Toxics Action Center
2005 Annual Report

Helping Residents
Fight Pollution
In Our Communities

Toxics Action Center helped my daughter in our battle to save the town from the chemical plants. We couldn't have done it without them. The victory was a victory for the health, safety, and environment enjoyed by the residents of the Granite State.

Scott Wood, member of Kettle Cove coalition that stopped a toxic expansion of living off chemical plants.

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
and the NEWHALL COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION
FIGHTING FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE

The GAAG Coalition Says:
DON'T DUMP ON US!

The Neighborhood Voices
In 2005, Toxics Action Center provided assistance to more than 75 neighborhood groups across New England. Our work was made possible from contributions by more than 2,000 individuals. The following donors contributed more than $100.

Joshua P. Abrams
Elizabeth & Elvis Atkins
Laura Bagnall
Michael & Margherita Baldwin
Jamie Barks
Rand & Carolyn Barthe
Andy Bass
Elaine Beal
Robert Belman
Josephine Remmink
Louise Boring
Ann Berman
Betsy Bigwood
Elizabeth Birke
Doris Bouchard
Johanna Bradle
Norman Brindley
Tory Brine
William Brinsmell
Clarence & Shirley Brown
Marie Brown
Miriam Butterworth
Caroline Carlisle
Christine Carney
Steve Carvahlo
Dick Clapp
Patricia Cloonan
M. S. Cohen
Tod Conway
Barry Cornwall
Christopher M. Couthard
Roger Couturier
Linda Crowe
Jean Cummings
Karen Dacey
Jean Parker & Bob Dale
Jane Danforth
Charles Delano
Claire Delano
Ann Delsel
Faith J. Dingle
Howard Drobner
Robert Jones
Marco Katchen
Stephanie Keplin
Beth Karp
Judith King
William & Carol Klepack
Jeannine Kirsh
Ben Kublin
Rajeev Kunin
Shelia LaFarge
Mary Lappert
Corbin Lands
Russell Landrigan
Charles Leonard
George Langner
Jim Luka
Joanne Lupi
Celeste & Geoffrey Lyan
Norm & Sheila MacKinnon
Rebecca MacLachlan
Pamela Marder
Kevin Maloney
Ed Manginello
Cindy Marshall
Phyllis Matthews
Theresa Matthews
Anne & Brian Mazer
Lei Maszera
Patricia McGrory
Douglas Brake McHenry
Ruth McKay
Vivian McVicker
Millie Milton
David Moss
Catherine Morocco
Paul Morse
Shirley Moscynski
Marriott Mofa
Rafael Moura
Suzanne Muenz
Leslie Myers
Barbara Nash
Margaret Nelson
George Neasir
Leonard S. Nelcom
H. Gilman Nicholas
Rosamond Nickerson
Walter Norton
Carolyn Osterberg
Geoffrey Packard
Ron Pelican
Mr. and Mrs. Parker
Marilyn Pearl
Mary Ann Perry
Douglas Phips
Ann Marie Pich
Mercedes Porter
Andrew Proud
Julie Raiche
Lou Restino
Ara Rost
Bert S. Rovner-Lander
Mimi Rys
Michael Robbins
Sharon L. Roberts
Andy Robinson
Ann Robson
Andrea & Geoff Rogers
Glen Rodick
Majore Rosenblatt
Beth Roth
Lorna Russell
Patricia Samhury
Robert Salmaway
David & Flori Schwartz
Linda Segel
Ray Seligman
Renee Shapiro
Christina Sides
Peter Sils
Jason Smith
Leslie Space
Susan Speyer
Elizabeth Steidel
Emily & Paul Sugg
Beverly Sullivan
Susan Susan
Barbara Spero
Thomas & Jane Talmisum
Michael Tobias
Susan Trackman
Mary Van Vleick
Kathleen VanVoor
Dana Vetter
John Walsh
Kamal Velskarp
Tom White
Patricia Wilkerson
Dennis Williams
Gil Wyllie
Jim Wright
Marc Zedin

The following foundations and institutions also contributed financial support to Toxics Action Center in 2005.

- The John Munk Fund
- TRU Green ChemLawn
- Westward
- Gloucester Trust
- The Harris & Francis Block Foundation
- HFA Foundation
- Marypick Foundation
- The Marder Foundation
- The Rhode Island Foundation
- The Vermont Community Foundation
- The Environmental Support Center
- The Fund for New England

www.toxicsaction.org

July 25, 2006

To Our Supporters:

I am proud to say that my first year as director of Toxics Action Center has brought many successes in our fight to ensure that New England residents have clean air, clean water, and safe communities. Matthew Wilson, our former director, built our organization from one staff member working in a handful of communities to a dedicated group of people working in five states. He left a big set of shoes to fill, and we have risen to the challenge by opening a sixth office in Rhode Island, expanding our reach to cover all of New England.

This year opened up some new doors for us, as we launched our first national campaign targeting TrueGreen ChemLawn, pressuring the company to change its practices and stop exposing communities to the dangers of lawn care pesticides. We decided to take this company on in response to calls from residents across the region concerned about the harm these toxic chemicals are causing to their families and environment. Our local organizing efforts continue as we find more and more people affected by pesticide exposure.

We’ve also been focusing a lot of resources on tackling the solid waste crisis in our region. The trash is piling up and more landfills and incinerators are being opened, creating air and water pollution that has negative effects on our health. Communities are fighting back to make sure that the big garbage companies are held accountable and that our state incinerators are closed.

Back in 1987, we were formed around a campaign to clean up hazardous waste in Massachusetts, and we’re still assisting communities in getting these toxic sites cleaned up properly. I thank you for your support, which has made this work possible.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Schuren
Director
New Hampshire Residents Win Against Air Pollution

Toxics Action Center, the New Hampshire Sierra Club, and coalition partners worked with residents in communities across New Hampshire to form a strong coalition opposed to the burning of construction and demolition waste in the state. The coalition won a major victory when Governor John Lynch signed into law a moratorium against incineration of this dangerous material.

Burning construction and demolition waste poses serious threats to our health and environment. Incinerating this waste releases lead, mercury, cadmium, arsenic, and dioxins into our air. These chemicals are known to cause cancer, learning disabilities, and reproductive problems. The moratorium allows New Hampshire residents and officials to develop a true solution to the disposal of construction and demolition waste.

Proposals to use the waste as fuel are now being encouraged in towns in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine, making incineration an especially critical issue in New England.

Fighting the Garbage Giants and Increasing Recycling in Massachusetts

We are living in a throwaway society with 21 active landfills and seven incinerators in Massachusetts alone. The vast majority of chemicals contained in products we throw away have not been adequately tested, leaving a big question mark as to their effects on human health and the environment. When dumped in landfills, chemicals can leak into aquifers, contaminating groundwater. When burned in incinerators, toxins like mercury and dioxin can negatively impact air quality.

Companies like BFI, Waste Management, and Casella profit from encouraging more waste. Facing a garbage crisis, residents across the state are fighting back to make sure we prioritize recycling, reducing, and reusing over opening more landfills or burning more waste in incinerators.

Hardwick, Massachusetts is just one of many communities where citizens are fighting the battle between big garbage companies and public health. Toxics Action Center helped stop a Hardwick citizen's group, win three town-wide votes that will limit the size of the town's dangerous Casella-owned landfill. Toxics Action Center connected STOP and several other communities to a statewide coalition working to ensure that the state's solid waste master plan includes a strong recycling goal and a moratorium on new landfills. Recycling Action, a project of Toxics Action Center, also helped support this effort by providing information on recycling.
As this map shows, in 2005 Toxics Action Center worked with over 75 communities in New England to address environmental and public health problems. Below are brief descriptions of some of these campaigns.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

While New England is still trying to dig itself out from a century of illegal and haphazard dumping of toxic materials into our ground and water, residents across the region are holding polluters accountable to the laws and making our communities a safer place to live.

1. Norwich, VT: We worked with residents to clean up a hazardous waste site at their condo association. Years ago, underground storage tanks leaked oil, contaminating the surrounding soil.

2. Needham, MA: We worked with residents of Needham to convince town officials to do comprehensive testing and remediation of a lead-contaminated site, prior to developing athletic fields for school children to play on.

3. Scituate, MA: We continue to work with Concerned Residents of Wampatuck to ensure the cleanup of a dangerous hazardous waste site near an elementary school.

TOXIC PESTICIDES

Pesticides are toxic by design and are being increasingly linked to learning disabilities, miscarriages, and cancer. The use of toxic pesticides has come under increased scrutiny by residents across New England.

4. Downeast, ME: We worked with residents in Washington and Hancock counties to convince the two largest aerial sprayers in Maine, Cherryfield Foods and Wyman and Son, to abandon aerial spraying.

5. Brunswick, ME: We worked with Brunswick Pesticide Watch to pass a moratorium that bans the spraying of pesticides and spreading of toxic sludge on public property.

RECYCLING/WASTE/LANDFILLS

Our nation continues to be the #1 throwaway society in the world, continually finding new ways to create disposable gadgets and unnecessary packaging. Toxics Action Center (and Recycling Action, our waste reduction project in Massachusetts) is dedicated to working with residents across the region to stop dangerous landfill and incinerator projects, reduce waste, and increase recycling.

6. Rockingham, VT: Building on the previous year’s victory of stopping Casella from constructing a landfill on the bank of the Connecticut River, we assisted residents in passing a zoning overlay to permanently protect the river from landfill pollution.

7. Hinsdale, NH: We worked with Concerned Citizens of Hinsdale New Hampshire to stop GenPower from building a construction and demolition debris incinerator in their community.

8. Templeton, MA: We worked with Templeton Citizens Against the Dump in their successful campaign to ensure that Templeton’s Casella-run dump stayed closed. Casella was proposing to double the landfill’s size, potentially doubling the impact on groundwater in the area.

9. Litteiton, ME: We worked with residents in Litteiton to pass a moratorium to ban toxic sludge spreading in town.

DANGEROUS FACILITIES

Many communities face dangerous industrial and chemical facilities that threaten their health and quality of life. Toxics Action Center works with residents across the region to ensure their neighborhoods are safe from these dangerous facilities.

10. Stamford, CT: We worked with community group ABDOS to defeat a proposal to expand the operations of a “temporary” power plant sited in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

11. Russell, MA: We worked with Concerned Citizens of Russell to convince the town to ban the use of construction and demolition debris in a proposed biomass incinerator sited in the middle of town.

12. Moretown, VT: We worked with Mad River Neighborhood Association to stop Rivers Inc. from receiving a local permit to blast a quarry in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

“Thank God for Toxics Action! They brought their community organizing expertise to our important cause. Under their tutelage we organized a successful kick-off meeting attended by over 150 people. We educated, collected money, and signed up volunteers after volunteer. Toxics Action Center was incredible—we learned how to organize, how to focus and how to successfully demand what we needed. Toxics Action was the most instrumental part of our group’s success.”

Debbie Mariano, member, of the community group, Concerned Parents of Wampatuck, which won increased safety standards for the remediation of a former army base in Scituate, Massachusetts.
Keeping Residents Safe from Toxic Pesticides

Tackling TruGreen ChemLawn

Our lawns should be safe green spaces where our families and pets can relax and play without worrying about harming their health or the environment. That's why Toxics Action Center launched an effort targeting our nation's largest applicator of lawn care pesticides, TruGreen ChemLawn.

In March of 2005, we released a report titled Refuse To Use ChemLawn: Be Truly Green in communities across New England. Our research identifies 17 of the 32 pesticides typically used by ChemLawn as potential or likely carcinogens. All of the pesticides have a significant impact on the environment, posing threats to groundwater and beneficial insect and other animal species. The report also details how the company used children in U.S. Youth Soccer to market their toxic products.

We are working with community groups across the region, from Milford, Connecticut, to Lexington, Massachusetts, to Burlington, Vermont, to educate the public on the dangers of lawn care pesticides. Toxics Action Center is asking residents to pledge to refuse to use ChemLawn until the company ends its use of possible carcinogens, discloses what chemicals it uses, offers an organic lawn care option, and promises to never again market to children.

We've partnered with the Campaign for Uniform Justice to protect the workers who launder uniforms worn by ChemLawn employees. These workers have suffered from rashes, headaches, and blurred vision, symptoms also reported by residents exposed to the toxins the company has sprayed on residential lawns.

Our Web site, www.refusetousechemlawn.org, has been created as a resource for people to find information, share stories about the effects of lawn care pesticides on health and the environment, and sign the pledge. Businesses and citizen groups from all over the country are endorsing and supporting our work, and we have collected thousands of pledges from residents.

“Tackling TruGreen ChemLawn requires leadership, development, fundraising development, and moral support on many issues that come up. Toxics Action has been there every step of the way, not only to help me win battles against toxic threats, but also as a teacher, guide, and friend on the environmental battleground.”

Jane Winn, Toxics Action Center Massachusetts Advisory Board member, and community activist with the Berkshire Environmental Action Team.

Protecting Children’s Health in Needham, Massachusetts

In January of 2005, Carol Donnelly called Toxics Action Center concerned about an abandoned Nike anti-aircraft missile site discovered near her home in Needham. The 19-acre site contained three underground missile silos. Unfortunately, town of Needham officials were looking at developing the site into athletic fields without conducting comprehensive testing and remediation. Preliminary testing at the site indicated high levels of lead. Lead is known to be toxic to the nervous system, with the ability to cause severe brain damage and even death. Residents were rightly concerned about the health of their children, who would be playing on the athletic fields.

Toxics Action Center staffer, Johanna Neumann, met with Carol and other Needham residents to assist them in developing a plan convincing town officials to do comprehensive testing and remediation. The plan worked, and soon Needham officials committed to moving forward on both requests.

“In Needham we saw that good research and persistent pressure from residents resulted in a thorough cleanup,” said Johanna Neumann of Toxics Action Center. “The dedication of Carol and her neighbors really paid off.”

Cleaning Up Hazardous Waste
Toxics Action Center
Financial Statements
For The Year Ending June 30, 2005

**BALANCE SHEET**

**Current Assets**

Cash, Receivables & Prepaid Expenses $372,977
Office Equipment $2,760
Total Assets $375,737

**Liabilities & Net Assets**

Current Liabilities $62,253
Net Assets $313,484
Total Liabilities & Net Assets $375,737

**INCOME STATEMENT**

**Support & Revenue**

Grants $284,810
Conference Income $9,903
Interest Income $4,474
Membership Contributions $123,831
Total Support & Revenue $423,018

**Expenses**

Program Services $274,709
Operating $30,397
Fundraising Expenses $50,660
Total Expenses $355,766

Net Income FY05 $67,252

These figures represent combined financial information from Toxics Action Center, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization and Toxics Action Center Campaigns, a 501(c)(4) organization.

1 Program services include the funds used to help residents clean up and prevent pollution in more than 70 communities throughout the six New England states.

1 Operating expenses include rent and overhead costs incurred in support of our neighborhood assistance work.

"Toxics Action Center has been a tremendous help in our fight against a mega-landfill in our rural western Massachusetts town. They provided the information and support we needed to mold a group of outraged citizens into an effective political voice. They are there each time we need them, providing workshops, advice, and references to key resources, all with a deft touch. From the trenches I can attest that Toxics Action Center is highly effective."

George Clemmer, member of STOP, a Hardwick, Massachusetts community group working to stop the expansion of a Casella-owned town landfill.