

# Green Mission News

September 2013 Green Mission News

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What's in the News...

## A Safe Place for Bees

*Katrina Rabeler wrote this article for [YES! Magazine](#)*

"America's beekeepers cannot survive for long with the toxic environment EPA has supported..."



## Zombie Trees?

A 45 minute video from Dr. David Suzuki about the dangers of genetically engineered trees:

View: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSI7sQXVzUQ&feature=youtu.be>

## External Article Links:

- Get weekly nature connection tips & resources

<http://www.nature-mentor.com>

- In this educational video you'll discover why the whole world needs to reconnect with nature (5 1/2 min video)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL6DWgHd8V0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NL6DWgHd8V0)

- In praise of the circular economy (4 minute video)

Aug 21, 2013: Yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur made her name as the fastest person to sail solo around the world. Now she is applying the same determination to rethinking the economy. She tells Della Bradshaw why companies must adopt more sustainable business models.

[video.ft.com/2620845816001/In-praise-of-the-circular-economy/Management](http://video.ft.com/2620845816001/In-praise-of-the-circular-economy/Management)

- A Safe Place for Bees: Will US Follow Europe in Banning Hive-Killing Pesticides?

While banning the use of bee-killing pesticides is crucial, planting your yard with flowers instead of grass helps, too.

[www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-human-cost-of-stuff/will-united-states-follow-Europe-in-banning-bee-killing-pesticides](http://www.yesmagazine.org/issues/the-human-cost-of-stuff/will-united-states-follow-Europe-in-banning-bee-killing-pesticides)

- Japan government abandons hands-off approach to Fukushima clean-up

[www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/01/us-japan-fukushima-idUSBRE98002520130901](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/01/us-japan-fukushima-idUSBRE98002520130901)

- Let's stop hiding behind recycling and be honest about consumption

[www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2013/apr/12/escalating-consumption](http://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2013/apr/12/escalating-consumption)

-PET fibers get a second life

[specialtyfabricsreview.com/articles/0813\\_wv\\_recycled\\_fibers.html](http://specialtyfabricsreview.com/articles/0813_wv_recycled_fibers.html)

-Life in Antarctica Relies on Shrinking Supply of Krill

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/08/130817-antarctica-krill-whales-ecology-climate-science/>

-My Morning Zero Waste Green Smoothie :: My Plastic-free Life

Zero Waste Week is coming up September 2 – 8, so this morning I thought I'd take pix of my daily green smoothie making process, sans packaging or plastic ...[myplasticfreelife.com/.../my-morning-zero-waste-green-smoot...](http://myplasticfreelife.com/.../my-morning-zero-waste-green-smoot...)

-Solar on the White House Roof!

<http://350.org>

- The EPA's Failure to Track Factory Farms

[documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/EPA](http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/EPA)

[http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/EPA\\_Factory\\_Farms.pdf](http://documents.foodandwaterwatch.org/doc/EPA_Factory_Farms.pdf)

- Arrogant GMO promoter Professor Bruce Chassy embarrasses himself at major Food Scientist's Institute

[http://www.naturalnews.com/041794\\_gmo\\_promoter\\_professor\\_bruce\\_chassy\\_genetically\\_engineered\\_crops.html#ixzz2dUPr4jW5](http://www.naturalnews.com/041794_gmo_promoter_professor_bruce_chassy_genetically_engineered_crops.html#ixzz2dUPr4jW5)

- Eco-Groups Challenge Obama Administration Over GMO Farming in National Wildlife Refuges

[truth-out.org/news/item/18493-eco-groups-challenge-obama-administration-over-gmo-farming-in-national-wildlife-refuges](http://truth-out.org/news/item/18493-eco-groups-challenge-obama-administration-over-gmo-farming-in-national-wildlife-refuges)

- Conflicts of Interest in Approvals of Additives to Food Determined to Be Generally Recognized as Safe

[archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1725123](http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1725123)

- Genetically Engineered Trees

August 4, 2013. 1:55 pm • Nora Bryan, Certified Arborist

[blogs.calgaryherald.com/2013/08/04/genetically-engineered-trees/](http://blogs.calgaryherald.com/2013/08/04/genetically-engineered-trees/)

- Genetically Engineered Trees!! Watch Documentary- "A Silent Forest" (45 minute video)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSI7sQXVzUQ&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_played](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSI7sQXVzUQ&feature=youtube_gdata_played)

- Put onus of recycling on producers

[www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/put-onus-of-recycling-on-producers/article5029795.ece?homepage=true](http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/put-onus-of-recycling-on-producers/article5029795.ece?homepage=true)

- Zero Waste Week calls for less food to be binned

[www.energylivenews.com/2013/08/30/zero-waste-week-calls-for-less-food-to-be-binned/](http://www.energylivenews.com/2013/08/30/zero-waste-week-calls-for-less-food-to-be-binned/)

- Decline of the Biology Nerds?

[www.huffingtonpost.com/nessa-carey/science-education\\_b\\_3792091.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nessa-carey/science-education_b_3792091.html)

- 3 heretical questions about competition, efficiency and scale

[www.greenbiz.com/engage/featured-blogs/radical-industrialists](http://www.greenbiz.com/engage/featured-blogs/radical-industrialists)

- Great Lakes of America Are Polluted by Plastic

[guardianlv.com/2013/08/great-lakes-of-america-are-polluted-by-plastic/](http://guardianlv.com/2013/08/great-lakes-of-america-are-polluted-by-plastic/)

- U.S. Plastic Recycling Gets Caught in China's Big 'Green Fence'

<http://www.care2.com/causes/u-s-plastic-recycling-gets-caught-in-chinas-big-green-fence.html#ixzz2dh3SYVzP>

- Woman Who Died From Lack of Double Bagging Will Have You Rethink How You Shop

[thestir.cafemom.com/in\\_the\\_news/160495/woman\\_who\\_died\\_from\\_lack](http://thestir.cafemom.com/in_the_news/160495/woman_who_died_from_lack)

- Are you owed a piece of the \$9 million Naked class action lawsuit?

[www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/submit-a-claim-in-the-naked-juice-class-action-lawsuit](http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/submit-a-claim-in-the-naked-juice-class-action-lawsuit)

- Smucker given short shrift by judge in latest twist in GMOs and 'natural' claims row

Who will ultimately decide whether products made with genetically engineered ingredients should be promoted as 'natural'? The courts? Or the FDA?

<http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Regulation/Smucker-given-short-shrift-by-judge-in-latest-twist-in-GMOs-and-natural-claims-row>

- NY judge in Frito-Lay lawsuit refuses to refer GMO/natural issue to FDA: 'Agency would need far more than six months to define 'natural'

In the 2nd major development this week in the debate over whether foods made with GMOs can be labeled 'natural', a NY judge handling a multi-district lawsuit vs Frito-Lay says she will not refer the matter to the FDA, as her counterparts have done in similar cases vs Gruma Corp and General Mills.

<http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Regulation/NY-judge-in-Frito-Lay-lawsuit-refuses-to-refer-GMO-natural-issue-to-FDA-Agency-would-need-far-more-than-six-months-to-define-natural>

8% of Booze Brands Stumble on Responsible Packaging in Audit (UK)

Nearly 8% of alcoholic drinks brands could be in breach of responsible packaging guidelines, a review of random products has suggested.

<http://www.thegrocer.co.uk/topics/8-of-booze-brands-stumble-on-responsible-packaging-in-audit/348942.article>

Code of Practice on the Naming, Packaging

[www.portmangroup.org.uk/](http://www.portmangroup.org.uk/)

Uncovering Bottle Recycling's Big Problem

[resource-recycling.com/node/3755](http://resource-recycling.com/node/3755)

CEH Files Suit Citing Cancer-Causing Chemical in Nearly 100 Hair Care, Personal Care Products

[www.sustainablebrands.com/news\\_and\\_views](http://www.sustainablebrands.com/news_and_views)

Media No Closer Than USDA to Solving GMO Wheat Mystery

[www.foodsafetynews.com/2013/08/media-no-closer-to-solving-gmo-wheat-mystery-than-usda/#.Uh\\_22a7-zi4](http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2013/08/media-no-closer-to-solving-gmo-wheat-mystery-than-usda/#.Uh_22a7-zi4)

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Full Length Article Below:

- Solid Waste & Recycling Blog: Plastic pollution and the world's oceans

- Coalition Sues Environmental Protection Agency for Abandoning Critical Factory Farm Rule

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Source: [blog.solidwastemag.com](http://blog.solidwastemag.com)

## **Solid Waste & Recycling Blog: Plastic pollution and the world's oceans**

*By Guy Crittenden*

Think of the marine plastic pollution less as being like a solid island and more like a near-invisible cloud.

According to the website [takepart.com](http://www.takepart.com) (<http://www.takepart.com/oceans/plastic-pollution>), "...plastic constitutes approximately 90 per cent of all trash floating on the ocean's surface, with 46,000 pieces of plastic per square mile."

Much of the plastic debris that enters the environment ultimately finds its way into the ocean's "gyres." The North Pacific Gyre off the coast of California is home to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which [takepart.com](http://www.takepart.com) calls "the largest ocean garbage site in the world."

"The floating mass of plastic is twice the size of Texas, with plastic pieces outnumbering sea life by a measure of six to one," it states on the website.

The problem with this plastic waste — in addition to it being impossible to completely clean up — is that the material is comprised of long-chain molecules that degrade but never completely disappear in the environment. In fact, the very qualities of plastic that make it appealing for producing consumer items (e.g., durability, weather and microbe resistance) make plastic difficult to deal with as a waste: the plastic breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces (mostly from sunlight exposure) but the microscopic particles will be around for 500 to 1,000 years, or longer.

Worse, these microscopic particles attract and absorb toxins. Over time, the material may become thousands of times more toxic than background pollution levels. In the ocean, microscopic organisms that are the foundation of the aquatic food chain bind to these particles (you can think of them as riding on little rafts), and are consumed by larger organisms. The plastics and toxins get absorbed and biomagnified up the food chain, with results that no one completely understands, but which are no doubt deleterious to the environment and its inhabitants.

With the average North American tossing about 185 pounds of plastic per year, and 8 per cent of the world's oil used for plastic production, the challenge of reining in this ocean-plastic pollution is formidable. To read more, [click here](#).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 28, 2013  
2:00 PM

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## **Coalition Sues Environmental Protection Agency for Abandoning Critical Factory Farm Rule**

**EPA unlawfully scrapped proposal to collect basic information about Factory  
Farms necessary to protect nation's waterways**

WASHINGTON - August 28 - A coalition of community, animal welfare and environmental organizations is filing a lawsuit against the United States Environmental Protection Agency challenging the Agency's withdrawal of a proposed rule that would have allowed EPA to collect basic information, like locations and animal population sizes, from factory farms.

The Center for Food Safety, Environmental Integrity Project, Food & Water Watch, The Humane Society of the United States, and Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement filed the suit in the U.S District Court for the District of Columbia, arguing that the Agency's withdrawal of the proposed rule lacks the rational basis required by law. The information at issue is critical to the EPA's ability to protect waterways from pollutants produced by factory farms, one of the country's largest sources of water pollution.

Hugh Espey, executive director at Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement said: "While power plants, waste treatment facilities and manufacturers have had to comply with the protective standards of the Clean Water Act, the factory farming industry has managed to evade any meaningful regulation. After over three decades, there is no rational reason for why EPA won't enact the types of Clean Water Act approaches with factory farms that have worked well with all of our other polluting industries."

Jonathan Lovvorn, senior vice president and chief counsel for animal protection litigation at The HSUS said: "The animal agriculture industry has benefited from EPA's

lack of information for decades, and has successfully opposed efforts to increase transparency. This certainly is not good for animals, humans or the environment; it is only good for massive industrialized farms.”

George Kimbrell, senior attorney for the Center for Food Safety, stated: “With the withdrawal, EPA continues to pursue a CAFO pollution control policy that can only be described as willful ignorance. As long as EPA continues to turn an unlawfully blind eye towards this industry, our waterways and communities will never be safe.”

Tarah Heinzen, an attorney with Environmental Integrity Project stated: “Our ask is modest; we are urging EPA to fulfill its mission and start to get a better understanding about one of the largest sources of pollution threatening our nation’s rivers, streams and bays. It’s a sad commentary on the agency when we have to go to court to get that accomplished.”

Factory farms are industrial facilities that confine thousands of animals in limited land areas for meat, dairy and egg production. The operations that would have been subject to this rule are the factory farms falling within the “CAFO” point source category under the Clean Water Act, a category that consists of the Nation’s largest and dirtiest operations.

EPA estimates there are 20,000 CAFOs in the United States producing three times as much waste as humans. Although this waste contains pathogens, heavy metals, antibiotics and hormones, EPA does not require all factory farms to meet waste management and treatment requirements.

The Columbia University School of Law Environmental Law Clinic is providing legal representation in the case.

## Background

In 1972, the clear water pollution threat posed by CAFOs’ staggering waste stream led Congress to mandate that EPA must regulate CAFOs pursuant to the Clean Water Act. Despite this 40-year-old mandate, EPA continues to lack basic data about factory farms, including accurate and consistent information on their size, location and waste management practices.

Under the abandoned rule, known as CWA Section 308 Rule, the agency was to begin gathering this basic information. The proposed CWA Section 308 Rule made a strong case for the need for information collection based on inadequate existing data.

Following strong industry opposition, EPA withdrew the rule. In its rule withdrawal, EPA radically shifted its position without justification.

The agency now claims that instead of using its authority under the Clean Water Act to gather information directly from CAFO owners and operators, it will seek to gather existing information about CAFOs from various state and federal agencies. This approach contradicts recent government reports, which confirm that state agency CAFO data is “inconsistent and inaccurate and does not provide EPA with the reliable data it needs...” and that “no federal agency collects accurate and consistent data on the

number, size, and location of CAFOs.” This legal action asserts the EPA’s change in position is arbitrary because alternative courses of action cannot provide the crucial information.

In the fall of 2012, several environmental organizations filed Freedom of Information Act requests with EPA for all of the state-generated data gathered by the Agency. After industry browbeating, the Agency attempted to recall some of the records that it originally produced. Nevertheless, Food & Water Watch retained and reviewed all of the original records.

Wenonah Hauter, executive director at Food & Water Watch stated: “Our review of these records confirms what EPA has already admitted in its preamble to the 308 Rule. The data from the states is inconsistent, incomplete and, ultimately, will not allow the agency to finally begin the process of properly regulating these highly polluting facilities.”

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The Environmental Integrity Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in March of 2002 by former EPA enforcement attorneys to advocate for effective enforcement of environmental laws. EIP has three goals: 1) to provide objective analyses of how the failure to enforce or implement environmental laws increases pollution and affects public health; 2) to hold federal and state agencies, as well as individual corporations, accountable for failing to enforce or comply with environmental laws; and 3) to help local communities obtain the protection of environmental laws.

[www.environmentalintegrity.org](http://www.environmentalintegrity.org)

Food & Water Watch works to ensure the food, water and fish we consume is safe, accessible and sustainable. So we can all enjoy and trust in what we eat and drink, we help people take charge of where their food comes from, keep clean, affordable, public tap water flowing freely to our homes, protect the environmental quality of oceans, force government to do its job protecting citizens, and educate about the importance of keeping shared resources under public control. [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)

The Humane Society of the United States is the nation’s largest animal protection organization, rated the most effective by its peers. Since 1954, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. We rescue and care for tens of thousands of animals each year, but our primary mission is to prevent cruelty before it occurs. We’re there for all animals, across America and around the world. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — on the Web at [humanesociety.org](http://humanesociety.org)

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement is a not-for-profit organization that works to



empower and unite grassroots Iowans of all ethnic backgrounds to take control of their communities; involve them in identifying problems and needs and in taking action to address them; and be a vehicle for social, economic, and environmental justice. ICCL's thousands of members work to protect rural communities from factory farm water and air pollution at the state and national level. <http://iowacci.org>

Center for Food Safety a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment by curbing the proliferation of harmful food production technologies and methods, such as CAFOs, and instead by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture. CFS represents 350,000 farmer and consumer members throughout the country that support safe, sustainable, and organic agriculture. CFS's mission is also protecting the public's right to know how their food is produced. [www.centerforfoodsafety.org](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org)