

Green Mission News

July 2014 Green Mission News

What's in the News ...



Gardeners Beware: Bee-Toxic Pesticides Found in “Bee-Friendly” Plants

June 2014 by [Friends of the Earth](#).

Grow Bee-Safe: Avoid buying neonicotinoid-treated seeds and seedlings. Purchase organic plant starts or grow your plants from untreated seeds in organic potting soil for your home vegetable and flower gardens. (Read the [article](#).)

External Article Links:

- World Energy Investment Report

www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/WEIO2014.pdf

- Bee Action campaign. Gardeners Beware: Bee-Toxic Pesticides Found in “Bee-Friendly” Plants sold at Garden Centers Across the U.S. and Canada

http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/93/3a/3/4738/GardenersBewareReport_2014.pdf

- 5 Myths Socially Conscious Entrepreneurs Need to Ignore

www.fastcompany.com/3031509/the-future-of-work/5-myths-about-the-freshest-iteration-of-capitalism

- Shift to a circular economy is under way, from crop waste to solar

In reality, there are no scarce resources, we just make them scarce. Through new supply chains, technology and policy, we can secure a future for generations

www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/shift-circular-economy-crop-waste-solar

Scientists: Tests prove fracking to blame for flaming Texas water wells

www.khou.com/news/texas-news/Scientists-Tests-prove-fracking-to-blame-for-flaming-Texas-wells-262115241.html

- Sea-Level Rise in Small Island Nations - Up to Four Times the Global Average - to Cost US\$ Trillions in Annual Economic Loss and Impede Future Development: Shift to Green Policies and Investment Critical - See more at:

<http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx>

- Genetically Modified Crops Fueling Decline of Monarch Butterflies: Report
New study links loss of milkweed habitat as a result of herbicide resistant crops to monarchs' falling numbers

www.commondreams.org/headline/2014/06/05-5

- Will GM Crops Collapse the Food System?

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2014/06/25-5>

- The Boomers "Failed" Us: Climate Activist Tim DeChristopher on Anger, Love, and Sacrifice

First the anger, then the love- overcoming generational anger to find the courage required for the difficult work ahead.

<http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-power-of-story/boomers-failed-us-america-s-most-creative-climate-criminal-anger-love>
www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-power-of-story/boomers-failed-us-america-s-most-creative-climate-criminal-anger-love

- Bob Willard: Better is Not Good Enough: Toward True Corporate Sustainability

<http://www.naturalstep.ca/better-is-not-good-enough-toward-true-corporate-sustainability#sthash.S0Y5CHv.dpuf>

- Energy: Consider the global impacts of oil pipelines

Debates over oil-sands infrastructure obscure a broken policy process that overlooks broad climate, energy and environment issues, warn Wendy J. Palen and colleagues.

<http://www.nature.com/news/energy-consider-the-global-impacts-of-oil-pipelines-1.15434>

- Sandra Steingraber: A New Environmentalism for an Unfractured Future

ecowatch.com/2014/06/06/new-environmentalism-unfractured-future-steingraber-fracking/

- Shrinking Arctic Ice Prompts Drastic Change in National Geographic Atlas

Warming oceans have caused a drastic reduction in sea ice.

news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/06/140609-arctic-ice-maps-atlas-tenth-edition-science/

- Acid seas threaten creatures that supply half the world's oxygen

Ocean acidification is turning phytoplankton toxic. Bad news for the many species - us, included - that rely on them as a principal source of food and oxygen

<http://crosscut.com/2014/06/16/environment/120507/aboard-rv-melville-ocean-acidification-baskin/>

- A Rescue Package for the Global Ocean: From Decline to Recovery

www.globaloceancommission.org/wp-content/uploads/GOC_Report_20_6.FINAL_.spreads.pdf

- New law threatens to open up Europe's fields to GM crops

www.foeeurope.org/ministers-support-giving-biotech-companies-say-GM-bans-120614

- Every State Counts: Support GMO Labeling in Oregon and Colorado

www.eatdrinkpolitics.com/2014/06/10/every-state-counts-support-gmo-labeling-in-oregon-and-colorado/

- Pesticide and GMO Companies Spend Big in Hawaii

<http://prwatch.org/news/2014/06/12506/pesticide-and-gmo-corporations-spend-big-hawaii>

- Endogenous growth, convexity of damages and climate risk: how Nordhaus' framework supports deep cuts in carbon emissions Simon Dietz and Nicholas Stern.....June 2014

www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Working-Paper-180-Dietz-and-Stern-2014.pdf

- New economic model shows risks from climate change are bigger than previously estimated

www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/news/dietz_stern_june2014/

- Fossil Fuels' 'Easy Money' and the Need for a New Economic System

www.straight.com/news/662431/david-suzuki-pipeline-spills-are-good-economy

- Urban Mining: There's Gold in Dem Dar Cell Phones! [Infographic]

<http://sustainablog.org/2014/06/urban-mining-theres-gold-dem-dar-cell-phones/>

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Full Length Article Below:

- Governor Quinn Signs Bill to Ban Microbeads
- New Consumer Reports Poll Shows Consumer Demand for Strong Federal Standards for Genetically Engineered Food
- Plastic: An Invasive Species We Created and Must Confront
- Organic Consumers Association Calls on Starbucks to Convert to Certified Organic Milk

June 8, 2014

Governor Quinn Signs Bill to Ban Microbeads, Protect Illinois Waterways

Illinois Now First State in the Nation to Prevent Use of Personal Care Products Containing Synthetic Plastics

CHICAGO- Governor Pat Quinn today signed legislation to make Illinois the first state in the nation to ban the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads. Today's action is part of Governor Quinn's commitment to protect our natural resources and ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

"Banning microbeads will help ensure clean waters across Illinois and set an example for our nation to follow," Governor Quinn said. "Lake Michigan and the many rivers and lakes across our state are among our most important natural resources. We must do everything necessary to safeguard them."

Senate Bill 2727, sponsored by State Senator Heather Steans and State Representative Jaime Andrade Jr., makes Illinois the first state to ban microbeads in personal care products. The new law will require synthetic microbeads to be removed from manufacturing by the end of 2018 and bans the sale of such items by the end of 2019 in Illinois.

"Lake Michigan is a critically important natural resource for our state, and its health

affects recreation, tourism and the flourishing of aquatic plant and animal species,” Senator Steans said. “I’m proud that Illinois is an environmental leader, taking the first step away from plastic microbeads toward natural exfoliants, and I’m optimistic that we’ve started a nationwide movement to protect not just the Great Lakes, but other bodies of water with high concentrations of microbeads.”

"This legislation is a tremendous first step in protecting our precious natural resource, Lake Michigan, from plastic pollutants," Representative Andrade said. "This bill would not have been possible without relentless support from our Governor, the business community, and the environmental groups that worked together for this legislation to pass both the Senate and the House unanimously."

"We are very pleased today to see Governor Quinn take action to make Illinois the first state in the nation to ban microbeads from personal care products," Illinois Environmental Council Executive Director Jennifer Walling said. "It is great to see Illinois be first in the nation at protecting our Great Lakes from plastics pollution."

Governor Quinn has been a strong advocate for protecting Illinois' environment, including the 2012 launch of the Illinois Clean Water Initiative (ICWI). The ICWI has created thousands of jobs across Illinois and allows local governments to access low-interest loans for a variety of wastewater and drinking water projects.

The Governor also signed legislation to prevent landfills from being built or expanding in Cook County and has dedicated \$10 million in state funding to improve water quality in Chicago area waterways.

Under the Governor's leadership, the Illinois EPA proposed three new recreational uses for the Chicago Area Waterway System and the Lower Des Plaines River. These new use designations were approved by USEPA and will lead to disinfection of wastewater treatment plant effluent discharging to the primary contact waterway segments.

Since Fiscal Year 2011, thirty-six grants totaling almost \$15 million, have been made available to local units of government and other organizations to demonstrate green infrastructure best management practices to control stormwater runoff for water quality protection in Illinois.

Governor Quinn has also forged partnerships with seven nations through the Sister Rivers and Sister Lakes program to share ideas about such challenges as agricultural run-off, invasive species and pollution while boosting tourism and eco-awareness.

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June 9, 2014

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New Consumer Reports Poll Shows Consumer Demand for Strong Federal Standards for Genetically Engineered Food

92 Percent Think GE Food Should Be Labeled Before Sold; 92 Percent Think GE Food Should Meet Government Safety Standards Before Sold; 92 Percent Demand the Government Label GE Salmon

Yonkers, NY - June 9 - According to a new national poll by Consumer Reports released today, an overwhelming majority of U.S. consumers think that before genetically engineered (GE) food is sold, it should be labeled accordingly (92 percent of consumers) and meet long-term safety standards set by the government (92 percent). The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) currently does not require labeling or pre-market safety assessments of GE food.

Similarly, 92 percent of Americans specifically agreed that the government should require that GE salmon be labeled before it is sold. The FDA is considering whether to approve a GE salmon, which is designed to grow to maturity twice as fast as normal salmon, and has said that it does not intend to require labeling. In addition, nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of consumers polled said that it's crucial for them to avoid GE ingredients when purchasing food. The poll data can be found online [here](#) [PDF].

"This poll underscores that, across the country, consumers want labeling of GE food, including GE salmon, and consider safety standards set by the government of such food imperative," said Jean Halloran, Director of Food Policy Initiatives at Consumers Union, the policy arm of Consumer Reports.

The polling data comes as numerous states, including Massachusetts, Oregon, Colorado, and New York—where a vote is likely this week in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee—are considering mandatory labeling of GE crops. Vermont recently became the first state in the nation to require labels on GE foods. Connecticut and Maine have also passed labeling legislation, but implementation of the laws in those states is contingent upon nearby states passing similar laws.

States are moving ahead of the FDA, which so far supports only voluntary labeling of GE foods, despite receiving nearly two million public comments urging mandatory federal labeling. Sixty-four countries around the world already require GE foods to be labeled, including the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Australia, Brazil, India, Russia, and China.

"New York lawmakers have the opportunity to act this week to give consumers the information that they clearly want about their food," stated Halloran.

In April 2014, the Consumer Reports® National Research Center conducted a nationally representative phone survey to assess consumer opinion regarding the labeling of food.

Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) of Princeton, New Jersey administered the survey to a nationally representative sample of 1,004 adult U.S. residents (half of the respondents were women) through its CARAVAN Omnibus Survey. Respondents were selected by means of random-digit dialing and were interviewed via phone. The data were statistically weighted so that respondents in the survey were demographically and geographically representative of the U.S. population.

Consumers Union is the policy and action division of Consumer Reports. We work with our million plus activists to pass consumer protection laws in states and in Congress. We hammer corporations that do wrong by their customers, and encourage companies that are heading in the right direction.

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Friday, June 13, 2014 www.commondreams.org/view/2014/06/13

by [Michael SanClements](#)

Plastic: An Invasive Species We Created and Must Confront

Plastic was created with the best of intentions. In fact, plastic was invented when a billiard company offered a \$10,000 reward to find a replacement for ivory in pool balls. Yes, we used to play pool with elephant tusks. Similarly, the plastic bag was developed to reduce pressure on the forests providing raw materials for paper bags.

Often, what makes invasive species a problem is not an inherently bad characteristic, but rather an overabundance in the wrong place at the wrong time. Plastic is no different. We literally can't move through a day without coming into contact with it hundreds or even thousands of times. Interestingly, this is a rather new development. Our grandparents didn't grow up with plastic and was largely unheard of in civilian life until after World War II. So what happened? How did we become a society that is now producing approximately 300 million tons of plastic annually—roughly 50% of which is used just once and then discarded?

Whether a plastic bag dangling from a tree in the park near your house, the conversion of massive areas of open ocean into plastic soup, or the frightening yet invisible endocrine disrupting compounds in 90% of our bloodstreams, the effects of our rampant plastic use are everywhere. While it's common to see images of seabirds and turtles dead from strangulation or consumption plastic, we tend to hear less about the linkages between plastics and human health. Yet, chemicals like BPA and phthalates have been linked to changes in the human body ranging from obesity to developmental disorders and various cancers.

Understanding the role of plastic in our lives is critical to effectively protecting ourselves, our children, and our environment from harm. After more than a year of thinking and writing about their role in society I've come to see various plastics as fitting into three categories — the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. The Good plastics are the ones we want to keep. From medical, research and recreational equipment, to computers, cell phones, and essential components of our energy and transportation systems, the good plastic greatly improves our lives. The Bad plastic products are those that get reused again and again but leach toxins into our food and drink or emit them into the air we breathe. Products

like this are more common than you'd think, and it's easy to find them in the average home. Shower curtains, sex toys, canned foods, and more all have the potential to endanger our health. The Ugly plastic, is just that—ugly and is comprised of those single use items we possess for a moment and then toss. This is the plastic we most commonly see littering roadways, waterways, beaches and streets.

Unlike biological invasive species, plastic doesn't have its own agenda. We decide when, how and where it is created, used, reused, recycled, buried or littered. And options abound to change the way we interact with plastic on every level and under each of those scenarios. From broad changes in policy to making wiser personal choices about the products we buy and chemicals we expose ourselves to, there are countless opportunities to redefine the role of plastic in our lives.

Tightening of sanitation streams, advances in recycling, methods for turning plastic waste back into usable fuel oil, upcycling and novel bioplastics all have the ability to reduce waste generation and mitigate our plastic footprint.

Making changes on a personal level is easier than you might imagine. Even if you feel overwhelmed by life and think adding much more to your day is impossible, there are a number of nearly effortless changes you can make to better manage your relationship with plastic. In most instances it's simply having the knowledge to make more informed purchases and then substituting one product for a safer or less wasteful version. Swapping that PVC shower curtain for a cloth one will lessen your exposure to toxic chemicals with literally no effort. Trading bottled water for a reusable water bottle will save you money and reduce waste. Just be sure that you get the right kind of bottle or you might be exposing yourself to those endocrine disrupting chemicals I mentioned. Which raises another critical point—what exactly does 'BPA free' mean? Is it safe? Answer: In many cases—No.

It goes on and on, from touching cash register receipts to eating from plastic lined cans to the completely unnecessary decision to place each vegetable from the produce section in a plastic bag. We encounter numerous personal choices that can affect our health and the amount of waste we each generate every day.

There's nothing stopping us from taming the invasive nature of plastic and in the process cleaning up our bloodstreams and environment. And remember, I'm not proposing we eliminate plastic entirely. Plastic is central to our modern lifestyle. Rather,

we should rethink our relationship with plastic, learning to keep the Good, limit exposure to the Bad and eliminate the Ugly.

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Michael SanClements is an ecologist at The National Ecological Observatory Network and affiliate faculty member at the University of Colorado Boulder Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. He is the author of the new book, [Plastic Purge: How to Use Less Plastic, Eat Better, Keep Toxins Out of Your Body, and Help Save the Sea Turtles!](#) (St. Martin's - 2014). Find more of his work his [website](#) or follow him on Twitter: [@msanclem](#)

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June 10, 2014, Katherine Paul [Organic Consumers Association](#)

Organic Consumers Association Calls on Starbucks to Convert to Certified Organic Milk

FINLAND, Minn. - The Organic Consumers Association (OCA) has joined GMO Inside in a campaign calling on Starbucks to convert its milk purchases to certified organic milk.

“Starbucks is perpetuating the unsustainable model of industrial and GMO agriculture,” said Ronnie Cummins, OCA’s national director. “Approximately 75 percent of all GMO crops are used to feed livestock, including dairy cows. By switching to organic milk, Starbucks could set the industry standard while at the same time contributing to the growth of a more sustainable, and more humane, dairy industry model.”

Starbucks is the largest coffee chain in the world, with 20,100 stores, and annual sales of \$14.9 billion. CEO Howard Schultz is worth \$1.6 billion.

Starbucks uses more than 93 million gallons (2011 figures) annually of non-organic milk from factory farms. Where animal abuse and unhealthy practices run rampant.

The OCA has been pressuring Starbucks for 12 years to change its policies and practices around organics and fair trade. Yet apart from one victory—in 2007, when in response to consumer pressure Starbucks agreed to stop using milk containing Monsanto's Bovine Growth Hormone—the company has largely ignored consumer demand for organic,

That’s an unhealthy diet for animals. And an unsustainable model for agriculture.

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The Organic Consumers Association (OCA) is an online and grassroots non-profit 501(c)3 public interest organization campaigning for health, justice, and sustainability. The OCA deals with crucial issues of food safety, industrial agriculture, genetic engineering, children's health, corporate accountability, Fair Trade, environmental sustainability and other key topics. We are the only organization in the US focused exclusively on promoting the views and interests of the nation's estimated 50 million organic and socially responsible consumers.