

Why You Should Care?

Toxic pollution in your neighborhood is a hazard to your health

Agricultural and Industrial chemicals pose a serious health risk. After almost two centuries of industrial and agroindustrial activities—much of that in an era when corporate owners freely took it as their prerogative to foul our common air, land and waters—almost every community in the United States has been impacted. The true nature of the devastation is only now coming to the surface. This provides a great opportunity for communities to start restoring the earth and save their future.

Community resources need protection

As pristine resources, including air and water, become more rare, they are a strong draw for corporate investors looking for new lands to plunder. Your local natural assets may be the next ones targeted. Make sure you know how to protect them.

Industrial interests are obscuring our environmental problems

Additional greenhouse gases being spewed into the environment are mainly coming from corporate sources or products. Faced with ruin if the true costs of this pollution becomes known, corporations have mounted a multi-million dollar campaign to hide the truth, preventing our media from serving its democratic function.

Free trade spreads the devastation

Neoliberal trade agreements spread the industrial and consumptive lifestyles that are polluting the planet and threaten local initiatives to protect our health and the environment.



What You Can Do

Find out what toxics are in your neighborhood. Go to www.scorecard.org to find the registered toxic sites in your neighborhood. They also have a list of environmental justice groups or search for one on the web. Find one working in your area—discover what they know and support their efforts. If you have concerns about sites that have not been investigated, do some grassroots investigating of your own.

Start rights-based organizing in your community. Contact CELDF to find out how to protect your community from outside corporate predators. Arrange to hold a Democracy School in your community. Research the local ordinances that CELDF has helped pass and educate your local politicians about the possibilities.

Join the international movement to confront global warming. Most change begins at the grassroots. Get your local government to join the effort to stop global warming. Check out www.iclei.org. Join the Earth Day Network to establish a climate education campaign in your area. See www.earthday.net

Institute the Precautionary Principle. Help your local community use the Precautionary Principle, which brings democracy and science to environmental decision making. GreenAction and Environmental Commons have been active in getting the Precautionary Principle adopted by local governments in San Francisco and Mendocino County CA and are happy to help other communities do the same.