Aplícalo sobre el cabello, insistiendo en las puntas y las raíces.
3. Cubrir con un gorro de ducha y dejar actuar durante 30 minutos.
4. Lavar con champú como de costumbre.

MASCARILLA DE AVENA

Qué Necesitará Y Instrucciones:

1. Mezcla agua con 1 taza de avena, 1 cucharadita colmada de canela, 1 cucharadita colmada de aceite de aguacate, 1 cucharadita colmada de aceite de coco, y 1 cucharadita colmada de miel.
2. Cocer como los copos de avena normales y dejar enfriar de 5 a 10 minutos.

NATURAL HAIR MASKS

ALOE VERA & COCONUT OIL MASK

What You'll Need & Instructions

1. Blend 3 tablespoons of aloe vera gel with 2 tablespoons of coconut oil until smooth.
2. Apply to hair, focusing on tips and roots.
3. Cover with a shower cap and leave for 30 minutes.
4. Shampoo as usual.

OATMEAL MASK

What You'll Need & Instructions:

1. Mix water with 1 cup of oats, 1 heaping teaspoon of cinnamon, 1 heaping teaspoon of avocado oil, 1 heaping teaspoon of coconut oil, and 1 heaping teaspoon of honey.
2. Cook like regular oatmeal and let cool 5-10 minutes.



BODY WASH

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 3 TBSP castile soap (liquid castile soap works best)
3 TBSP raw honey
2 TBSP oil (I used 1 TBSP each of castor oil and olive oil)
10 drops essential oil of choice (or more for your preferences)

INSTRUCTIONS:



1. Carefully mix all ingredients by hand with a spoon in a glass liquid measuring cup (do not use a blender, whisk or hand mixer as this will create bubbles and make it impossible to get into a container).
2. Pour into a (preferably glass) container and use in the shower as a body wash. I use this homemade body wash with a natural sea sponge for easy use.



LAVADO CORPORAL

LO QUE NECESITARÁS:

- 3 cucharadas de jabón de castilla (el jabón de castilla líquido funciona mejor)
3 cucharadas de miel cruda
2 cucharadas de aceite (yo usé 1 cucharada de aceite de ricino y 1 cucharada de aceite de oliva)
10 gotas de aceite esencial de tu elección (o más según tus preferencias)

INSTRUCCIONES:



1. Mezclar cuidadosamente todos los ingredientes a mano con una cuchara en un vaso medidor de líquidos de cristal (no utilizar batidora, batidor ni mezclador manual, ya que se crearían burbujas y sería imposible introducirlo en un
2. Verter en un recipiente (preferiblemente vidrio) y utilizar en la ducha como jabón. Este jabón casero con una esponja natural para facilitar su uso.

Find dozens of recipes in both English and Spanish on our Toxic Free Living database!

RISE AS LEADERS RETURNS

Our 2025 fall Rise As Leaders cohort convened this month with our new Youth Education Coordinator, Alejandro, taking the lead. Rise As Leaders is an eight-week workshop series for teens and young adults to learn more about community organizing around environmental and climate justice.

Rise as Leaders centers young people of color as the next generation of activists and organizers. Students have seen firsthand the effects of climate change on their communities, and this workshop series aims to empower them to take action and drive change in the fight for environmental and climate justice.

The program began in 2020 and is supported by the Gray Family Foundation in their effort to uplift environmental education programs across Oregon.

WE NEED YOU ON DECEMBER 2!

None of these programs would be possible without Beyond Toxics' devoted community of supporters. Your year-end gift ensures our programs can continue to advocate for environmental health policies, support frontline communities and empower the next generation of environmental justice leaders.

Giving Tuesday is coming up on December 2. It's a great time to consider a year-end contribution and give a boost towards our **\$150,000** fundraising goal!

- Visit **beyondtoxics.org/donate** to make your contribution online. To sustain our work all year long, consider becoming a monthly supporter.
- Use the enclosed envelope to mail your personal check.
- Call us at 541-264-5255 to make your gift over the phone.
- See if your employer offers a Matching Gift Program, and double your impact!

However you choose to support Beyond Toxics this year, we are grateful to you for partnering with us for a thriving and just Oregon. Thank you!

GI
INGTUESDAY

WHERE ELSE WE'VE BEEN



Bulk Handling Systems CEO Steve Miller presents to tour group during Eugene Environmental Film Festival (left) and Beyond Toxics GIS Analyst Mason Leavitt is interviewed by KEZI 9 (right)



A full house at Darkside Cinema in Corvallis for the premiere of "Trash Town USA," a documentary about the Coffin Butte Landfill expansion and its consequences for the local community



Beyond Toxics staff and partner organizations on a tour of the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub in Northwest Portland



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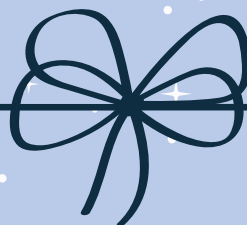
SAVE THE DATE

*for a Holiday
Open House*

When: Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m.

Where: Beyond Toxics Office
120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd., Eugene

Join us for a happy hour full of
holiday cheer! More details and
RSVP at beyondtoxics.org/events



Every gift makes a difference.

Help us reach our goal of
\$150,000 raised by year's end
when you give today!



Visit beyondtoxics.org/donate

Thank you!

Beyond Toxics is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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