

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

Vol. 14, No. 4

Ending Incineration in Illinois

Recycling in America

Government's Divide and Conquer Tactics

Health Care Without Harm



The Journal of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice
Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

CCHW Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Lois Marie Gibbs

ORGANIZING DIRECTOR
Charlotte Brody

SCIENCE DIRECTOR
Stephen Lester

**FINANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE
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ASSOCIATE**
Michael Drescher

GRASSROOTS COORDINATOR
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GRANTS MANAGER
Maryll Kleibrink

BOOKKEEPER
Hae-Young Kang



Everyone's Backyard

EDITOR
Michael Drescher

LAYOUT DESIGN AND PRODUCTION
Maureen McDonald
Page Artistry
Rochester, NY

**ALL CCHW STAFF MEMBERS
CONTRIBUTE TO EBY**



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Turning Lemons into Lemonade



An interesting dilemma raised its head once again this recent election season. The question: How far do you publicly challenge a candidate that you want to win during an election season? Do you look the other way at the things that should be done by a candidate while s/he is still in office? These two questions surfaced during a recent collaborative activity focused on President Clinton this past October. Here's what happened:

Groups working on dioxin across the country held a meeting in Washington, DC in September. The group leaders gathered to define the next steps that groups can take together to move the dioxin issue forward. One suggestion was to help the residents of Pensacola, Florida who were suffering from exposures to the Mt. Dioxin Superfund site. This site was suggested because it would set a number of precedents, including the creation of an EPA policy on relocation benefits, the establishment of exposure standards for dioxin in residential areas, and the definition of the term "background levels."

Just before this meeting, President Clinton, in accepting his party's nomination for a second term as President, said that no child should have to live near a hazardous waste site. He said "children should live near parks, not poisons." Right after the workgroup meeting, there was a great deal of talk in the news of how President Clinton needed to win Florida if he wanted to guarantee victory. Clinton's campaign organizers openly discussed how they were going to put more money and people in Florida to expand their reach.

It became clear that one way to move the Pensacola residents and impact dioxin policy development was to focus on the President. An idea to do a full page advertisement evolved. The ad, placed in Florida editions of *USA Today*, publicly asked the President to take action in Florida and move the children away from Mt. Dioxin contamination, thus transforming his acceptance speech into action.

Working group leaders were asked if they would support this activity with both their names and their dollars. Excitement grew and group names and donations were collected daily. Over 100 groups signed on to this effort and paid for the costs of the ad. The ad ran on October 1 as Mrs. Clinton toured Florida. On October 3, the EPA announced that the entire community of 358 families would be relocated.

The majority of the 101 groups who signed on were grassroots environmental organizations. Missing from the list of names in the ad were the major national environmental organizations, with the exception of Greenpeace. When asked to be involved, some of these organizations didn't want to challenge Clinton during an election year. One can see some logic behind their resistance, however. The ad was seen by grassroots leaders as an opportunity, not as a threat. The EPA had already agreed to move 100 families and the chances of adding the remaining families to the effort was pretty good.

The major environmental organizations could have worked with grassroots groups and Clinton's campaign organizers to explain how, if EPA/Clinton relocated the community, the action would provide a major Florida press opportunity to show that Clinton cares about Florida's environment and the devastated families of Mt. Dioxin. They saw the ad as a bushel of lemons that would sour Clinton's campaign, instead of an opportunity to turn those lemons into lemonade, and assure a Clinton victory in Florida.

To challenge those whom we support is not a bad concept. In fact, it is the only way we can keep those individuals honest and representative of the opinions of the voters. It's time for all groups, not just grassroots organizations, to stop running scared and playing "inside the Beltway" politics. Challenges during elections are not necessarily threats. Some can be opportunities for the candidates, the public health and our environment. Wake up D.C. ■

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD

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Who We Are

Citizens Clearinghouse For Hazardous Waste is a fifteen-year-old Environmental Justice Center working with a network of over 8,000 local grassroots groups. We were formed to help people win cleanup of contaminated sites and to prevent new sources of contamination. Over the years, our work has grown to include helping people deal with everything from chemical plants to radioactive waste to recycling.

CCHW trains and assists local people to fight for justice, become empowered to protect their communities from environmental threats and build strong, locally controlled organizations. CCHW connects these strong groups with each other to build a movement from the bottom up so that grassroots groups can collectively change the balance of power.

This journal is compiled with the help of hundreds of local activists who keep us informed about what is happening in their area. We can use your help too. Send us articles and news clips about your group or other grassroots success stories in your area.



Citizens Clearinghouse for
Hazardous Waste, Inc.
119 Rowell Court
P.O. Box 6806
Falls Church, VA 22040
(703) 237-CCHW (2249)



Over 1000 people attend a rally at the West Virginia Capitol organized by the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. The rally was held to protest a proposed pulp and paper mill by Parsons & Whittemore that would litter the Ohio River with dioxin.
©Chuck Wyrostok/
AppaLight.

Features

The Struggle to End Incineration

An Illinois activist's struggle to defeat a proposed incinerator that turns into a successful, statewide campaign to end incineration in Illinois.

4

Health Care Without Harm

A new national coalition unveils a campaign to stop the creation of dioxin through the incineration of medical waste.

6

Recycling: A Modern Day Success Story

The latest trends in recycling and America's excitement in participating.

9

Divide and Conquer . . .

The government's new game plan to divide and conquer community groups and take away their democratic power.

26

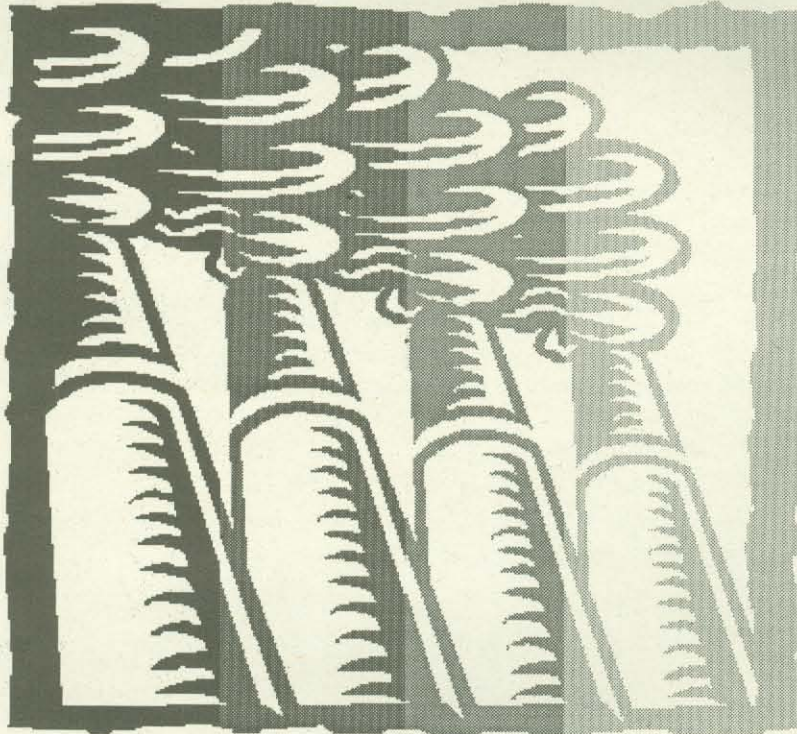
Departments

Corporate Corner	14
Action Line	17
Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign	20
Legal Corner	30
Resources	31

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The Struggle to End Incineration

by Katherine Kemp



To the memory of
Li Ussery,
who made all of
this possible.
Li passed away on
November 10, 1996
after a battle
with cancer.
Li Ussery
(1951-1996)

In August of 1994, I returned from my vacation to read that a zoning hearing would be held to consider the request of developers to build an incinerator in my community that would burn treated wood. I had two weeks to learn everything I could about incineration and this type of facility, in particular. The most important fact I learned during that period was that a group of citizens had already brought a complaint against the developers to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. The day of the hearing I learned from Senator Paul Simon's office that the treated wood burner and a tire burner less than half-a-mile away were being permitted as waste-to-energy facilities, not as incinerators. A waste-to-energy facility can

operate as a power plant without going through the permitting process. This meant that their emissions would not be monitored for heavy metals content or other toxics because electricity would be generated in the incineration process. The developers plan was to have the proposed site annexed from Chicago Heights to unincorporated Cook County so that they could build their incinera-

Katherine Kemp is the Secretary of South Suburban Citizens Opposed to Polluting the Environment (SS COPE) in Chicago, Illinois. This is her account of their group's efforts to fight incineration in their community, and their inspiration behind it all, Li Ussery.

tor without a permitting process. Armed with information but not knowing what to expect, I asked one of my neighbors — the President of the local Sierra Club Chapter — to accompany me to the hearing. Two positive things happened at the hearing of the Chicago Heights Planning Commission: the Board recommended to the City Council against annexation, forcing a permitting process for the facility, and Li Ussery was there.

As we left the hearing, it was obvious that our work had only begun, but we all promised each other we would stick together until the bitter end. Li assumed leadership of our little group and steered us into what became a protracted battle. Li already had strong ties to the community with her volunteer work at her son's school and as head of the Chicago Heights Community Recycling Commission. She ran a very successful petition drive and we attended City Council meetings waiting for the annexation issue to arise. Eventually, the Mayor at that time requested a meeting with us. He became convinced that this burner would not be good for the community, but asked that we not give up the battle to prevent him from appearing foolish. I believe that he was not the only person surprised at the lengths we would go to battle this incinerator, which we later found out was an experimental facility.

Soon after our meeting with the Mayor, the Illinois Pollution Control Board ruled in our favor that the developers had lied in stating that the wood burner would be burning only wood fuel. They ruled that since the facility would also burn solid waste that it had to be zoned as an incinerator, not a power plant. Li and another member of our group, Maureen Drankiewicz, worked long and hard to convince the Cook County officials that the burner did not have proper zoning approval. This involved research, meetings with officials, testimony at hearings, and organizing people to attend court hearings and proceedings. Eventually, the Illinois Appellate Court ruled in our favor on the zoning question.

Throughout our struggle, some very touching events occurred. CCHW referred Li to a community group who had

successfully fought the developer we were fighting called Citizens Opposed to Polluting the Environment. They had \$100 left in their treasury, which they gave to us for our fight. So, we decided to name ourselves South Suburban Citizens Opposed to Polluting the Environment (SS-COPE).

During this period, Li worked tirelessly leading us in our efforts to raise community awareness. This is difficult in large metropolitan areas like Chicago. The major newspapers and television and radio stations were not interested in covering our story. The local suburban newspaper supported incineration. Members of our group met with the publisher and convinced him that the wood burner was dangerous. He wrote an editorial against the burner, which won an editorial award. After that, we got better coverage locally, but nearby communities remained unaware of the dangers they faced.

facilities that incinerate waste. Thanks to this legislation, Illinois was becoming the incineration capital of the U.S., and our fight was quickly expanded from a battle against one wood burner to a broad-based grassroots coalition struggling to repeal the Retail Rate law. Many groups had worked before us on repealing the law and failed. We knew that the fight would be difficult as we battled corporate money and political favors behind the Retail Rate law.

Our big break came when two additional wood burners were proposed, not in poor, minority communities, but in middle class neighborhoods. We shared our research on the dangers associated with wood burners with the residents in these neighborhoods and they joined our efforts. Having members of these more affluent communities led to our success in the repeal of the Retail Rate Law by the

continued on page 13



Shortly after our success in getting coverage for the wood burner, we learned that there were five additional incinerators planned for the South Suburbs, all in poor, minority communities. Apparently, legislation passed by the Illinois Legislature in 1989 called the "Retail Rate Law" created a very lucrative subsidy for builders of co-generation

A BFI truck hauls a load of tires to a tire "recycling" facility located near the site of a proposed treated wood burner in Chicago Heights. Photo by Damon Whitehead.

Health Care Without Harm

by Charlotte Brody



On September 22, 1996 a new initiative was born at a meeting at the Commonweal Center in Bolinas, California — Health Care Without Harm: the Campaign for Environmentally Responsible Health Care. Like most good ideas, Health Care Without Harm has many parents — two previous Commonweal conferences on the health effects of endocrine disrupting chemicals, the thousands of grassroots campaigns against medical waste incinerators and other pollution sources, the CCHW Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign that grew out of the EPA's reassessment of this prevalent poison, the efforts of Great Lakes activists to create policies and practices to reduce the contamination documented by the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes, and the growing body of scientific knowledge about endocrine disrupting chemicals as described CCHW's *Dying from Dioxin* and *Our Stolen Future*, by

Theo Colborn, Pete Myers, and Diane Dumanowski.

Among the participants at the campaign's founding meeting were representatives of women's health groups, national environmental groups, state and local grassroots groups, science-based organizations, and constituency groups. The effort is being coordinated by CCHW's Charlotte Brody and Jackie Hunt Christensen of the Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy.

The mission of Health Care Without Harm is to transform the health care industry so it is no longer a source of environmental harm by eliminating pollution in health care practices without compromising safety or care.

This mission will be accomplished by:

- Promoting comprehensive pollution prevention practices.
- Supporting the development and use of environmentally safe materials, technology, and products.

- Educating and informing health care institutions, providers, workers, consumers, and all affected constituencies about the environmental and public health impacts of the health care industry and solutions to its problems.

The goals of Health Care Without Harm are:

1. To work with a wide range of constituencies for an ecologically sustainable health care system.
2. To eliminate the non-essential incineration of medical waste and promote safe materials use and treatment practices.
3. To phase out use of PVC and persistent toxic chemicals, and to build momentum for a broader PVC phase-out campaign.
4. To phase out the use of mercury in the health care industry.

5. To develop health-based standards for medical waste management and to recognize and implement the public's right to know about chemical usage in the health care industry.
6. To develop just siting and transport guidelines that conform to principles of environmental justice: "no communities should be poisoned by medical waste treatment and disposal."
7. To develop an effective collaboration and communication structure among campaign allies.

Health Care Without Harm is now planning its inaugural event. The Environmental Working Group is taking the lead in the creation of a report on the environmental health impacts of medical materials and the disposal of medical waste. This report will be tailored for every state. Press conferences will be held to release the report in as many states as possible. If your group is interested in participating in the press event, contact CCHW.

Why Join Health Care Without Harm: The Campaign for Environmentally Responsible Health Care?

- Because the health care industry is making us sick.
- About 85% of medical waste is incinerated, accounting for ten percent of all incineration in the U.S.

HEALTH CARE WITHOUT HARM

THE CAMPAIGN FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE HEALTH CARE

- Approximately five to fifteen percent of medical waste needs to be incinerated to prevent infectious disease. The remaining waste, while not posing any danger from infectious pathogens, is very dangerous when burned. It contains high volumes of chlorinated plastics including PVC, and the toxic substances mercury, arsenic, cadmium and lead.
- In the EPA's 1994 draft report on dioxin, medical waste incineration was identified as the largest known source of dioxin emissions. While the final version of its report on dioxin may revise the ranking of dioxin sources, medical waste incineration will certainly remain a significant source of dioxin contamination.

continued on next page 13

Health Care Without Harm

Participating Organizations

Action for Women's Health

Albuquerque NM

AFL-CIO

Washington DC

California Communities

Against Toxics

Rosamond CA

Center for the Biology of Natural Systems

Flushing NY

CGH Environmental Strategies

Burlington VT

Citizens for a Better Environment

Madison WI

Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste

Falls Church VA

Clean North

Sault Ste. Marie ON

Commonweal

Bolinas CA

Ecology Center

Ann Arbor MI

Environmental Working Group

Washington DC

Environmental Stewardship Concepts

Richmond VA

Greenpeace

Washington DC and San Francisco CA

Human Action Community Organization

Harvey IL

Indigenous Environmental Network

Hackensack MN

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Minneapolis MN

Jenifer Altman

Foundation

Bolinas CA

Learning Alliance

New York NY

Toxics Action Center

Boston MA

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

St. Paul MN

Mt. Sinai School of Medicine

New York NY

National Wildlife Federation

Ann Arbor MI

National Environmental Law Center

Boston MA and Davis CA

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Washington DC, Boston MA, and San Francisco CA

Science and Environmental Health Network

Windsor ND

South Bronx Clean Air Coalition

Bronx NY

The Breast Cancer Fund

San Francisco CA

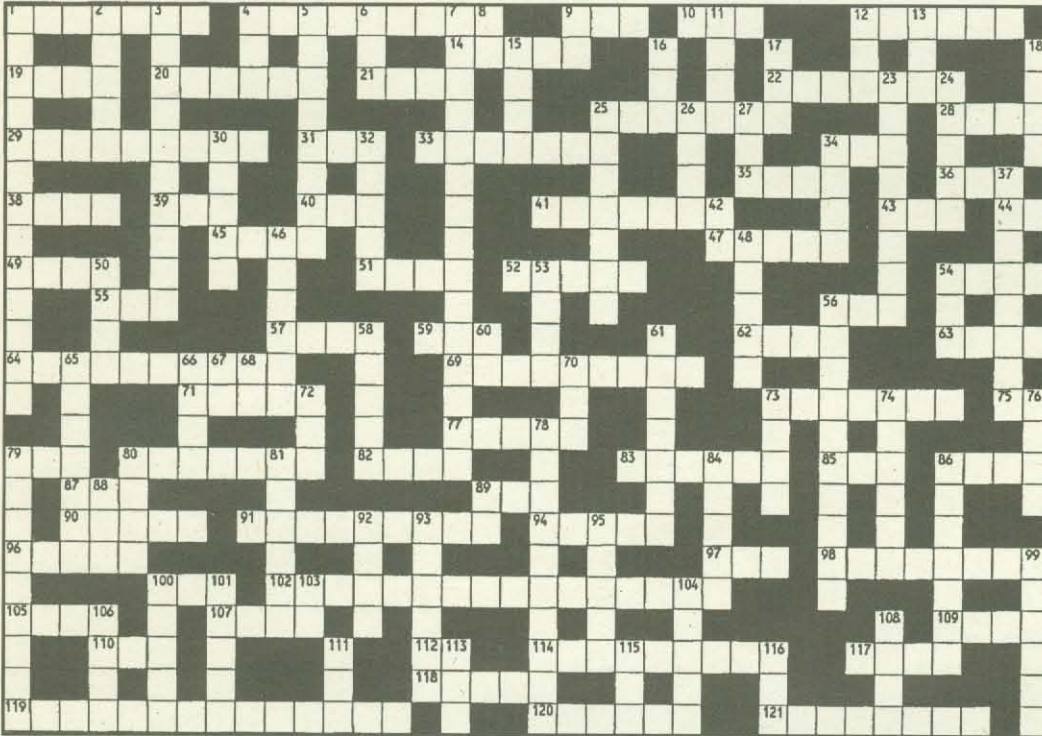
Washington Toxics Coalition

Seattle WA

Work on Waste

Canton NY

Try Your Hand at the Toxic Waste Puzzle



- 79. Where to put your recyclables.
- 80. Type of advanced scientific study
- 82. A good way to get a job done.
- 83. Former Alaskan tourist city.
- 85. Remedial Feasibility Study.
- 86. Radiation units.
- 87. And also
- 89. Do this when you get 87 Down.
- 90. Hazelwood wishes he had been, now.
- 91. Not couch potatoes.
- 94. The older garbage gets, the more it becomes.
- 96. What a gas chromatograph does.
- 97. In cigarettes and many dumps.
- 98. Type of explosion.
- 100. Grants for experts at Superfund sites.
- 102. Opposite of polluters.
- 105. "Oh no! Our effluent pipe is clogged! Call _____ Rooter!"

ACROSS

- 1. Styrofoam's main raw carcinogenic ingredient.
- 4. How do you take your Perrier? (2 wds.)
- 9. State of most garbage.
- 10. Dump dweller
- 12. Who's in charge here?
- 14. CFC victim
- 19. What was once Combustion Engineering is now _____.
- 20. 2,3,7,8-TCDD
- 21. Industry's "New Improved" foaming Agent.
- 22. Health hazards of 1000s of new Chemicals industry introduces each year.
- 25. How we want our children.
- 28. Medical waste handlers occupational hazard.
- 29. Concern of incinerator opponents.
- 31. Stuck in a _____.
- 33. People United for Environmental _____.
- 35. 1986 Superfund law acronym.
- 36. Garbage unit.
- 38. What landfill liners do all the time.
- 39. Leak plug.
- 40. Railroad with S.C. toxics problem.
- 41. Study used to pick dumpees.
- 43. No vote.
- 44. Not off.
- 45. Good for digestion, bad for dumps.
- 47. Sanitary landfills.
- 49. CCHW's mission is "_____ people to help themselves.
- 51. What the dumpers say when they leave town (Itl.)
- 52. Common device whose failure caused the Space Shuttle Challenger to explode.
- 54. Doesn't worry about worker safety.
- 55. The condition of most pollution monitoring equipment.
- 56. Common solvent linked to heart birth defects (abbr.)
- 57. Dessert or suit.
- 59. Degradable plastics are an example.
- 62. Reagan pollution source.
- 63. Regulator's Creed: "When in Doubt, _____."
- 64. Caused by March 14, 1989, "Breakfast With Buntrock" (2 wds).
- 69. Not the first and not the worst.
- 71. Signs of pollution.
- 73. Never admitted.
- 75. And (Latin).
- 77. What Wheelabrator told NH to do with \$400,000.

- 107. Where Glasnost created a new Env. Justice movement.
- 109. Said when polluters go to jail.
- 110. Bulb or view.
- 112. CA dumper, now big cleanup contractor.
- 114. Condition dumpers may leave behind.
- 117. How fine amounts are determined.
- 118. An unsafe way to test for contamination.
- 119. Fundamental physical laws of nature.
- 120. Industrial sewers.
- 121. Then vote!

DOWN

- 1. Industry's new experiment (4 wds.)
- 2. What #1 down equipment does.
- 3. What people do at boring public hearings (2 wds.)
- 4. Nitrogen Oxide (abbr.)
- 5. Former Waste Management CEO
- 6. National Institutes of Health (abbr).
- 7. Get the kids, get the dog, and get out (4 wds).
- 8. Nothing comes this way.
- 9. Regarding (abbr).
- 11. Amount of toxic waste industry produces (2 wds).

Clues continue on page 13

Recycling — A Modern Day Success Story

By Stephen Lester

The
American
People
Want
to
Recycle

It wasn't that long ago that grassroots activists, confronted with the "landfill crisis" of the mid-1980's, proposed recycling more of the waste stream as a solution, instead of building mega-incinerators. At the time, the "experts" said that it was impossible to make any serious dent in the waste stream with recycling efforts; that maybe 10-15% of the waste stream could be recycled and more massive waste management methods like incinerators were needed to handle the huge amounts of garbage that we generate.

Now, ten years later, grassroots activists across the country should feel proud of their efforts to say no to incineration and yes to recycling — recycling that includes not just paper, glass and metal, but also batteries, plastics, composting of yard and organic waste, and the reuse and remanufacture of worn and unusable items. Grassroots activists should also feel vindicated by the national success of recycling, which has become a main player in America's waste management system and a routine part of American life.

This success is born out by recent statistics released by the U.S. EPA, who announced that the U.S. had achieved the national goal set in 1988 of recycling 25% of the country's garbage. According to the EPA, 26.1% of the nation's garbage

was recycled in 1995 (see table 1). This compares to 58.4% that was dumped in landfills and 15.5% burned in incinerators. According to EPA, in 1995 the United States recovered more than 53 million tons of material from the solid waste stream, a 120 percent increase since 1988. Since 1980, nationwide recycling rates have increased almost 300%, going from 9.6% to 26.1% (see table 2). Furthermore, there is little indication that recycling efforts have reached their limit.

The success and acceptance of recycling into the mainstream of America's waste management system has surprised everyone from the expert consultants who said it could never be done to the waste hauler, to the city managers, to the local environmentalists. This success is due in part to broad public support, favorable markets, and an industry that has adapted quickly and invested heavily in the equipment and resources needed to make recycling a main spoke in the waste management wheel.

Statistics reported in *BioCycle* magazine's "State of the Garbage in America," found "a steady increase in recycling and composting throughout the U.S." Most dramatically, curbside recycling programs have increased more than 11-fold in the last eight years.

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BioCycle reports that there are 7,375 curbside recycling programs in operation in the U.S. serving more than 121 million residents, and that about 46% of the U.S. population now has access to curbside recycling (based on data collected from 28 states representing 70% of the total waste stream generated in the U.S.).

Waste Management Trends

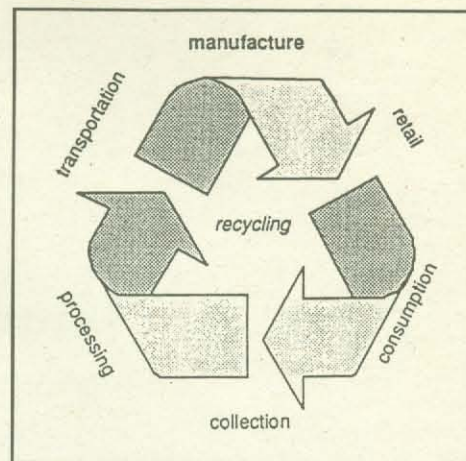
According to *BioCycle*, the trend toward fewer municipal solid waste (MSW) landfills continues. *BioCycle* counted 3,197 MSW landfills operating in 1995, down from 3,558 in 1994. The number of landfills has decreased every year since 1988, when there were about 8,000 landfills. Landfills are being replaced with transfer stations, which total 2,625 based on information provided from 44 states. *BioCycle* counted 156 MSW incinerators that burn about 10% of the total waste stream, a figure that has remained steady since 1990. These figures are based on data from 47 states representing 90% of the solid waste generated in the U.S. *BioCycle* found 1995 recycling rates to be 27%, landfill disposal

rates to be 63%, and incineration to be 10%

BioCycle provides a regional breakdown and tables listing state-by-state waste generation, recycling, landfilling and incineration rates. The states with the highest recycling rates are Minnesota (44%); New Jersey (42%); Florida (40%); Washington (38%); Oregon (33%); Virginia (33%); Maine (33%); Delaware (33%); New York (32%); Massachusetts (31%); Ohio (31%); and North Carolina (30%). The states with the lowest recycling rates are Wyoming (4%); Alaska (6%); Montana (6%); Louisiana (6%); New Hampshire (8%); and Kansas (8%).

Recycling Goals

Now that the 25% national recycling goal has been achieved, EPA is setting its sights on a new target - 35% by the year 2005. The agency is not alone in setting goals. Many states have set individual goals, including Rhode Island (70%), New Jersey (60%), and 16 other states setting goals of 50%, most to be achieved by the year 2000. In addition, the American Forest and Paper Association set a new paper recycling goal of 50% by the



year 2000 (they achieved a 40% goal set for 1995). The Steel Recycling Institute has set a target of recycling 66% of steel cans by 1995 and 80% of appliances by the year 2000.

The American Plastics Council (APC) set a goal of providing plastics recycling to a majority of American consumers by 1995. But, an October 1996 story in *Waste News* questioned the APC's commitment to recycling. Judy Kincaid, solid waste planning director for the Triangle J Council of governments of Raleigh, North Carolina, was quoted

Table 1. Recycling Rates in the U.S.

	1994			1995 (Projected)	
	MSW Generated (million tons)	MSW Recycled (million tons)	% of MSW Recycled	MSW Recycled (million tons)	% of MSW Recycled
Paper & Paperboard	81.3	28.7	13.7%	33.4	15.9%
Glass	13.3	3.1	1.5	3.2	1.5
Steel	11.5	3.7	1.8	4.1	1.9
Aluminum	3.1	1.2	0.6	1.1	0.5
Plastics	19.8	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.4
Rubber/Leather	6.4	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.2
Textiles	6.6	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.3
Wood	14.6	1.4	0.7	1.4	0.7
Yard Wastes	30.6	7.0	3.3	7.3	3.5
Other Wastes	21.9	2.0	1.0	2.4	1.2
Total	209.1	49.3	23.6%	55.0	26.1%

1994 data obtained from U.S. EPA "Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States, 1995 Update," Franklin Associates, LTD., March 1996. 1995 projections are based on generation of 210 million tons of MSW; and were projected from 1993 Franklin data, the latest available at the time the author, Winston Porter, wrote *Recycling in America*.

as saying that "APC did a small amount of work in a very limited way, and beyond that, we haven't heard anything in the past few years." Mark Murray, policy director of Californians Against Waste, a recycling advocacy group, agreed

nated items must be used by federal agencies, government contractors and state or local agencies that receive federal funds so long as the quality meets "reasonable performance specifications," costs are reasonable and competi-

to by 25% of the recycling companies in the state, provided a conservative estimate of 8,700 recycling jobs in North Carolina in 1994.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board estimated that 20,000 jobs could be created in the state's manufacturing sector and another 25,000 jobs in the sorting and processing of materials. In the greater Washington DC area, a study conducted by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance found that 5,100 people were employed in the region's recycling companies that generate revenue of more than \$2.1 billion. This compares to 1,100 jobs sustained by waste management disposal, despite four times as much material going to disposal. According to environmental scientist Barry Commoner, a recycling program that recovered 65% of Chicago's waste stream would create 20,000 jobs and add \$1 billion to Chicago's economy.

The Backlash

Although the success of recycling cannot be denied, some people are argu-

Table 2. Recycling Trends Over the Past 15 Years

	1980	1990	1994	1995
Landfilling	81.3%	66.6%	60.9%	58.4%
Incineration	9.1%	16.3%	15.5%	15.0%
Recycling	9.6%	17.1%	23.6%	26.1%

when asked if APC's actions have essentially killed plastic recycling. In the article, APC admitted that they have spent substantial sums to improve consumers attitudes about plastics, but argued that that does not mean there's a corresponding lack of commitment to recycling. APC offered no evidence of their efforts to promote recycling infrastructure or develop markets.

Development of Markets for Recycling

Recycling cannot exist if no one buys the collected material and finds a market to reuse the collected recyclables. Prices for a majority of materials are noticeably better than they were four or five years ago, but markets can vary widely depending on the availability of virgin goods, the cost of such goods, and other factors such as environmental regulations. However, markets for different materials have grown dramatically in the past 10 years and there is every reason to believe that steady markets for most commodities now exist. The evidence lies mostly in the enormous investments in infrastructure that we've seen in recent years. Industries have begun to invest huge amounts of money in equipment and plants to use recycled materials, realizing that there will be a steady stream of it in the future.

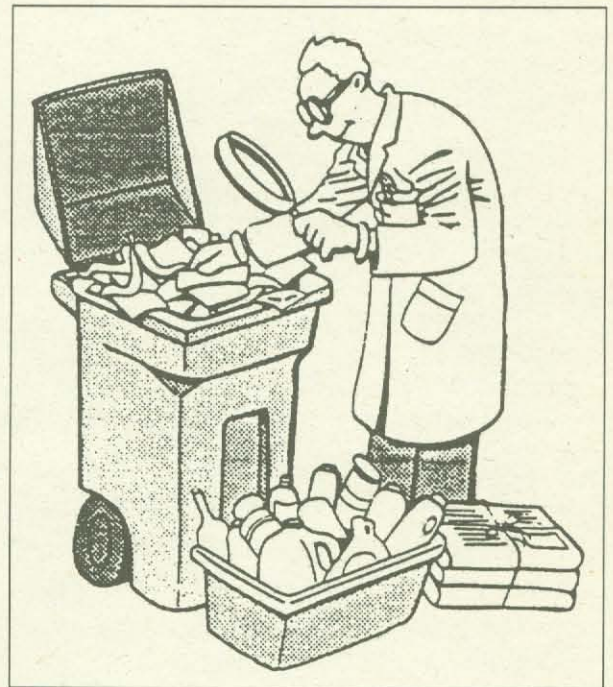
One of the main reasons for this is the commitment made by the federal government to create markets for recyclables by requiring that recycled products be part of their purchasing policies. Desig-

nated items must be used by federal agencies, government contractors and state or local agencies that receive federal funds so long as the quality meets "reasonable performance specifications," costs are reasonable and competi-

tive, and materials can be delivered within a reasonable period of time. In May 1995, the EPA passed the Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines which, together with proposed additions made in November 1996, list a total of 32 recycled content items designated for procurement. Government procurement agencies are required to buy these items, such as paper products, transportation-related materials, and construction materials, when purchasing (contact CCHW for complete list). As stated by EPA Administrator Carol Browner, the federal government is "helping to create markets for a wide range of recycled goods, supporting recycling businesses and ensuring continued economic incentives for recycling."

Job Opportunities Through Recycling

The success of recycling can also be tied to the number of jobs it creates and to the opportunities it creates for community development that keep local dollars in the local economy. In North Carolina, for example, recycling added jobs in 1994 at a rate six times higher than the private sector as a whole. A survey commissioned by the Self-Help Credit Union, North Carolina's community development bank, and responded



ing that we've reached the peak of what can be expected from recycling. In an article published in the industry trade journal *Solid Waste Technologies*, Winston

continued on next page

Porter, the past assistant administrator of EPA responsible for setting the 25% goal, quoted a study conducted by Franklin Associates for Keep America Beautiful which concluded that "recycling and composting as currently practiced have limits that will be reached in this decade." Porter was quoted in the *New York Times* saying that "there aren't many more materials in garbage that are worth recycling" and has been advising cities and states to abandon their "unrealistic" recycling goals.

It is hard to believe that with all that has been accomplished in the past 10 years that anyone would think that we are close to achieving all that can be done with recycling. There are still many communities that have little or virtually no recycling, especially in the Rocky Mountain states. More than half the single family homes in the U.S. are still not recycling, and most offices and businesses of all sizes, but especially small and medium-sized companies are still not recycling. Also, there is little recycling at public facilities such as airports, train and bus stations, theme and recreational parks, or hotels, sports, and entertainment facilities. These are tremendous

growth areas that simply have yet to be tapped.

The tone of the Franklin Associates report is that it will cost too much to further increase recycling rates and that it will be cheaper to dump waste in landfills or burn it than to do more recycling. This is the same argument that has been raised about recycling for years. The experts have been wrong before and they will be wrong again. It does cost money to run a recycling program, but it also costs money to manage waste. Besides, the cost of recycling is much less than the cost of incineration, which has turned out to be disastrously expensive (*Wall Street Journal*, August 11, 1993).

You also have to look at who paid for the Franklin Associates study - Keep America Beautiful. Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is an industry association run by America's largest corporations. For more than 30 years, KAB has maintained an interest in expanding waste disposal capacity in the U.S. that centers around landfills and incinerators. WMX and Browning Ferris, the two largest waste disposal companies in the U.S., are on the board of directors (and have been for years) and have contrib-

uted substantial sums to KAB over the years. These companies have little sincere interest in recycling because it directly competes with their bread and butter - landfills and to a lesser extent incinerators.

While it's in WMX's interest to get people thinking that recycling is limited and that landfills are still the best way to go, WMX and others who think like them just don't get it - the American people want to recycle. They are participating in record numbers. They are funding recycling programs at all levels of government. They are electing politicians who are committed to creating and/or expanding recycling programs. Most of all, they are joining together in opposition to landfills that will eventually leak and incinerators that poison our air.

It's time for groups like KAB to realize that recycling is part of mainstream America. We need to find more methods and resources to support and guide community and government efforts to start or expand recycling activities. This is the path that not only makes the most sense, but also gives the American public what it wants. ■

Resources

1. "What Do Recycling Businesses Want and Need?" David Kirkpatrick. *Resource Recycling*. pp. 23-26, June 1995.
2. "Recycling Boosts the Local Economy." Brenda Pratt, Henry James and Anne Kaufmann, *BioCycle*. pp. 60-64, August 1995.
3. *BioCycle* Nationwide Survey "The State of Garbage in America," Part I and Part II. Robert Steuteville. *BioCycle*. pp. 54-61, April 1996 and pp. 35-41, May 1996.
4. Characterization of Municipal Solid Waste in the United States: 1995 Update, USEPA Office of Emergency Response and Solid Waste, EPA530-R-96-001, February, 1996. Copies of the executive summary are available for free by calling the RCRA hotline at 800-424-9346. The full report is available on the internet through the EPA Public Access server at gopher.epa.gov and from the National Technical Information Service at 800-553-6847.
5. Manufacturing from Recyclables: 24 Case Studies of Successful Recycling Enterprises, USEPA Office of Emergency Response and Solid Waste, EPA530-R-95-001, February, 1995.
6. Environmental Fact Sheet, USEPA Amendment Proposed for Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines (CPG), USEPA Office of Emergency Response and Solid Waste, EPA530-F-96-043, November 1996.
7. "Beyond 40 Percent: Record Setting Recycling and Composting Programs." Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 2425 18th Street, NW, Washington DC 20009 (202) 232-4108.
8. In-Depth Studies of Recycling and Composting Programs - Vol I: Rural Communities; Vol II: Suburbs and Small Cities; Vol III: Urban Areas, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1992. Available from ILSR, 2425 18th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009 (202) 232-4108. Thirty in-depth case studies on community recycling programs providing information on costs, collection methods, participation, and much more. Each vol \$18; set \$45; summary available.
9. The Economic Benefits of Recycling, Brenda Pratt and David Morris, Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1993. \$10.

Struggle to End Incineration

continued from page 5

Illinois Legislature in January 1996. Governor Jim Edgar signed the repeal into law in March 1996.

Now there is a "For Sale" sign on the property where the wood burner was to be built. Our battle has not ended, however. We will continue to use the knowledge we gained about co-generation facilities as Illinois attempts to deregulate electricity providers. What will the State permit these utilities to burn? The U.S. EPA has yet to develop rules for air emissions from power plants and industrial boilers. Currently, power plants are grandfathered to standards from the 1920s. This deregulation is likely to affect residents of communities everywhere. We will continue our fight and use and share the knowledge and experience we have obtained. Citizens in our neighborhood and neighborhoods everywhere must be vigilant and continue to fight as we move into this period of deregulation. Our lives depend on it. ■

Editor's Note: CCHW would like to once again congratulate SS-COPE and the numerous other groups working in coalition and unity to repeal the Retail Rate Law. The Retail Rate Law provided subsidies for incinerator builders in Illinois for nearly ten years, leading to new facilities all over the state. It's repeal was a monumental and historical effort that will have implications nationwide regarding the construction of new incinerators. Its repeal also marks one of the most successful campaigns in the history of the grassroots movement for environmental justice.

Health Care Without Harm

continued from page 7

- The emissions from medical waste incineration lead to health effects including interference with fetal brain development, cancer, endometriosis, decreased testes size and immune system suppression.
- Because a campaign to stop the environmental harm created by the health care industry will make us stronger by building alliances with health care workers and health based groups. The campaign hopes to involve nurses, physicians, homeopaths, health care unions, hospital workers and other participants in the health care industry. Health Care Without Harm has already begun to include organizations that bring together people who have experienced prostate cancer, breast cancer, birth defects, endometriosis and infertility.
- Because real life alternatives already exist to the most harmful materials and incineration practices. Some hospitals have already adopted waste reduction and materials policies that have significantly reduced their contribution to this problem.
- Because it is morally and ethically wrong for health care facilities to use materials and waste disposal practices that emit chemicals that threaten the public's health. ■

Puzzle Clues

continued from page 8

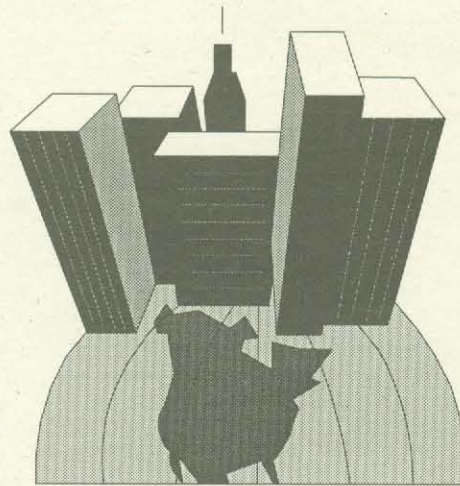
- _____ Toxic.
- Take a _____.
- Death notice.
- First thing dumped in Boston Harbor.
- How polluters make friends.
- Excuse for doing nothing.
- First you talk to one person, then you talk to another person, etc.
- Only label identifying chemicals in GSX/Laidlaw facility that burned in Cleveland, OH.
- The public speaks, the officials don't listen.
- Between the storm; also, your senses after a hearing.
- Superfund scoring system (abbr).
- Industry's word for democracy (abbr).
- What hazardous waste is.
- As opposed to "moratorium."
- Typical EPA record of decision.
- Lethal dose.
- As abused as the spirit of the law.
- What we must do to win environmental justice.
- Where environment rates high.
- Type of response. Common among officials.
- Often rigged by WMX and BFI.
- What industry thinks you are.
- EPA would like this from the public.
- Those that can, ...
- NWF head; host of "Breakfast with Buntrock" (2 wds).
- Environmental malady.
- Type of detail.
- A way that polluters win over media.
- Opposite of from.
- Movement goal for toxics.
- Group name; distress call.
- Air when polluted.
- Movement goal for toxic cleanup.
- Before you buy a water filter.
- Where "experts" hang out (2 wds.)
- Leaking nerve gas is this (2 wds.)
- Something that you shouldn't put on your Wheaties.
- Nature and Wall Street go through these.
- Something people throw at their opponents, usu. with their eyes.
- What industry calls it if you picket.
- Bring with you to public hearings.
- Fertilizer; also, common agency response.
- Where your complaints tend to go.
- Busted in Ohio.
- Philly trash strike left garbage in these.
- Cluster.
- In your fight, control this.
- Gotta Use Many Backyards (abbr.)
- What bottle bills seek to abolish. (Abbr.)
- Tall ones you get in answer to your questions.
- Stench.
- Their loaded with plastics.
- In trouble in Fall River.
- Taxpayers pick this up every time.
- A hefty bag comes with one of these.
- A real big help in Penn. Sure. ■

Answers in the next issue of *EBY*

CORPORATE CORNER

◆ A Florida State Court jury awarded \$4 million to the family of a boy born without eyes after his mother was exposed to Benlate while pregnant. The jury found **DuPont**, the manufacturer of the pesticide Benlate, and **Pine Island Farms**, a tomato and strawberry grower, negligent, ordering DuPont to pay \$3.98 million and Pine Island Farms \$20,000 to the family. The mother was drenched with the pesticide Benlate 50 DF while walking near a Dade County, Florida field. The couple's son was born later without eyes, a condition known as microphthalmia. DuPont intends to appeal the case. Although DuPont has paid more than one-half billion dollars for property damage due to Benlate, this is the first personal injury award. It sets what DuPont considers a bad precedent since there are over two dozen families whose children have microphthalmia waiting to file their case in England and numerous other cases of Benlate-linked microphthalmia in Florida and around the country.

◆ A federal judge's recent ruling against **Waste Management Inc.**, a subsidiary of **WMX Technologies**, has altered the Superfund landscape and has implications for large and small waste hauling companies throughout the nation, according to an attorney involved in the case. In *U.S. v Keystone Sanitation Company*, U.S. district judge Sylvia Rambo ruled that Waste Management was liable as a successor for cleanup costs in a Pennsylvania landfill site owned by **Keystone Sanitation**. Waste Management maintained that it only purchased assets (trucks and customer lists) from Keystone Sanitation and had specifically excluded landfill real estate in its 1991 transaction. In the original deal Waste Management acquired Keystone's dumpsters, fleet of vehicles and some 16,000 customers for \$3.1 million in stock. At the time, Waste Management was aware that Keystone faced potential liability for its landfill operation and specifically structured the deal to remove themselves from Superfund liability.



◆ **United Technologies Corporation** and 53 other parties including **Brown University** the **University of Rhode Island** have agreed to a \$32 million settlement to clean up contaminated soil at the Davis Liquid Waste Superfund site in Rhode Island. Under a proposed consent decree filed in federal court in Providence, the businesses will spend \$18.6 million cleaning up the Davis Liquid Waste site in Smithfield, Rhode Island and pay the U.S. government \$13.5 million for past and future cleanup costs. Business dumped liquid and solid hazardous wastes during the 1970's and early 1980's, Justice officials said. "The operator of the site, William Davis, allowed the contents of drums and tank trucks to be dumped into unlined lagoons and seepage pits, contaminating the soil, groundwater and surface water at the

site," the department said in a written statement. If the cleanup costs exceed the settlement, the polluters will be responsible for the overrun.

◆ **BFI Services Group Inc.**, a Philadelphia-area subsidiary of **Browning Ferris Industries Inc.** (BFI), agreed to pay \$4.5 million to settle charges that it conspired to violate the Clean Water Act. A federal grand jury charged BFI Services Group and six executives with defrauding five sewage treatment plants of \$1.3 million from 1989 to 1992 by disguising sewage sludges and grease as raw sewage so the waste could be treated at the plants for a lower price. The plea bargain does not apply to the six executives who were indicted. BFI has already paid Philadelphia \$1.6 million in restoration costs.

◆ Amidst a special federal inspection, **Commonwealth Edison** was forced to close down one of its two reactors at the long-troubled Dresden nuclear power plant in Illinois. More than two weeks after the embarrassing incident, the nation's #1 nuclear facility said that it hasn't determined the exact source of the problem that forced the shutdown. The special inspection by a 20-member U.S. Nuclear Regulatory commission team was ordered because the Dresden plant has spent more time on the NRC's "watch list" of problem-plagued plants than any other facility in the country.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MONTHLY

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CORPORATE CORNER

◆ Shares in **Molten Metal Technology Inc.** plunged by 49% in a single day after the Energy Department failed to provide the company some expected research funding, "amid doubts that its much-touted toxic waste-disposal method is commercially viable." Molten Metal also "stunned analysts" by announcing it will postpone development of a project in Europe to dispose of nonmetal parts from old cars and a Japanese venture to dispose of ash from municipal waste incineration. Molten Metal claims to eliminate toxic wastes and certain nuclear wastes by dropping them in vats of liquid metal and separating the by-products.

◆ New Jersey-based **Eastern Environmental Services** has announced that it will purchase nearly all the assets of New York-based **Waste Service Inc.** for about \$13 million in stock and \$14 million in debt. Eastern Environmental, which specializes in nonhazardous waste, said Waste Services had revenues of \$18 million over the last year.

◆ According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the **Stone Container Corp.** has had eighteen workplace fatalities at U.S. facilities in the past 12 years. Officials at OSHA called the death rate "pretty high," and targeted Stone Container, a manufacturer of paper products and containers, as a "bad actor." According to OSHA officials, although the industry is dangerous, "paper companies that have effective safety and health programs have a lot lower number of fatalities." Earlier in 1996, Stone Container paid \$690,000 in penalties to OSHA from an April 1996 explosion at a Panama City, Florida pulp mill that killed three workers and injured five others.

◆ In a questionable agreement under Project XL, the Clinton administration's program for "sensible regulatory reform," the **Environmental Protection Agency** granted **Intel Corp.** flexibility in their permits in exchange for a pledge to control pollution beyond regulatory requirements, at their Phoenix, Arizona chip plant. It is

possible that under such an agreement that Intel would be allowed to exceed limits of certain air pollutants being emitted in order to lower levels of others.

◆ The **Amoco Corp.** completely shut down one floor of its Naperville, Illinois, research center where ten employees have developed brain tumors since 1982. This rate of tumor development is ten times higher than the incidence found in the general population. Researchers from the University of Alabama - Birmingham are being brought in to study the cluster of tumors on the floor, which housed 39 laboratories and offices.

◆ **Archer-Daniels Midland (ADM)** pled guilty to price-fixing and accepted a \$100 million dollar fine in October. Although that is the biggest fine ever in a price-fixing case, ADM is so large and profitable that the fine alone will not significantly affect the company's bottom line, market analysts said. The company admitted to fixing prices for lysine, a cattle feed additive and citric acid, an ingredient in many consumer products. ADM's guilty plea came after negotiations with officials from the Justice Department, which ended its investigations into corporate operations with the plea. In addition, three of ADM's top executives have been indicted in the price-fixing scheme, including vice-president Michael Andreas, son of ADM CEO Dwayne Andreas. ■

Corporations Without Borders

Of the world's largest 100 economies, 51 are transnational corporations, according to *The Top 200: The Rise of Global Corporate Power*, a report for the Institute for Policy Studies by Sarah Anderson and John Cavanagh. The study points out, for example, that Wal-Mart, the world's 12th largest corporation, racks up sales revenues larger than the gross domestic product of 161 countries, including Israel, Poland and Greece. The combined sales of the top 200 corporations comes to \$7.1 trillion, nearly twice the \$3.9 trillion in economic activity generated by the poorest 80 percent of the world's population, some 4.5 billion people. The report concludes that these corporations "are creating a global economic apartheid, not a global village."

Toxic Spills Plentiful in U.S.

Toxic chemical spills or accidents occur in the U.S. more than 20 times a day, or almost once an hour in the U.S., according to a study by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group and the National Environmental Law Center. The study found that more half of the 23,000 toxic chemical accidents reported between 1993 and 1995 occurred in only eight states — Texas, California, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Georgia, and Alaska. While most of the accidents were "small scale," about 5% resulted in injuries, evacuations or deaths. The toxics most commonly released according to the study were ethylene glycol, anhydrous ammonia, sulfur dioxide, sulfuric acid and PCBs.

"No child should ever have to live near a hazardous waste site."

—President Clinton

PRESIDENT CLINTON, SHOW you believe the words you spoke during your acceptance speech by moving all 358 families in the Mt. Dioxin community. Forty-eight citizens have already died since 1991, when the Environmental Protection Agency began their Superfund cleanup activities by creating a 255,000 cubic yard (344,250 ton) mountain of dioxin-contaminated dirt from a former wood treatment site in the middle of this black neighborhood in Pensacola, Florida.



The neighborhood children are sick and getting sicker. Parents are being told not to let their children play in their own yards. Don't neglect these black, low-income families because of bureaucratic red tape. Move them today!

We are also urging you to expedite the release of the EPA Dioxin Reassessment. America has waited since 1993 for your report on dioxin and public health, all the while

continuing to suffer from dioxin's terrible effects. As you know, the draft dioxin report states that every man, woman, and child is full or near-full of harmful dioxin. America is being poisoned by consuming dioxin-contaminated fish, meat, dairy products, and breast milk.

Dioxin is also the cause of the "Agent Orange" problems of Vietnam's veterans. Scientific studies show that small amounts of dioxin are linked to cancer, endometriosis, birth defects, infertility, and learning problems such as attention deficit disorder.

President Clinton, we, the undersigned, urge you to put the words of your acceptance speech into action. Move the people away from Mt.

Dioxin and move forward on the EPA's reassessment.



ACTION FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH, NM; ALLIANCE FOR INCINERATOR REFORM, OH; ANONYMOUS, TX and MA; ARKANSAS PEACE CENTER, AR; ARREST INCINERATION REMEDIATION, PA; BEVERLY PAGIN, ME; BOSTON UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, MA; BRING URBAN RECYCLING TO NASHVILLE TODAY, TN; CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES AGAINST TOXICS, CA; CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, CA; CHEMICAL WEAPONS WORKING GROUP, KY; CHECKSAW COMMUNITY AFFAIRS GROUP, AL; CITIZENS AGAINST RADIOACTIVE DUMPING, NY; CITIZENS AGAINST TOXIC EXPOSURE, FL; CITIZENS AWARE & UNITED FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, TX; CITIZENS AWARENESS NETWORK, MA; CITIZENS CONCERNED ABOUT MEDICAL WASTE INCINERATION, NY; CITIZENS FOR A LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT BY ALLIANCE WITH NATURE, ME; CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION, MI; CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, OR; CITIZENS ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION, NY; CITIZENS TO SAVE LAKE WACO, TX; CLARE ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER, GA; CLEAN AIR & WATER FOR ALACHUA COUNTY, FL; CLEAN WATER ACTION, FL; COALITION FOR HEALTH CONCERN, KY; COMBODI GARDEN, FL; COMMUNIST, CA; COMMUNITIES CONCERNED ABOUT CORPORATIONS, MD; COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, CA; CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NY; CONCERNED NEIGHBORS IN ACTION, CA; COOPERATIVE CITIZENS MONITORING NETWORK, CT; DEANNE OTTAVIANO, DC; DESERT CITIZENS AGAINST POLLUTION, CA; THE DESERT REBELLION, CA; DON CASE, CO; DON PERKINS, NM; DOWNWINDERS AT RISK, TX; EARTH DAY EVERYDAY NETWORK, MI; ECOLOGY CENTER OF ANN ARBOR, MI; THE EDMONDS INSTITUTE, WA; ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP CONCEPTS, VA; ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION, CA; FLORIDA COALITION FOR PEACE & JUSTICE, FL; FURIOUSLY OPPOSED TO ALL DUMPING, CANADA; GULF ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION, GA; GRASSROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION, NJ; GREAT LAKES UNITED, IL; GREATER CLEVELAND COALITION FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, OH; GREENPEACE USA, DC; GROUPS ALLIED TO STOP POLLUTION, TX; GULF COAST NATIVE FOREST NETWORK, AL; HI-DESERT CITIZENS AGAINST POLLUTION, CA; HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER, TN; INSTITUTE FOR AGRICULTURE AND TRADE POLICY, MN; JOSE HIRSHORN, MD, MD; JOHN SNOW INSTITUTE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & STUDIES, MA; JUSTICE, PEACE & INTEGRITY OF CREATION OFFICE, MARIKATO PROVINCE, SCHOOL OF SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME, MN; KALVIN VELOSOVA, VA; KENTUCKY ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION, KY; THE LEARNING ALLIANCE, NY; LEGAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION, INC., FL; LEHIGH VALLEY COALITION FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, PA; LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION NETWORK, LA; LOVE CANAL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, NY; MANITOBA AREA ENVIRONMENTALIST, MN; MASSACHUSETTS CAMPAIGN TO CLEAN UP HAZARDOUS WASTE, MA; MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY REFERRALS & RESOURCES, MD; MONTANA CHEER, MT; MOTHERS & OTHERS, NY; MURRAY LEVINE, NY; NC WASTE AWARENESS & REDUCTION NETWORK, NC; NEIGHBORS PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, OH; NY PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP, NY; OHIO VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION, WV; OLYMPIC ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL, WA; ONTARIO HEALTH ADVOCACY ASSOCIATION, CANADA; PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK, PA; PEOPLE WORKING WITH PEOPLE, GA; PEOPLES ACTION COALITION, ID; RACHEL'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WEEKLY, MD; RENSSELAER COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION, NY; REEF RELIEF, FL; SAVE OUR COUNTY, OH; SAVING ALABAMA'S FUTURE ENVIRONMENT, AL; SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA CHAPTER, FL; SIERRA CLUB - LONG STAR CHAPTER, TX; SIERRA CLUB LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, INC., LA; SOUTH SUBURBAN CITIZENS OPPOSED TO POLLUTING OUR ENVIRONMENT, IN; SOUTH BAYON CLEAN AIR COALITION, NY; SOUTHERN KANSAS RESIDENTS AGAINST POLLUTION, CA; SOUTHERN MUTUAL HELP ASSOCIATION, LA; SOUTHERN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, GA; SOUTHWEST NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE, TX; SOUTHWEST ORGANIZING PROJECT, NM; STOP POLLUTING ORLEANS COUNTY, NY; TOXIC WILDER PRESERVATION ALLIANCE, NY; TRASHCAN RESIDENTS AGAINST POLLUTION, CA; TOXIC SLUDGE IS GOOD FOR YOU, WI; UNIVERSAL BAR ASSOCIATION COMMISSION, I; UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COMMISSION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE, NY; VICKY NEWMAN, SC; VILMA HUNT, MA; WASHINGTON TOXICS COALITION, WA; WASHINGTON OFFICE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, DC; WASHINGTON VIOLET NETWORK, DC; WASTE NOT, NY; WOMEN FOR A SAFE FUTURE, NJ; YELLOW CARES CONCERNED CITIZENS, TN

THE CITIZENS CLEARINGHOUSE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE HELPS GRASSROOTS GROUPS PROTECT THEIR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH RESEARCH, ORGANIZING ASSISTANCE, COALITION-BUILDING, AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE STOP DIOXIN EXPOSURE CAMPAIGN EFFORTS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CCHW, P.O. BOX 6806, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040. PHONE: (703) 237-2249, E-MAIL: CCHW@ESSENTIAL.ORG. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CCHW ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MT. DIOXIN, CONTACT CITIZENS AGAINST TOXIC EXPOSURE, 6400 MARIANA DRIVE, PENSACOLA, FL 32504-9137. PHONE: (904) 494-1601.

CCHW's Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign Still Goin' Strong

Congratulations to Citizens Against Toxic Exposure for their victory of complete relocation of residents of Pensacola living near the Mt. Dioxin Superfund site.

At the left is a full-page advertisement that appeared in Florida additions of USA Today that pressured President Clinton and the EPA into making the relocation decision.

See pages 20 - 21 for more updates from the Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign.

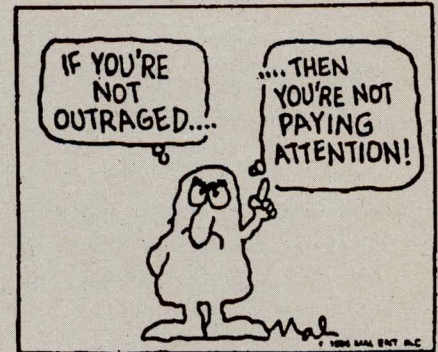
PUBLICATIONS LIST

NEW!

Love Canal

Love Canal: My Story by Lois Marie Gibbs is currently out of print. This new comprehensive fact pack gives you all the information you will need on Love Canal. It gives the history of Love Canal, a description of the contamination, and the status of the new families moving into the community. pp. 50

Order Item #P001.....\$7.00



GO GO:

Getting Organized and Getting Out

Our new guide to community relocation. What should you consider when you negotiate for relocation? How do you deal with neighbors who don't want to move? What role do area businesses and churches play? **GO GO** is a comprehensive guide that discusses all the ways to win relocation and to obtain fair compensation. pp.32

Order Item #P110.....\$10.00



Economic Development

Environmentally sound economic development is one of the most important issues facing communities today. Many organizations and resources exist to help a community choose a development program that keeps the environment safe and provides jobs. This new fact pack from CCHW addresses the issue of economic development and covers topics such as worker-owned business and business incubators.

A resource list of organizations and abstracts of successful ventures are included. pp.30+

Order Item #P103.....\$ 5.95

Media Means

To win your fight you need to cultivate the media. This book gives you the ABC's of writing news releases and holding news conferences and gives you ideas on how to get some of the "unfriendly" local media to cover your story. pp.42

Order Item #P071.....\$7.50

How to Win in Public Hearings

Every group at one time or another, will attend and/or be part of a public hearing. **Don't** go into these hearings blindly...**be prepared**. If you feel it is unfair to only have 3 minutes to express everything you feel about a site, find out how to get a fair hearing in this guidebook. pp.26

Order Item #P097

Community Activists\$6.95

All others..... \$199.95

How to Raise and Manage Money

Many groups falter because they run out of funds. This guidebook gives you practical advice so that your organization can keep financially stable. Topics covered include developing budgets, holding fund-raising events and applying for grants. pp.54

Order Item #P086.....\$6.50

User's Guide to Experts

It's hard to win a fight without experts but it's often hard to deal with them. This guide presents strategies on where to find experts, how to judge whether you have the "right" expert and how to get your money's worth from an expert. pp.28

Order Item #P051.....\$5.75



How To Recruit People To Your Organization

By Michael Brown

Why aren't there more people at your meeting? Where are those people you thought were going to show up? This manual/workbook helps you through this often overlooked aspect of building strong community groups. Here you will find methods that work. Without people you have little power to achieve your goals. pp.43

Order Item #P121.....\$10.00

NEW!

Property Values

This fact pack consists of articles and research on the effect waste sites have on property values.

pp. 33

Order Item # P029.....\$4.00

PUBLICATIONS LIST

Center for Disease Control: Cover-up, Deceit and Confusion

If you are considering inviting the federal or state health agencies into your community to assess health, it is critically important that you read this book BEFORE you ask them to come. ATSDR - the federal agency under CDC - has made errors in communities across the nation. pp.25

Order Item #P061.....\$4.95

Common Questions About Health Effects

This is an essential primer for grassroots leaders to use to educate themselves and their neighbors. This guide describes how chemicals get into the body and how they can adversely affect human health. pp. 25

Order Item #P005.....\$6.95

Community Health Surveys

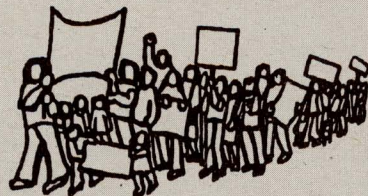
Do you think there is an increase of health problems in your community and now you want to do a survey? **BEWARE.** If the survey is not done correctly it can hurt your chances of winning the fight. This guidebook walks you through various ways to conduct health surveys and avoid pitfalls. Includes two model questionnaires. pp.35

Order Item #P050.....\$10.00

Medical Waste: Public Health vs. Private Profit

This book covers everything you wanted to know about medical waste, disposal methods and how to fight medwaste incineration. pp.36

Order Item #P095.....\$8.50



NEW!

Endocrine Disruptors

Endocrine disruptors are man-made environmental hormones. This fact pack contains studies and reports on this major public health threat.

pp.31

Order Item #P123.....\$4.95

Brownfields

This fact pack explains what EPA and local governments are doing about contaminated industrial sites, their potential for redevelopment, their liability and other information you need to know. pp. 71

Order Item #P124.....\$7.00

Pulp and Paper Industry

This fact pack deals with dioxin produced by the pulp and paper industry and efforts to get the industry to reduce their dioxin production by phasing out chlorine use. pp. 65

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A fact pack on the effects that corporate hog farming is having on communities and their health and the concerns about dealing with hog wastes. pp.58

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Municipal sludge is being touted as a miracle fertilizer and is being given to farmers and used to "reclaim" strip-mined land. Actually, sludge is a toxic stew of heavy metals, pesticides and other extremely hazardous substances. This compilation of newsclips, articles and scientific papers tells exactly what can be found in sludge and how communities are dealing with this issue. pp.64

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Everything you ever wanted to know about who they are and where they came from.

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Now up-to-date information from 1993-1995

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The second series of Ron Simon's reprints from *EBY*. Questions and answers about SLAPP's, medical monitoring, fitting a lawyer into your plan, out of court settlements and more. pp. 29

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PUBLICATIONS LIST

NEW!

Construction and Demolition Waste

A collection of clips uncovering hazardous waste at construction and demolition landfills and the threat they present to water supplies, wildlife and human health. *pp.38*

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PowerLines

A fact pack on the electromagnetic health effects of powerlines, appliances and other electromagnetic sources. *pp. 39*

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Indoor Air Pollution

This fact pack gives sources and problems with indoor air pollution and solutions to providing cleaner air inside your home. *pp.35*

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NEW!

Incinerator Ash

A fact pack of articles and research on the health concerns and regulatory controversy over ash disposal. (Kick Ash). *pp.47*

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Local Ordinances

This fact pack gives specific models of local ordinances grassroots groups have used to protect their community. *pp. 50+*

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SLAPP

A fact pack on SLAPP's "Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation" and how activists are dealing with the attempts to intimidate them. *pp.50*

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NEW!

Burnin' Rubber

A fact pack outlining the dangers of tire incineration and use of tires as a fuel source in commercial facilities. *pp.45*

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Tire Fires

A collection of clips discussing the hazards and health threats created by fires at tire dumps and storage facilities. *pp.28*

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Treading New

Ground.... Alternatives to Tire Incineration

A collection of articles and ideas to promote recycling and reuse of old tires. Gives helpful alternatives to burning tires. *pp. 45*

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CCHW MAGAZINES

Everyone's Backyard

A must read magazine! A vital link to the latest technical and science issues, legal handles, Washington politics and concrete steps for community organizing on waste disposal and toxic issues. It chronicles the track records of corporate polluters, examines what governmental agencies are doing (and not doing) to protect our health and environment, and highlights the actions and victories of the thousands of groups that are actively fighting for environmental justice around the world. Makes a great gift.

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Environmental Health Monthly

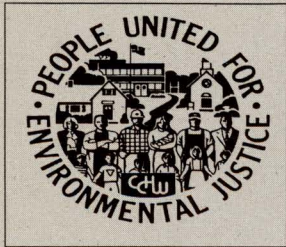
A monthly publication that reprints detailed studies and articles on health effects caused by various chemical exposures. Help educate your community physician or your group by subscribing to this valuable monthly.

Order Item # P094 Subscription.....\$35.00/year

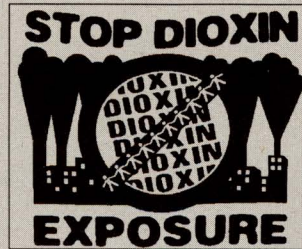
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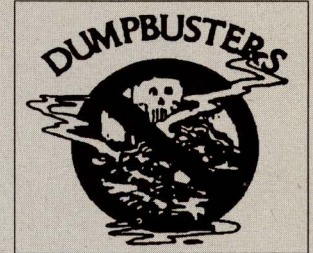
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Dark blue w/ white&blue logo
Black w/ red&white logo



Dioxin Logo on Front
This multi colored logo on back



Dioxin Dragon!
Black w /red & white graphics

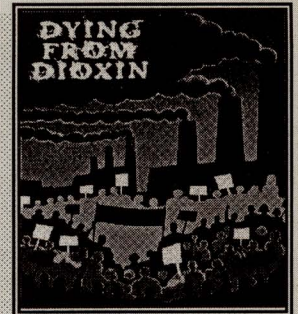


White w/black&red graphics

"Everything you wanted to know is all right here," Ken Ward, Jr. *The Charleston Gazette*

Dying From Dioxin: A Citizens Guide to Reclaiming Our Health and Rebuilding Democracy by Lois Marie Gibbs and CCHW

Dying from Dioxin describes the alarming details of this public health crisis, exposure levels, the conspiracy to cover it up and explains how citizens can organize against this toxic threat. Available in paper back, 362 pages, \$20.00. Individual orders are available from CCHW. Orders of 10 or more can be ordered at discounted rates by calling South End Press at 800-533-8478.



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ACTION LINE



Alabama

◆ Opponents of plans to burn nerve gas in east Alabama said they will keep fighting, even though the state moved a step closer to approving an incinerator by completing a draft permit. "I'm not giving up," said Brenda Lindell of **Families Concerned About Nerve Gas Incineration**. "David beat Goliath. The odds were in Goliath's favor, but David still won." Alabama Department of Environmental Management officials said they had completed a draft permit for construction of the nation's second largest chemical weapons incinerator. A public hearing is set in January.

Alaska

◆ The U.S. Air Force is proposing the addition of 25,600 square miles of military airspace to the currently existing 37,760 square miles of military airspace in Alaska. **Indigenous Environmental Network** reports low-level flights down to 100 feet above ground level and supersonic operators could be authorized. Severe environmental consequences are expected to impact hunters, trappers, recreationists, pilots and Alaska Native communities. Affected wildlife populations include the Delta Caribou herd, Dali Sheep and the 100,000 Fall migrating Sandhill Cranes. Areas being impacted are Gulkana National Wild River, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, and other areas.

Arizona

◆ Residents in Tucson, Arizona, **Student Environmental**

Action Coalition (SEAC) and members of the **Southwest Center for Biological Diversity** are protesting plans by Waste Management, Inc. to landfill 80,000 tons of DDT-contaminated soil in its Butterfield Station Landfill, 30 miles southwest of Phoenix. Five rail cars of a 45 rail car shipment filled with the contaminated soil from California were stowed in Tucson for five days, Waste Management Inc. claims that the soil was misdirected. Don Casanno, a spokesperson for Waste Management, Inc. said Tucson should not see any of the remaining 760 cars carrying the soil that had been jeopardizing marine life in the San Francisco Bay area. The soil contains up to 30 parts per million of DDT.

California

◆ On October 15, 1996, San Francisco passed a landmark ordinance that may end the city's use of pesticides by the year 2000. This policy, which applies to all city departments, was unanimously passed by the city Board of Supervisors. The new ordinance as of January 1, 1997, bans the worst pesticides, including those suspected of causing cancer and reproductive harm. All other pesticides, with case-by-case exceptions, will be phased out by the year 2000. This decision came after the **Pesticide Watch Education Fund** compiled a report on the city's pesticide use, which spurred over 1600 petitions and actions by groups, including **Breast Cancer Action** and the **Gray Panthers**.

◆ The **Coalition for Sludge Education** continues to "spread" the word about the dangers of land application of

sewage sludge. Their education campaigns and grassroots action have led to time ordinances against sludge in five California counties, and outright bans in three other regions. Counties who have no ordinances against the spreading of sludge are receiving high quantities of the dangerous "fertilizer," for use on cotton and livestock feed crops.

Canada

◆ The **Ralgreen Homeowners Association** was formed recently in Kitchener, Ontario, around health concerns raised by the discovery that much of their neighborhood was built on top of an old land disposal site. The province government is telling the residents that there is no cause for alarm, local leaders recall these same words were told to the residents of Love Canal, located not too far away.

Florida

◆ Citizens in Alachua County led by the **Haile Community Association** continue to accelerate their campaign against the building of a coal and tire-fired cement plant near the town of Newberry. Florida Rock Industries is trying to build the plant against the wishes of almost all of its neighbors in Newberry and an ever growing number of people throughout Alachua County. Although **Haile Community Association** lost their most recent legal battle against the County's special use permit, the group has been very successful on other fronts. Their latest effort is to get a ballot referendum for a county air-quality ordinance

on the 1998 ballot. The proposed ordinance would not affect existing power plants and University of Florida facilities, which are exempted from the proposed ordinance, but would disallow new polluting heavy industries such as Florida Rock's proposed cement plant.

Georgia

◆ The **Southern Organizing Committee for Economic and Social Justice (SOC)** organized more than 250 citizen organizations in 36 states plus eight coalitions of organizations in an appeal to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to uphold the rights of Brian Holtzclaw, environmental engineer on the staff of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), whose work in Kentucky was terminated by state officials. The eight networks, which together represent hundreds of local groups, are the **Asian Pacific Environmental Network**, the **California Committee Against Toxics, CCHW, Communities for a Better Environment, Communities Concerned About Corporations, the Indigenous Environmental Network, National Oil Refinery Action Network**, and the **Southwest Network for Environmental & Economic Justice**. Holtzclaw worked in Kentucky from December 1992 to December 1994 on loan from EPA to Kentucky's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). When Kentucky refused to renew his contract in 1994, he filed his complaint with the DOL. A week-long hearing was held in Louisville in November 1995, and last

ACTION LINE

summer, Administrative Law Judge Ainsworth Brown issued an order recommending the complaint be dismissed. The case is now on appeal to the U.S. Secretary of Labor, who is empowered to make the final decision.

Illinois

◆ The Chicago area's first new garbage incinerator in 25 years will begin burning trash from 137,000 south suburban residents in December 1996. The new Robbins incinerator hopefully will be the area's last trash burner, since the repeal of the Retail Rate Law. Although the \$385 million plant will charge suburbs much higher fees than landfills, its likely to lose money for investors. The **South Cook County Environmental Action Coalition** predicts that "there's going to be a huge outcry when people see their garbage bills go up." The plant can take 1,600 tons of garbage a day. Workers and machines will recycle or compost 25 percent of the incoming trash and the remaining 75 percent will be burned. Ash will be sent to landfills or used for roadbeds.

◆ **Human Action Community Organization** and the **Chicago Legal Clinic** are working with EPA to address the cumulative risks from toxic air emissions released from the many sources in the city of Chicago. After of years of saying that plans to build individual sources, such as the incinerator in Harvey, must

be evaluated in the context of the many incinerators and other pollution sources in the area, the EPA has finally turned to the community for help in implementing such a plan. The result is the Chicago Cumulative Risk Initiative project. Residents are worried about the selection of Versar as EPA's consultant, who will do the work of identifying the sources and then estimating risks from those sources.

◆ **Citizens Against Ruining the Environment (CARE)** are trying to figure out the health and environmental impact caused by the local flooding of an abandoned refinery that caused contaminated waste oil to spill over into their community. Texaco owns the old refinery site but has done nothing about the spill. CARE collected soil and sediment samples themselves and had them analyzed and also got the state to do some testing as well. Of course the state found "no

problem" but the results from the private lab show serious contamination. CARE is pressure the state to do more testing and to act on what has been found so far, but the state is reluctant to do anything.

Iowa

◆ **Citizens for Community Improvement** in Des Moines are working with local residents to address emissions from a plant that manufactures storm and security doors. Residents are concerned about releases of toluene, xylene and other volatile chemicals that are used in painting operations that are vented into the community.

Maryland

◆ The **North Bethesda Congress** is continuing their efforts to clean up their neighborhood, which was contaminated by emissions from the now closed National Institute of Health

medical waste incinerator. Recent meetings have focused on contaminant levels in soil.

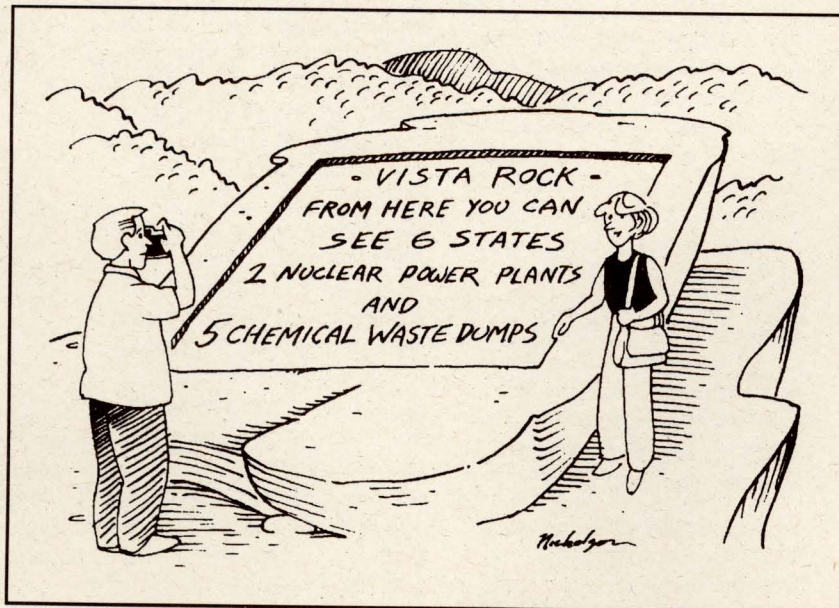
◆ Residents in Greenbelt are worried about leachate streams coming from the Sandy Hill landfill in Prince George's County that are contaminating the nearby Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Strong gasoline-like odors have been identified entering a creek that goes through the refuge. One neighbor claimed that several 200-year-old oak trees on his property have died for no apparent reason. The state is debating whether to extend the closing date for the landfill and raise the height limit of the landfill. Local residents want the landfill closed.

Massachusetts

◆ After an exhausting and frustrating legislative battle to protect Massachusetts' rivers, the **Westport River Watershed Alliance** has succeeded in getting the Massachusetts Rivers Bill signed into law. This bill will protect nearly 9,000 miles of Massachusetts river banks, helping to keep water clean, protect riparian habitats, control flooding, preserve scenic vistas and expand recreational opportunities. The new law will be administered through local conservation commissions.

Michigan

◆ **Concerned for the Health and Environment of Our Community's Kids (CHECK)** has questioned



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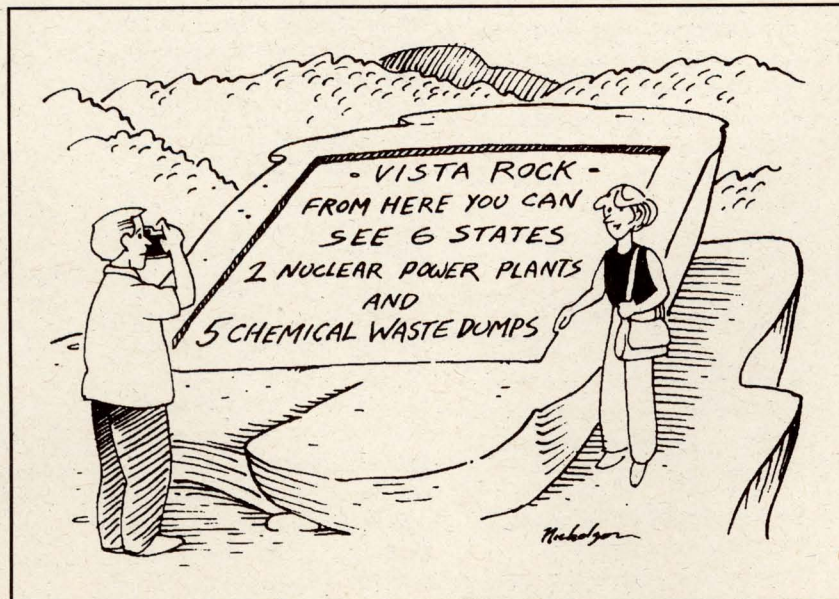
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Michigan

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ACTION LINE



plans by Wayne County officials to use PCB-contaminated sediment dredged from Newburgh Lake to close and cap two other sites in the county. One of these sites is the Cooper Elementary school that CHECK helped close in 1992 when parents discovered that the school was built on a old dump site.

Minnesota

◆ **The Women's Cancer Resource Center** held public hearings in Minneapolis about breast cancer, dioxin, and other chemicals moderated by Bella Abzug. Over 100 people attended the hearings, which were followed by a two-day conference. More than 200 people attended the conference and took advantage of the skills building workshops and the networking opportunities.

◆ Residents outside of Minneapolis are organizing around a possible cancer cluster that they believe is related to an Ashland Refinery. CCHW has been invited to attend a community meeting in February to assist the newly-formed group in identifying goals and strategies.

Missouri

◆ St. Louis' first public access environmental TV show, "Green Time," aired on September 18, 1996. Produced by the **Gateway Green Alliance**, the pilot show focused on the Times Beach Incinerator. Future programs will feature Shell Oil & Nigerian exiles in St. Louis, the Chain of Rocks Bridge Bikeway, Hiking & Biking in Missouri, radioactivity and

nuclear workers, prairie & wetland restoration, lead mining in the Ozarks, clear cutting, chemical weapons at Ft. Leonard Wood, and cement kilns in Missouri.

◆ **Citizens Against Dioxin (CAD)** was outraged when a health study conducted by the state Health Department found dioxin levels in blood taken from residents living near the operating Times Beach incinerator dropped on average from 1.81 parts per trillion (ppt) to 1.24 ppt from September 1995 to July 1996, four months after the start of the soil burning. This difference represents a 30% drop in dioxin blood lev-

els during this time. Residents quickly confirmed their instincts that this result was biologically impossible. Since dioxin has a half-life of 7-11 years, it's not possible that the average blood level of dioxin could drop 30% over 10 months. The state was apparently motivated to do this politically rigged study to show that there was "no effect" on the health of nearby residents from burning dioxin contaminated soil. More bad science.

◆ **The Times Beach Action Group** has discovered serious conflict of interest in the operation of the mobile incinerator burning dioxin-contaminated soil at Times Beach. They dis-

covered that the laboratory hired to test stack emissions from the facility is partially owned by the incinerator operator. In addition, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has admitted that the "chain-of custody documentation procedures" used in the sampling were, "less than satisfactory."

Montana

◆ On August 12, 1996, President Clinton held a press conference in Yellowstone National Park to announce that the highly controversial New World Mine proposal will not go for-

continued on page 22

Comic Relief from Corporate America

CCHW doesn't often review books that are best sellers. But we're making an exception for Michael Moore's *Downsize This!* Where else can you find Corporate Crook Trading Cards?

Downsize This! is the first book by Michael Moore, of *TV Nation* and the movie *Roger and Me*. Reading his book provides temporary relief from the dominance of corporate power. Moore also provides examples for grassroots activists on how to get to the heart of issues and how to use common sense, down to earth language and concepts. Grassroots activists can also learn from Moore's combination of outrage and humor and his ability to use sound bites to get big ideas across.

A few examples:

- The CEOs of our top 300 companies are earning 212 times what their average worker is earning.
- More people go to horse and dog races in this country than vote.
- In 1994, burglaries and robberies cost us over \$4 billion in losses, while corporate fraud cost us nearly \$200 billion.
- Handguns last year caused about 15,000 deaths. Unsafe working conditions on the job and occupational diseases caused more than 56,000 deaths.
- It would take 1 percent of Nike's entire advertising budget to put its whole workforce of 12,000 above the poverty line.

CCHW'S STOP DIOXIN EXPOSURE CAMPAIGN

on the Move

Dioxin Campaign Visits and Upcoming Events

January 24-26

New England Dioxin Roundtable, Boston, Massachusetts

January 29

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York

February 7-9

Florida Dioxin Roundtable, Oviedo, Florida

February 25-26

Minneapolis, Minnesota

February 28-March 3

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Portland, Oregon

April 4 -6

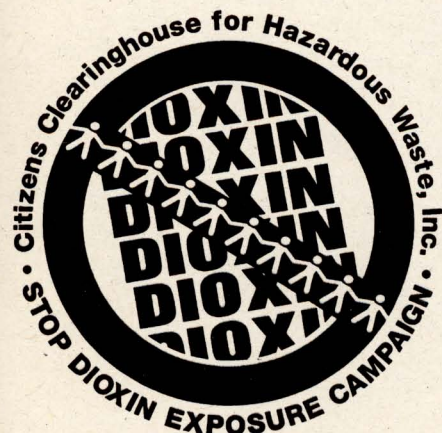
Missoula, Montana

April 10-13

Oneida Tribe Paper and Pulp Conference

April 25-27

Chuda Foundation Children and Environmental Health Conference, Sundance Lodge, Utah



Where is the Dioxin Reassessment?

First we were told by the Fall 1993.

Then we were promised by the Fall of 1995.

In the Fall of 1995, we were assured that the Dioxin Reassessment would be ready for the final review of the Science Advisory Board by the Fall of 1996.

Now EPA staff people are saying that "the pressure is off now that a decision on Pensacola has been made, and so we shouldn't expect the Dioxin Reassessment to be sent to the Science Advisory Board for final approval until the summer of 1997."

This is unacceptable. We have waited far too long already.

By the time you get this newsletter, the Dioxin Campaign Coordinating Committee will have come up with a set of strategies aimed at convincing the EPA to issue the final health assessment on dioxin. Please be on the lookout for an e-mail, fax or mailed dioxin digest with action steps you and your group can take to get the EPA moving. We have to put the pressure back on.

Information & Resources

◆ Members of the dioxin **Paper and Pulp Workgroup** have established an online discussion group on paper and pulp issues. For those who want to work on this issue, contact Laurie Valeriano at lvaleriano@wtc.org

◆ Volunteers needed to work on dioxin **Media Workgroup**. If interested, call Paula Welch at (404) 892-7601 or E-mail dioxcomm@rachel.clark.net.

Subscribe Today to the CCHW Dioxin Electronic Bulletin Board

☛ Receive updates on scientific and policy questions about dioxin

☛ Link up with other dioxin activists

☛ Share your dioxin information

To sign up, send the message

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to the email address

listproc@essential.org

Be sure to put a space after "dioxin-l" in the subscribe message before your name.

ACTION LINE



ward. The proposed mine site was located near Cooke City, Montana, two miles from the northeast corner of Yellowstone National Park. The **Greater Yellowstone Coalition** and **Sierra Club Legal Defense Club** spearheaded the deal. The **Beartooth Alliance** also deserves tremendous credit for doggedly challenging "the mine from hell," along with other groups who have worked for years at both local and national levels.

Native Americans

◆ The **Seventh Generation Fund, Indigenous Environmental Network, Greenpeace National Native Nuclear Program** and **Citizen Alert Native American Program** hosted a three day Indigenous Anti-Nuclear Summit, September 5-7, 1996 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. 40-50 activists gathered to develop a comprehensive anti-nuclear strategy, establish ongoing communication systems, form immediate-response networks and facilitate the exchange of anti-nuclear information.

◆ Navajos in Crownpoint, New Mexico have organized the **Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM)** to fight a proposal by Hydro Resources, Inc. to mine uranium from their groundwater. Members of the group have staged rallies, petition drives, and public education campaigns to warn people about the dangers that underground leachate uranium mining poses to drinking water supplies. ENDAUM President Mitchell Capitan says, "this

method of mining has not been shown to be safe, and if the water is contaminated, the lives of our children will be put at grave risk. As we say in Navajo, 'Tá eii be'iiná át'é' - Water is life."

◆ The Ely Ranger District of Nevada's Humboldt National Forest approved a proposal by Danielle Garnet Trenching Project to do exploratory trenching for creating an open-pit garnet mine that will destroy parts of the Mt. Moriah Wilderness, a Native American cultural site and an endangered native cutthroat trout stream. This decision was appealed by the **Ibapah Goshute Tribe** and other groups to no avail. The Forest Service has developed a schedule for the trenching to begin.

Nebraska

◆ Residents in Sidney are getting organized to oppose a hazardous waste transfer station proposed by Clean Harbors, Inc. Clean Harbors is looking for a place to store hazardous waste before it is brought to a nearby hazardous waste incinerator that they operate. Local residents are also hopping to shut down the incinerator.

Nevada

◆ Hard work by **Citizen Alert** has led to a Reno City Council resolution making Reno the first "Nuclear Free" city in Nevada. The resolution opposes the storage and transport of nuclear materials through Reno and Washoe County. While the declaration would not be able to stop the foreign spent fuel shipments next

Paying Tribute

If you would like to remember a special person or occasion, what better way to honor those who have made a difference in the grassroots movement than by making a memorial donation to CCHW?

We accept donations in honor of birthdays, graduations, marriages, anniversaries, and holidays, as well as in memory of loved ones. The honoree or their family will be notified of your contribution, so please include a clearly written address along with the honoree's name and the occasion that your gift celebrates. Checks can be sent to CCHW at P.O. Box 7010, Falls Church, VA 22040.

spring, it could help prevent future shipments.

◆ The newly-formed **Henderson Citizen's Powerline Coalition** turned back Nevada Power's plan to transmit power between substations through residential areas of their community. The Coalition raised the consciousness of the citizens and organized a presentation to the Planning Commission. Now, through a compromise between the Coalition, Henderson Officials, Nevada Power Co., and American Nevada Corp., Henderson residents will not be subjected to high electromagnetic fields. Nevada Power plans to bury the cables along an alternative route.

New Hampshire

◆ Residents in Kingston are continuing their efforts to keep out a proposed asphalt plant. After initially granting approval to the project, the local zoning

board reversed itself and rejected the project based on many issues including noise, damage to roads, dust, and excessive use of land. The project also abuts wetlands. The company is appealing the decision but the residents are sticking by their decision.

New Jersey

◆ The **Grassroots Environmental Organization (GREGO)** continues to fight against a proposed sludge processing plant in Newark. The Passaic Valley Sewage Commission wants to sign a contract with Wheelabrator Inc. The contract would mean that PVSC would send all its sludge in trucks from the PVSC plant to the new facility, where it would be chemically treated. Residents are concerned about truck traffic and bad odors which may be caused. The proposed facility is close to homes and a school.

ACTION LINE



New Mexico

◆ **Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety (CCNS)** is celebrating the city of Santa Fe's decision to temporarily shut down a nuclear laundry facility operated by Interstate Nuclear Services (INS). The decision was made based on evidence supplied by CCNS that the facility had been dumping radioactivity contaminated sludge into the city's sewers for years. The temporary cease and desist order issued by City Manager David Coss forbids INS from discharging waste water into the city's sewer system until it can prove it is no longer discharging contaminated sludge.

this ancient dioxin-spewing incinerator! In a surprise move, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced recently that "in response to concerns from the community and elected officials, including U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato, DEC has moved to close the incinerator in Long Beach, Nassau County, because of dozens of violations of its operating permit." D'Amato joined in opposition and spoke at a recent City Council hearing, where the Council voted to ask DEC to revoke the permits.

◆ **Citizens Environmental Coalition (CEC)** was instrumental in stopping the siting of a statewide radioactive waste landfill. CEC was successful in having legislation introduced to establish a precedent-setting New York State Radioactive Waste Management Plan requiring wastes be stored in an

environmentally-sound manner at reactor sites. The plan is being supported by over 100 environmental groups and policy makers.

Texas

◆ In a stunning victory in Texas, over 1660 delegates to the **Texas Parent-Teacher Association** State Convention voted overwhelmingly to support tighter regulations for cement kilns that burn hazardous waste and tire-derived fuel. Over a dozen PTA chapters living downwind from cement kilns led the fight, despite a huge lobbying effort by cement giant TXI Corp. The resolution will now be considered at the National Convention in Kansas City in June 1997.

◆ Leaders of **Mothers Organized to Stop Environmental Sins (M.O.S.E.S.)** have been hit with a SLAPP suit filed by the US Ecology Corp. and its subsidiaries. The lawsuit accuses M.O.S.E.S. of racketeering and misrepresentation, among other things, during its fight against the company, which operates a deep well disposal and solvent recovery facilities in their community. The suit appears to be a last ditch effort to rescue the company's expired permits, and M.O.S.E.S. is prepared to fight until the bitter end.

◆ The **San Antonio Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (SACEEJ)** held a two-day organizing workshop with Lois Gibbs and CCHW staff. The workshop was extremely successful in providing further strategies and resources in the Coalition's grassroots efforts. Members of

the group are facing many environmental threats, including a BFI landfill, an abandoned ceramic tile facility, a tannery, and a tank farm. SACEEJ had a big victory earlier this fall when Mitsui Corp. decided not to build a proposed die-casting facility to manufacture seat belt parts. Despite huge support from the local government, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Economic Development Foundation, Mitsui buckled under citizen pressure and gave up on their plans. Congratulations to SACEEJ, and keep up the great work!

Utah

◆ Members of the **Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG)** and **Sierra Club** continue to be vindicated by the poor performance of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility that they have fought hard to shut down. After a shut down only three days into operation, the facility has reported yet another shutdown, the second in its one-month lifetime. According to CWWG, the facility has been shut down ten of its thirty days of operation because of problems. CWWG Director Craig Williams joked, "I guess you just can't get a good incinerator for \$650 million these days."

CWWG received an additional boost by a letter written by Gary Millar, the former general manager of the facility charging that it "poses a high risk potential to both employees and the public." He also compared the managerial actions at the facility similar to those at Three Mile Island before its nuclear accident. Millar

continued on page 25

New York

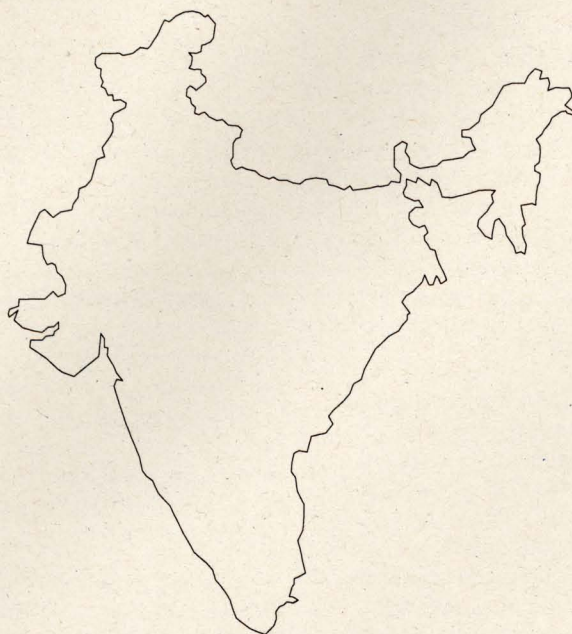
◆ Congratulations to the **Coalition to Close the Long Beach Incinerator** for their great work in shutting down

Army Abandons Incineration

Yielding to citizen pressure from the **Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG)**, the U.S. Army abandoned its long-standing plan to incinerate chemical weapons at its Aberdeen, Maryland, and Newport, Indiana, facilities. The Army also agreed to fund alternative destruction technologies. CWWG is a coalition of chemical weapons activists, including the **Maryland Citizens Advisory Commission on Chemical Waste Disposal** and the Newport-based **Citizens Against Incineration**. Members of the local groups are excited about the decision, but realize that seven more communities in the United States face the danger of chemical weapons incineration. The coalition will continue to fight for similar decisions in those communities.

Nightmares and Hope in Bhopal

by Gary Cohen



December 3, 1996. This week people will march through the streets of Bhopal again. Speeches will be broadcast from colorful tents set up by survivors' organizations. Children will carry hand-made puppets of former Union Carbide CEO Warren Anderson through the narrow gullies of the ghetto opposite the abandoned pesticide factory. Women in saris and Moslem veils will lead symbolic funeral processions through busy streets, while impatient rickshaw drivers wait for the parade to pass.

Twelve years have passed since Union Carbide's factory spewed poisonous gases over a sleeping city, killing 4,000 people and injuring 500,000 others. For the survivors of the world's worst

industrial accident, the last twelve years have been an unending nightmare. In response to the continuing health crisis, a team of health experts from twelve countries formed the International Medical Commission on Bhopal (IMCB) and visited the affected city in January 1994. Their mission was to assess the health conditions of people exposed to the toxic gases and make recommendations for ways to improve the health care delivery and compensation systems set up for the survivors.

Among its major findings, the IMCB found that:

- 94% of interviewed subjects who were gas-exposed experience current health problems, which include

a broad range of respiratory, reproductive, neurological, ophthalmic and psychological symptoms.

- Gas-exposed people have weakened immune systems, which make them more susceptible to illnesses such as tuberculosis.

Gary Cohen is an environmental health organizer with the Learning Alliance in New York and on the international advisory board of the Bhopal People's Health and Documentation Clinic. If you would like to make a contribution to the clinic, send a check made out to Pesticide Action Network/Bhopal to PAN, 116 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

continued from previous page

- The compensation courts established to allocate the \$470 million paid by Union Carbide to more than 550,000 claimants have little understanding of health problems related to the gas exposure.
- Medical treatment for gas-related illnesses has been both expensive and ineffective. In many cases, health conditions worsened as a result of the treatment regimes.
- Union Carbide contributed to the lack of a rational medical care strategy by failing to provide any information about the toxicity of the chemicals released from its Bhopal factory. Additionally, the company has failed to address the groundwater and soil contamination caused by the "normal" operations of its factory.
- The Indian government also has contributed to the failures of both compensation and medical care by adopting a policy of complete secrecy regarding its own health studies conducted over a decade following the disaster.

There are signs of hope in Bhopal, however. Consistent with the recommendations of the International Medical Commission, the Bhopal People's Health and Documentation Clinic opened recently, a community-based health center set up by the survivors to provide quality care in the poor neighborhood beside the factory. Offering traditional Indian medical care as well as Western medicine, the clinic treated nearly six hundred people within the first month of opening its doors. Satinath Sarangi, the clinic administrator, said that "we finally realize we need to take care of our own, because neither the Indian government nor Union Carbide is going to help us."

What remains a miracle in Bhopal, despite all the death and suffering, is that people have never given up hope. As long as people continue to march and demand respect for their human rights, we have cause to celebrate the triumph of the passion for justice and humanity against violence and indifference. ■

Action Line

continued from page 23

was fired earlier in the fall for his criticisms of safety conditions at the facility.

Virginia

◆ **Citizens Advocating Responsible Expansion** are worried about plans by Dominion Semiconductor (a joint venture of Toshiba and IBM) to begin building a semiconductor manufacturing plant in the foothills of the Virginia mountains. Early focus of discussion has been on what chemicals will be used by the plant and released into nearby streams and creeks. Dominion Semiconductor seems focused on metals and "traditional pollution parameters." The community wants to know about the use of chlorinated cleaning solvents that have plagued semiconductor communities such as Silicon Valley in northern California and the Intel community outside of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Washington

◆ **Citizens For Clean Air, The Spokane Medical Society, the Washington Thoracic Society, the American Lung Association** and over 320 Spokane physicians have identified grass smoke as a health hazard and are calling for a curtailment of grass burning. Most of the Kentucky bluegrass seed produced in the United States is grown in Eastern Washington, Northern Idaho and Eastern Oregon. Burning the fields after harvest is an inexpensive means of removing the straw residue and maintaining seed yields but it also fills the skies with thousands of tons of harmful particulates and toxic organic compounds (including known carcinogens) exposing hundreds of thousands of citizens to unhealthy and dangerous smoke.

Wisconsin

◆ **Clean Water Action Council, the Wisconsin Greens and Wisconsin's Environmental Decade** organized a protest on the expansion of the Kidney Island contaminated dredge soil disposal site offshore from Bay Beach Park. More than 25 boats, trimarans, canoes and kayaks formed a circular flotilla near the island, with many banners and signs. A similar contingent provided back-up support, more banners and signs and media information from the mainland.

◆ **The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin** will be

holding a conference entitled "Clean Paper Making Techniques for the 21st Century," to be held April 10-13 at the Radisson Inn in Green Bay, Wisconsin. See "Resources" for more information.

◆ Residents in Portage are wondering what is planned for two new 2.1 million gallon tanks of liquid asphalt that went online this fall. The capacity of the tank farm has more than quadrupled since the summer. Residents as far as a mile away have complained of noxious odors generated by fumes from the tanks which are under constant 550-degree heat to keep the contents liquid. Residents are frustrated by the fact that there are no city, state or federal regulations for a liquid tar tank farm.

International

◆ Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia is the largest freshwater lake in the world. It is also the home of several pulp and paper mills and other industrial plants. Recent studies have shown that aerial deposition of organochlorine pollutants such as DDT and PCBs are disrupting the entire food web in the lake. Seal populations have been declining since the 1960's. More than 20,000 harbor seals died in 1988 due a virus, which some now attribute to a depressed immune system caused by exposure to organochlorine contamination. The **Baikal Environmental Wave** is currently opposing the construction of yet another paper and pulp mill on the lake. ■

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Organizing Toolbox

Divide and Conquer: The EPA's Latest Strategy and What to Do About It

by Charlotte Brody and Lois Gibbs



Over the past twenty years, the Environmental Protection Agency, state agencies, and others have learned the power of citizen based organizations. They have come to realize that a strong community based organization, unified around goals, strategies, and principles of democracy, and group strategizing is impossible to ignore.

On the other side of the balance beam are the corporations, who want the least expensive cleanup options, health studies designed to show no increase in disease (protecting corporations from personal injury cases), facility siting in areas where they believe they'll receive little resistance to pollution, and the ability to claim that cancer and other diseases are from lifestyle and genetic makeup, not the products or manufacturing of products for corporate profits.

Although it's believed that our government agencies should support the citizen side or at least take the middle road, often the public regulatory and scientific agencies embrace the corporate agenda.

However, the only way government agencies can achieve that agenda is to find ways to weaken the community based power. Over the past twenty years, they have learned a great deal about what approaches to use that will destroy the people's power base. Here are some of the tactics used by the government against communities.

Divide and Conquer Tactic # 1

This tactic appears to be a recommended strategy in the new EPA and ATSDR playbook. In recent months, three different grassroots groups have

called CCHW to seek our advice with three different versions of the same story:

After years of grassroots pressure, EPA or ATSDR has finally agreed to sit down with the community. Because of their hard work, an official with the authority to make decisions is finally coming to the community. But the agency has one small condition: The EPA or ATSDR doesn't want this to be a big meeting open to everyone in the community. Instead, they want to hold the meeting during the working day with a handful of "responsible leaders".

Divide and Conquer Tactic # 2

Another divide and conquer tactic used is to take the leadership away from the day to day work and pretend to elevate him/her in the decision making process. This is usually done through

advisory committees or national advisory work. It's sneaky and unfair. The process is pretty predictable. First, a committee is established with a flashy description, such as "advisory," "blue ribbon," or "stakeholders." Leadership is then invited to sit at the table with other "experts" to help define the solutions to the problem. Also at the table are enough people representing the opposite position to outvote the community leadership. Leaders are kept busy reading reports that they receive, because they are responsible committee members and/or they feel important. Sometimes the leaders get to travel to other cities to meet and talk about the issues. The agency people often try to befriend the leader, making it more difficult for the leader to confront him/her in the future. In addition, leaders are kept so busy on committee work that they no longer can be effective leaders within the group.

Divide and Conquer Tactic # 3

EPA or the state agency shares a report with the core leadership and asks that they not share the information with anyone because it's still being reviewed internally. One community group honored that request. Later, at a large community informational hearing, the agency representative responded to a question asked by a local resident. "Why did it take so long for the agency to release the report?" He responded by saying, "your leadership has had this report for six months, so don't blame me for not sharing the information." The community anger was deflected from the agency and focused on the leadership. Suspicion and lack of trust and faith in the leadership became a huge problem.

These tactics are brilliant because they are hard to resist. Think about what you would do. You've tried so long to get the agency to pay attention to your community. You've worked so hard to educate yourself about the nature of your community's environmental health problem and you have so much to say. You've spent so much time struggling to get more people involved in your organization, but the real work always falls back on the loyal few. Why shouldn't this

small circle of leaders be the ones to sit down with the official from EPA, ATSDR or a state agency?

You should not agree to withhold information from your community or to a small group closed door meeting because such actions are undemocratic, elitist and unethical. More importantly, you should not agree to any of these requests because in each situation, your chances of losing are much greater.

Closed door small group meetings and keeping information from the community and press prevents grassroots groups from using their two greatest weapons: the principles and power of democracy and the power of the media.

The Principles of Democracy

Look at what your group has accomplished so far. Many of these accomplishments were built on the understanding that your group speaks for the entire affected community. Your group doesn't just represent the people who come to a monthly meeting, but all of the families that are being hurt. The power that comes from representing a much larger group of people who are all being hurt by the same problem is the biggest weight you have to balance the other side's money and experts. In a closed door, small group meeting, that power vanishes.

The Power of the Media

Press coverage of your issue helps educate the larger community. It also helps legitimize your issues. If your story is in the paper or on television, it *must* be important. Your phone calls and letters to public officials are much more likely to be answered if the politicians know that the press is paying attention to this issue.

Your relationship with the press is important. Often a positive relationship has been built on the fact that you've been very open with the press, while your opponents in industry and the government have refused to answer important questions. Now, you've dropped down to the level of your opponent by doing the public's business behind

closed doors and withholding important information. There goes your years of building relationships with the press.

You need to ask yourself these questions when such offers are being made to your group/leadership:

Why does ATSDR, EPA or the state agency want a closed door meeting anyway? Why would they offer our leadership a non-public report? Or, why are we being invited to sit on this committee or workgroup and not allowing the entire community access to the discussions? The answers might be so they can keep control of the situation.

Do you want them to control the situation? Are they suggesting that the issues are too complicated for regular people to understand? Don't you think government officials have an obligation to be able to explain themselves in words every American can understand?

What else do these agencies have to gain from a closed door meeting? Is it possible that they might be pleased if your group started fighting internally? Would they smile if some people who were not included in the small group started questioning the leadership of the few people who were in the meeting making deals for the people locked outside? Would they chuckle when the press finds out about the report they gave to your leadership six months ago? Do you need that kind of friction?

Are the agencies telling you that a closed door small group meeting is the only forum in which real discussion can take place and actual agreements get hammered out? If they are sincere, they won't mind working with you on creating an agenda for an open meeting that accomplishes the same goals. It doesn't have to be five hundred people all standing in line at the microphone to make a statement to the agency officials at the table in the front. There are lots of other ways to design a meeting agenda. For example you could publish your demands long before the night of the meeting. The meeting could begin with a brief review of the demands. Then the government official could briefly respond to each demand. You could go over each demand and see how far you can get in

continued on page 29

Grassroots Grantseekers Take Note!

The Citizens Clearinghouse for Hazardous Waste has, in the past, made small grants (up to \$5,000) available for strengthening grassroots groups through our Community Leadership Development Grants Program. This mini-grants program has recently undergone a thorough assessment and we hope to re-fund it and issue new application guidelines by next spring.

Meanwhile, many groups in our network have asked about alternative sources of funding. In response, we would like to offer the following list of foundations that make small grants available for community-based environmental organizations. 501(c)(3) tax exempt status is a prerequisite for consideration in nearly all cases, so be sure to apply through a fiscal agent or sponsoring organization if your group is not tax exempt.

We strongly recommend that anyone interested in applying for a grant contact each funder individually to request a copy of their application guidelines. Application deadlines are noted in parentheses where possible, but should be confirmed as they may have changed.

West

A Territory Resource (WA, OR, ID, MT, WY; apply 1/15 or 8/1) 206-624-4081

Abelard Foundation West (HI, CA, OR, WA, ID, WY, MT, CO, AZ, NM, NV, UT; apply 1/15 or 7/15) 510-644-1904

Angelica Foundation (CO, CA, NM, HI) 619-793-8906

The Brainerd Foundation (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA and British Columbia) 206-448-0676

The Bullitt Foundation (WA, OR, ID, MT and southern Alaska, British Columbia; apply 4/1, 8/1 or 12/1) 206-343-0807

Harder Foundation (8/15) 206-593-2121

Kongsgaard-Goldman Foundation (Pacific Northwest; apply 3/29 or 9/16) 206-448-1874

Lazar Foundation (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, British Columbia) 503-225-0265

Max and Anna Levinson Foundation 505-982-3662

Maki Foundation (AK, AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY; apply 4/1) 970-925-3272

Patagonia (1/31, 8/31) 805-643-8616

Strong Foundation for Environmental Values (WA, OR, Northern CA; apply 1/15, 5/15, 9/15) 415-882-7928

Wilburforce Foundation (AK, WA, OR, British Columbia) 206-286-4554

South

Abelard Foundation East (South & Appalachia) 617-259-8470

Appalachian Community Fund (WV, Eastern TN, Eastern KY, Southwest VA; apply 6/1 or 12/1) 615-523-5783

Mary Reynolds Babcock (southeast; apply 2/15) 910-748-9222

Fund for Southern Communities (NC, SC, GA; apply 3/1 or 9/1) 404-876-4147

Lyndhurst Foundation (AL, GA, MS, NC, SC, TN) 423-756-0767

Bert & Mary Meyer Foundation (Southeast; apply 9/15) 407-645-4227

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation (Southeast and Southwest) 212-684-6577

Virginia Environmental Endowment (VA, WV, KY, Martins Ferry Ohio area; apply 4/15, 8/15 or 12/15) 804-644-5000

Midwest

The Joyce Foundation (4/15, 8/15, 12/15) 312-782-2464

Harder Foundation (8/15) 813-649-0565

New England

Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust (1/15, 4/15, 7/15, 10/15) 617-426-7172

Haymarket People's Fund 617-522-7676

New England Grassroots Environment Fund (MA, ME, NH, VT; apply 12/1, 4/1 or 8/1) 802-223-4622

Various Regions

James C. Penney Foundation (Northeast, Central Appalachia, TX, OR, Bay area of CA) 212-463-6047

Turner Foundation (FL, GA, MT, NM, SC; apply 4/1 or 10/1) 404-681-9900

No Geographic Restrictions

Acorn Foundation (4/1 & 10/1) 510-644-1904
 The Jenifer Altman Foundation 415-868-0821
 Ben & Jerry's Foundation (1/1, 4/1, 7/1, 10/1)
 802-651-9600
 Bridgebuilders Foundation 206-325-4627
 Campaign for Human Development (11/1) 202-541-3210
 Church Women United (8/1) 212-870-2347
 The Civil Justice Foundation 202-965-3500
 Do Something Foundation (12/1 & 7/1) 212-523-1175
 Environmental Support Center 202-328-7813
 The Funding Exchange 212-529-5300
 Give to the Earth Foundation 800-933-6288
 W. Alton Jones Foundation 804-295-2134
 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation 800-645-1766
 Ruth Mott Fund (3/1, 7/1, 11/1) 313-232-3180
 A. J. Muste Memorial Institute 212-533-4335
 North American Association for Environmental Education.
 1255 23rd Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037 for the
 Urban Leadership Collaboratives grant application
 form, deadline Spring 1997.
 Needmor Fund (5/1, 11/1) 303-449-5801

The New World Foundation 212-249-1023
 Norman Foundation 212-230-9830
 Peace Development Fund (4/1, 9/1) 413-256-8306 (east),
 206-525-0025 (west)
 Pequod Fund (of the Tides Fdn) 415-561-6400
 Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People
 502-569-5783
 Public Welfare Foundation 202-965-1800
 The Shefa Fund 215-247-9704
 Surdna Foundation 212-557-0010
 Threshold Foundation 415-561-6400
 The Tides Foundation 415-771-4308
 Unitarian Universalist Funding Program (8/1, 12/15)
 617-357-4036
 Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
 516-627-6576
 Lawson Valentine Foundation 203-296-7563

There are many other foundations whose grantmaking focuses on particular states or metropolitan areas which can be readily identified using foundation directories. Call the Foundation Center's headquarters (1-800-424-9836) for the co-operating reference collection closest to you. They are located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. ■

Divide and Conquer

continued from page 27

bridging the gap between the two positions. Your group's leaders would do most of the negotiating, but the whole community would be able to participate. You gain power through this type of meeting not lose power. The agencies see a united front, and that unity cannot be silenced.

Getting ready for such a meeting is a great organizing opportunity. First you create the demands with your entire group. Then you need to have "what if" discussions on each demand. What demands are non-negotiable and where are you willing to give a little? Who will take the lead on each demand? These planning meetings should be designed to in-

volve as many people as possible. Everyone who has had a say in creating the demands is more likely to come out on the actual meeting night.

What do you do if the official is not even willing to discuss creating an agenda for such an open, productive working session? What do you do if this government employee keeps on insisting on a closed door, small group session? You pull out your two greatest weapons, the principles of democracy and the power of the media. Hold a press conference to challenge this insistence on secret meetings. Show up on the day of the meeting with your whole group and the television cameras. Playing fair doesn't mean playing by rules that are designed to make you lose.

What do you have to gain by being part of an advisory committee? There

generally is more information shared but if that committee's work is open to the public you would still have knowledge of that information. You would be able to speak on the record as a member, but if there was public participation at those meetings, you would still have that ability. More importantly, does your key leadership need to be at the table? Why not someone else, someone who loves research and technical information?

There are many other divide and conquer tactic that are being used to weaken our base. You need to question why an action or "opportunity" is being offered in the way that it is and closely review the pros and cons of each request, always keeping in mind that it is our power of organizing that is their worst nightmare. ■

Legal Corner



We have received some advice that our group should incorporate so we can raise money and protect our leadership. Should we do it? Should we hire a lawyer to do it for us?

When citizens join together, it is generally a good idea to give the group a structure and a name. By sitting down and doing this, the people in the group work through their goals and how they plan to attain them. In the process of doing this, people often decide to incorporate. In order to have a group and use a name, it is not necessary to incorporate. However, there are a number of advantages in incorporation. Consider the benefits and liabilities before you make your decision.

The first reason for incorporation involves money and taxes. Organizations that take in money have to pay taxes on their income unless these organizations have been granted a tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Many groups raise money from foundations or charitable donations. Many foundations are not allowed to make grants to groups that don't have a tax exempt status. Similarly, individuals can take a tax deduction for a charitable donation only if the group is tax exempt.

Incorporation, non-profit status, and tax exemption are separate questions. First, the organization must incorporate, choosing to be for or non-profit. Then, the group can seek tax exempt status from IRS (generally sought under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code). CCHW has information on both of these application processes. Although there are a variety of legal questions involved, lawyers usually can just fill out standard forms to do the incorporations and seek tax exempt status.

A second aspect of your question is whether incorporation protects the group and its leadership. If someone decides to harass the group or sue the members for libel or slander, members can be sued even though the group is incorporated.

An advantage of incorporation is that the by-laws about how the group will be governed are legally adopted rules. Therefore, the future control of the group is set out in rules (how officers are elected and policies are made) and these can only be changed by following specific procedures.

A disadvantage of incorporation is that the group must fill out forms and documentation that consume time and money. In addition, making the rules of the organization formal may limit flexibility. If you can't answer questions about how the group should be governed, you can't incorporate and wouldn't want to adopt a particular structure and set of rules.

My advice is to get information and forms about incorporation and tax exemption and review them and think about the questions that are raised for your group. After you have thought through these issues, a lawyer could be useful in answering further questions. The most important questions, and one that only you and the other members of your group can answer, is "Why do we want to incorporate?" ■

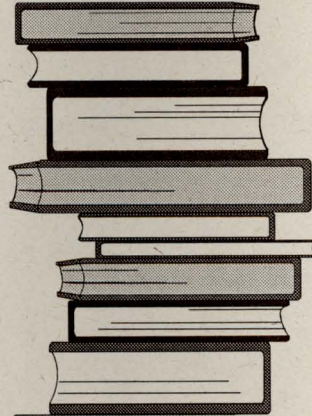
**By Ron Simon,
CCHW Legal
Counsel**

RESOURCES

◆ The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin will be holding a conference entitled "Clean Paper Making Techniques for the 21st Century," to be held April 10-13 at the Radisson Inn in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The conference will bring together citizens, environmentalists, civic and labor leaders, and the paper and pulp industry to learn about state-of-the-art paper making techniques. For more information, contact Rebecca Katers at (414) 497-5812.

◆ The Society for Human Ecology will hold the conference "Local and Global Communities: Complexity and Responsibility," October 15-18, 1997 in Bar Harbor, Maine. The conference will emphasize interdisciplinary approaches to education, research, and applied problem-solving. For more information, contact Dr. Melville Cote, c/o College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden St., Bar Harbor, ME 04609; email: sheconference@ecology.coa.edu.

◆ Andy Robinson's new book entitled *Grassroots Grants; An Activist's Guide to Proposal Writing* (\$25; 510-704-8714) teaches the fundamentals of grantwriting and the ins and outs of who has the money and how to get it. It includes four complete proposals plus suggestions from forty foundation staff who fund groups working for social justice, human rights, and environmental conservation. Other foundation directories particularly useful to groups working on toxics issues and environmental justice are the *Grant Seekers Guide* (\$39.95; (401) 789-0074); *Environmental Grantmaking*



Foundations (\$90; (800) 724-1857); and the National Network of Grantmakers' *Grantmakers Directory* (\$25; (619) 231-1348).

◆ John Sweeney, President of the AFL-CIO, is the author of a new book, *America Needs a Raise*. Sweeney describes the economic squeeze on families by downsizing corporations and double-dealing politicians. He also shares his vision of an end to this squeeze through a larger, more effective labor movement that will hold corporate America and government accountable. Available at most book stores, or contact the AFL-CIO at (202) 637-5000.

◆ Neither world government nor economics will protect the global environment. In *Global Civil Society and Global Environmental Governance: The Politics of Nature from Place to Planet*, Ronnie D. Lipschutz explains how the real answer to protecting the environment is political action through community-based organizations. People acting together locally

can have a significant impact on environmental policy that is long lasting and widespread. For more information, contact the State University of New York Press, State University Plaza, Albany, NY 12246.

◆ Economic globalization is the most fundamental redesign of the world's political and economic arrangements since the Industrial Revolution, yet public discussion of this trend and new institutions such as the World Trade Organization, NAFTA, and GATT, have failed to address the consequences of this change. In *The Case Against the Global Economy, and For a Turn to the Local*, Jerry Mander and Edward Goldsmith bring together more than 40 economic, agricultural and environmental experts to explain the effects of globalization and to offer alternatives. Available in bookstores or from Sierra Club at (800) 935-1056. ■

CCHW Needs Teachers

CCHW is developing a series of fact sheets for children in grades K-12 for responding to the frequent requests for information we receive. If you would like to volunteer to review the fact sheets, to help us make them useful and understandable for various grade levels, please call (703) 237-2249 or send us your name, address, and the grade level you teach.

Order Your CCHW Dioxin T-shirt Today!

See the publication insert for more information.

Available NOW!

Taking Action to Stop Dioxin Exposure

Now available from CCHW!

The long-awaited
*Taking Action to Stop Dioxin Exposure:
Strategy Recommendations from the
3rd Citizens' Conference on Dioxin
and Other Synthetic Hormone Disruptors.*

This book contains the proceedings from the Dioxin Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, including all resolutions from the conference, the strategies from the nine conference working groups, and a complete list of participants' names and addresses.

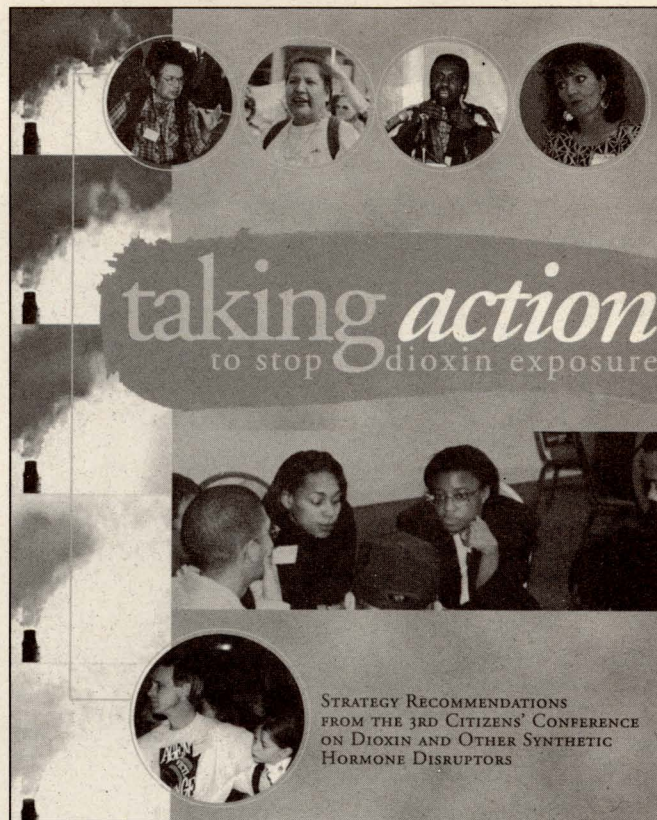
Nearly 60 activists from the conference collaborated to write and compile this extraordinary manual.

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