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TOXICS ACTION CENTER
2012 Annual Report
ORGANIZING WITH RESIDENTS
TO CLEAN UP AND PREVENT POLLUTION
IN NEW ENGLAND SINCE 1987

www.ToxicsAction.org

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To Our Members

As Toxics Action Center’s new Executive Director, it is a pleasure to bring you this look back on a year in which we were, as strong as ever. In 2012 our team organized in 85 communities across New England, helped win a dozen local victories, and celebrated our 25th anniversary.

25 years after our founding, I believe strongly that our work couldn’t be more important or more relevant. The reality is that toxic pollution continues to threaten our health and the environment. Decades after Woburn, Love Canal, and Three Mile Island, we’re still experiencing the tragic wake-up calls of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the BP oil spill, and the Big Branch coal mine collapse. Versions of these stories play out in a smaller scale right here in New England every day.

Toxics Action Center’s work is based on the idea that hard times can bring us together to spur political action, and that neighbors banding together and drawing bright lines between right and wrong will bring us closer to our vision of clean air and clean water, healthy and vibrant communities, and state and local governments that act responsibly and democratically.

Our history is filled with stories of seemingly ordinary people taking on local governments that act responsively and democratically. Drawing bright lines between right and wrong will bring us closer to our vision.

Thanks to the courageous work of activists and the support of members like you, this annual report features many victories. For example: In Framingham, Mass., we worked to close down General Chemical, a hazardous waste transfer station with an atrocious track record of environmental violations, including a massive underground toxic plume that contaminated neighborhood homes. We organized with Junia and Sidney Faust and their neighbors to grow the community group FACES: Framingham Action Coalition for Environmental Safety. By turning out hundreds to public hearings, and pressuring local government, we helped FACES close General Chemical and free Framingham from decades of unrestricted pollution.

Our work in Framingham and other communities would not be possible without the generosity of thousands of people who support Toxics Action Center financially every year, and I am grateful for your support.

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At Toxics Action Center, we pride ourselves on our ability to get an incredible amount done with limited resources. We are able to maximize our impact by focusing on building the capacity of neighborhood groups for the long run. We are so thankful for your contribution. Together, we are moving toward a New England where everyone can drink clean water, breathe clean air and live in a healthy community.

We are sincerely grateful to the following organizations for their financial support during 2012.

**Toxics Action Center Foundation Funders**
- Anonymous
- Barr Foundation
- Ben and Jerry’s Foundation
- Broad Reach Fund
- Carvalho Family Charitable Trust
- Carolyn Foundation
- Harry and Dories Block Foundation
- Island Foundation
- John Merrick Fund
- Limbitruc Foundation
- Maine Initiatives
- Merrick Lloyd Foundation
- National Science Foundation
- Orchard Foundation
- Patagonia Foundation
- Rockefeller Foundation
- Samuel P. Parcels Foundation
- Third Sector New England
- Vermont Community Foundation

2012 Financial Information & Supporters

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<td>16%</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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2012 Income

- Program: 77%
- Grants: 47%
- Members & Donors: 52%
- Fundraising: 16%
- Other: 1%
- Overhead: 7%

2012 Expenditures

- Program: 77%
- Grants: 47%
- Members & Donors: 52%
- Fundraising: 16%
- Other: 1%
- Overhead: 7%

Curbing Toxic Pesticides

Many of us grew up thinking pesticides were the best thing to protect us from mosquitoes or give us a beautiful green lawn. Now, research has clearly established a link between pesticides and many serious health effects, from learning disabilities to cancer. Across New England, Toxics Action Center is working alongside community activists to protect children and families from toxic pesticide spraying.

**Massachusetts: Another Win to Protect Drinking Water**

For nearly four years, we’ve worked successfully with the local group GreenCAPE (Cape Alliance for Pesticide Education) to stop NSTAR’s plans to spray pesticides underneath 150 miles of power lines across the Cape. In 2012, we won a major victory when the Town of Wellfleet passed an organic policy banning toxic pesticides and harmful synthetic fertilizers on town-owned lands. Our staff trained the group on campaign strategy, messaging, and media and helped win the unanimous vote. Wellfleet was the first to take action, and we hope to work with GreenCAPE to spread this citizen movement for healthy lawns and safe drinking water Cape-wide.

**Local Leader Spotlight: Marla Zando Takes Her Campaign Statewide**

Toxics Action Center organizer Tracie Koopinski worked with Marla Zando and Citizens for a Green Scarborough to pass and uphold a town-wide policy to restrict use of toxic pesticides on town-owned land. Last summer Marla and Toxics Action Center staff worked together to talk with neighbors about going chemical-free on their own lawns too.

The issue hit home for Marla: Since she began working on the issue, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. “When I started working on this, my son was just two years old. I imagined him rolling around these fields, and knew that toxins build up over time. For me, it’s really about children’s health and well-being,” she said.

Now Marla and her neighbors are taking it beyond their own community, becoming leaders in the statewide effort to ban pesticides on all school grounds in Maine. Over the last year, our staff and volunteers educated 4,500 Maineres about the issue, gathered more than 4,000 petitions, built a coalition of more than 120 teachers and coaches in support of banning toxic pesticides on school grounds, and released a report surveying Maine schools and making a case for strong action.

**Connecticut: Stopping Rollbacks on Safe School Grounds Laws**

Children are the most susceptible to health problems caused by toxic pesticides. Conn. has one of the nation’s strongest pesticide bans for school grounds, but industry lobbyists and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities are pushing to change that. Toxics Action Center worked with the Safe Grounds Coalition to protect safe school grounds and strengthen the law. Over the last year, we helped citizen leaders shine a spotlight on the issue in the media and put industry lobbyists on the defensive.

**“No matter the outcome, we will have learned a lot and I will always be grateful that we were able to stand our ground because we had a lot of help from friends at Toxics Action Center.”**

— Mary Ann Babinski
Westfield Concerned Citizens
Moving Away From Dirty Energy

Coal and nuclear plants have threatened the health and safety of New England towns and cities for decades. Yet only recently has the opportunity arisen to replace these aging plants with new, clean energy sources like wind and solar. In 2012, Toxics Action Center worked with communities to retire the worst plants, fight off dangerous new projects like incinerators, fracking, and tar sands pipelines, and move toward a cleaner and better energy future.

Transitioning Past Coal

The five remaining coal-burning plants in New England are major sources of mercury, sulfur dioxide, smog, and soot. Communities surrounding these smokestacks are now working together for a transition away from dirty energy and planning ahead for coal retirement. To assist these communities, Toxics Action Center organized with groups like Action for a Healthy Holyoke! and Coalition for Clean Air South Coast in Somerset. Over the last year we provided strategic advice, training on grassroots campaign skills, and support in coordinating efforts across the state.

In Massachusetts, Toxics Action Center brought together organizations from across the state to form Coal Free Massachusetts. After a coordinated day of action with press conferences in front of the Bay State’s three remaining coal plants, leaders of other partners in the state launched a grassroots campaign to stop subsidizing dirty coal power in the Granite State.

In New Hampshire, PSNH, the owners of New Hampshire’s two coal plants in Bow and Portsmouth, “won” a spot on Toxics Action Center’s 2012 Dirty Dozen list, as one of New England’s worst polluters. Working with other partners in the state, we launched a grassroots campaign to stop subsidizing dirty coal power in the Granite State.

Working To Close Aging Nuclear Plants

The Fukushima meltdown in Japan in 2011 was a wake-up call to the dangers of aging nuclear power plants across New England. The Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Mass., shares the same flawed design as Fukushima and has been cited for numerous safety violations. In 2012, we worked with leaders from across the South Shore to call for new safety measures and to block the plant’s relicensing.

Pilgrim Make Us Safe Today, and Meg Sheehan, a long-term environmental leader and local attorney from Plymouth, was designated one of the top 10 worst environmental justice offenders by the NAACP. In less than one year, with our organizing help, the Alliance built enough public support to convince city officials to sit down at the table with community leaders and power plant owners to discuss a transition towards closure.

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In Connecticut, we helped form the Healthy Connecticut Alliance to work for a healthier and more economically vibrant Bridgeport. The Bridgeport Harbor Station Coal Plant was designated one of the top 10 worst environmental justice offenders by the NAACP. In less than one year, with our organizing help, the Alliance built enough public support to convince city officials to sit down at the table with community leaders and power plant owners to discuss a transition towards closure.

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To Clean Up And Prevent Pollution

In 1987, Toxics Action Center was inspired into being by the parents of Woburn, Mass., who took action to protect their children’s health when W.R. Grace polluted their drinking water with cancer-causing chemicals. Over the years, with your support, we expanded into every New England state, organized with more than 700 neighborhood groups, and trained more than 10,000 community leaders in the organizing and advocacy skills needed to tackle local environmental problems. This year, we marked our 25th anniversary with a number of events focused on strengthening our network, building our organizational visibility, and laying the groundwork for future victories.

In March, we hosted our 25th Annual Environmental Action Conference. The event brought together nearly 350 activists, community leaders, and experts for a day of skills training, networking, and inspiration. Attorney Jan Schlichtmann, lawyer from the Woburn trial, and Lois Gibbs, mother-turned-activist from Love Canal, joined us for inspiring keynotes. At the conference, we held a “25 Years of Victories” award ceremony honoring 25 community groups who have won profound victories to protect the environment and human health over Toxics Action Center’s history. Recipients included groups like Fair Play for Harpswell and Fishing Families for Harpswell, who together prevented a massive liquefied natural gas plant off the coast of Maine that would have risked the bay and its fishing economy. Another award went to Coalition Against the Asphalt Plant, a group of residents from several Boston neighborhoods, who won a twelve year fight to prevent a massive new asphalt plant from being built in Boston.

Toxics Action Center held a different sort of awards ceremony in November, “celebrating” the worst New England polluters by giving out the Dirty Dozen Awards. We released the report, “25 Years of the Dirty Dozen: Past and Current Pollution Threats in New England,” profiling twelve of the most notorious pollution threats in the region and proposing solutions. All twelve sites were chosen by a selection committee comprised of environmental and human health experts, and the winners included repeat offenders who have still not cleaned up their messes, such as Entergy’s Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, as well as several emerging threats, including the proposed Northeast Tar Sands pipeline. The report garnered more than 60 mentions in various TV, newspaper and radio news outlets throughout the region.

Activists gather in Boston, Mass., to call for Pilgrim nuclear power plant’s retirement.

Celebrating 25 Years Of Organizing To Clean Up And Prevent Pollution

Outstanding community activists were honored with the 25 Years of Victories Awards at the 25th Annual Toxics Action Center Conference, held in March 2012.
Local Leader Spotlight: Martha Douglass Challenges A Town Goliath

Martha Douglass, a lifelong Vermonter, lives with her family on the banks of the Winooski River and just down the road from the Moretown Landfill. This year, in preparation for a proposed expansion, the landfill began a series of intense blasting. That’s when Martha noticed damage to sheetrock walls in her home. Neighbors already plagued by odors soon became worried about groundwater contamination. Martha helped organize her neighbors to form the group Citizens for Landfill Environmental Accountability and Responsibility (CLEAR), in order to stand united against continued pollution threats from the landfill.

Toxics Action Center’s Vermont organizer, Kalsyn Rosenberg, helped Martha and the group develop a strategy to stop the landfill’s proposed expansion and shine a spotlight on the issue in the media. Martha held press conferences, recruited a core group of neighbors, and elevated the issue to statewide attention. Momentum grew, and state officials recently indicated their plan to take strong action to enforce the law and require the landfill to come into compliance.

New England has a serious waste problem. We recycle less than a quarter of what we throw away, and the way we deal with our trash has devastating impacts on our environment, our climate, and our health. All landfills eventually leak, and incinerators release harmful chemicals into the air. In 2012, Toxics Action Center continued working to move beyond incinerators release harmful chemicals into the air. In 2012, Toxics Action Center continued working to move beyond incinerators.”

Preventing Dangerous Landfill Expansions and Moving Toward Zero Waste

South Hadley, Mass., hosts a landfill with a horrendous environmental record. Operated by Advanced Disposal, the landfill is built on top of an old, unlined dump that is leaking into groundwater and producing odors that are making neighbors sick. Despite these problems, the landfill is applying for an expansion. This year Toxics Action Center worked with the group H.O.P.E. to document the landfill’s violations and encourage the town to stop the expansion.

On the state level our staff and local leaders have worked for years to convince Massachusetts to adopt zero waste policies and eliminate the need for new landfills and incinerators. We won a major victory when the Department of Environmental Protection released its draft solid waste master plan called “A Pathway to Zero Waste” in 2010, and we spent 2012 working to make sure that vision was put into action by supporting expanded composting, working to strengthen recycling regulations, and preventing more incineration.

In Moretown, Vermont, residents in the group CLEAR are fighting the same landfill owners as South Hadley. Similar mismanagement has led to water contamination and nasty odors. Working with Toxics Action Center, residents have made headway in convincing the state’s Agency of Natural Resources to hold the landfill accountable for the pollution. As a solution, CLEAR is advocating for the landfill to be replaced with a zero waste facility: a resource recovery park where materials can be recycled, composted or reused.

New England has a serious waste problem. We recycle less than a quarter of what we throw away, and the way we deal with our trash has devastating impacts on our environment, our climate, and our health. All landfills eventually leak, and incinerators release harmful chemicals into the air. In 2012, Toxics Action Center continued working to move beyond incinerators. Incinerators release toxic chemicals and particulate pollution linked to everything from asthma to heart attacks. In 2012, Toxics Action Center worked with communities to show that clean energy does not come parade as clean and green, but in reality they release toxic chemicals and particulate pollution linked to everything from asthma to heart attacks. For example, biomass and trash incinerators that burn wood and waste fuels, and in 2011, we celebrated as the City Council voted to revoke the proposed incinerator’s special permit. That decision was upheld this year in a unanimous vote by Springfield’s Zoning Board of Appeals. Meanwhile, leaders across the state worked to change policies in Massachusetts that incentivize incineration. These coordinated efforts resulted in stricter standards being finalized in August, and ultimately secured the defeat of a proposed biomass power plant in Russell.

Vermont activists are also working to protect their communities from the threat of biomass incinerators. We aided members of the North Springfield Action Group in navigating routes for democratic participation in order to stop permits for a massive biomass incinerator in their community and will continue this work in 2013.

Local Leader Spotlight: Pauline Rodrigues Inspires a Statewide Effort to Transition Beyond Coal

Pauline Rodrigues is a leader of the community group Coalition for Clean Air South Coast. She lives a stone’s throw from one of the two coal plants in Somerset. For decades the company paid to power-wash her home, cleaning away the coating of soot left by the plant’s smokestack. She got involved in the effort to retire the town’s coal plants out of concern for her grandchildren who live near the plant, and in 2010 her efforts with the coalition convinced the smallest coal plant owner to uphold a promise to close down.

Today, one coal plant still remains, and it is one of New England’s biggest polluters. Toxics Action Center has worked with Pauline to convince town leaders to plan ahead for coal’s retirement and to redevelop both coal plant sites and bring in new, clean-tech jobs for the community. She has become a local player in town on energy issues and in the statewide coalition to move beyond coal.

started Cape Cod Bay Watch. Toxics Action Center’s Claire Miller, who grew up in Duxbury less than ten miles from Pilgrim, worked with Anna, Meg and many others to harness their energy and form the Pilgrim Coalition, uniting all of the nuclear safety groups across Eastern Massachusetts. The Coalition has won non-binding votes in eleven Cape Cod towns supporting a freeze on Pilgrim’s relicensing. Despite the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s recent decision to rubber-stamp Pilgrim’s license for another 20 years, the Pilgrim Coalition is gaining steam: In 2012, they won political backing from Attorney General Martha Coakley, Governor Deval Patrick, and many state legislators.

Clean Energy Does Not Come Out of a Smokestack

Biomass and trash incinerators that burn wood and waste parade as clean and green, but in reality they release toxic chemicals and particulate pollution linked to everything from asthma to heart attacks. In 2012, Toxics Action Center worked with communities to show that clean energy does not come out of a smokestack.

In Springfield, Mass., Toxics Action Center has worked with activists since 2009 to halt plans to build a construction waste incinerator. Our organizing support has helped recruit hundreds to attend hearings, garnered media attention, and built support among local business owners and health organizations. As a result of widespread public concern, the state adopted a moratorium on the use of construction waste as incinerator fuel, and in 2011, we celebrated as the City Council voted to revoke the proposed incinerator’s special permit. That decision was upheld this year in a unanimous vote by Springfield’s Zoning Board of Appeals.

“Without Toxics Action Center, we never would have had the knowledge or the funds to mount and win our campaign against such a huge fossil fuel burning company—thank you.”

— Pauline Rodrigues
Coalition for Clean Air South Coast
Scarborough, Maine: Victory against pesticides

Citizens for a Green Scarborough finally claimed victory when their town council upheld a vote banning toxic pesticides on town-owned lands. The win was the result of more than a year of work to raise awareness about the threat pesticides pose to human health, and it sprang out of a growing movement across Maine promoting local organic policies.

South Portland, Maine: Leading the charge against dirty tar sands oil

Toxics Action Center is working with a broad coalition to stop ExxonMobil from bringing tar sands oil from Canada through New England. Tar sands oil, the dirtiest oil in the world, would risk New England rivers and the watershed of Sebago Lake that provides drinking water to thousands in Maine. We joined other environmental groups to train citizens from across the state to pass town resolutions against the transport of tar sands oil. Currently, we are working with a community group in South Portland, the final export point, to pass an ordinance barring the tar sands pipeline from the town.

Portsmouth and Bow, N.H.: Working for coal’s retirement

Years of work with our allies have already led to the closure of three coal-burning power plants in New England. In 2012, with only five plants left in operation, community groups and state-wide organizations turned their attention to New Hampshire’s two aging coal plants. These two plants account for up to 80% of the toxic pollution released in the state. This year we awarded the plant’s owners a “Dirty Dozen Award,” garnering media attention statewide and building pressure for the plants to clean up or phase out.

Granville, Vt.: A community comes together to protect clean air

Northeast Materials Group plans to build an asphalt plant in the Rock of Ages Quarry site just a few thousand feet from homes. The plant would severely impact residents’ air quality, emitting more than 10 tons of contaminants annually including cancer-causing formaldehyde. We are working with the Vermont Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic and the community group Neighbors in Granville to stop this new asphalt plant.

Springfield, Vt.: Citizens work to prevent biomass power plant

Residents in Springfield joined together this year to stop a proposed biomass power plant that would consume more than 400,000 tons of fuel, releasing significant levels of smoke, soot, and global warming pollution into the air. The activists in the North Springfield Action Group began collaborating with Toxics Action Center in February. We’ve worked alongside the group to ensure that their right to clean air is protected.

Plymouth, Mass.: Reclaiming the fight against Pilgrim nuke plant

The Pilgrim nuclear plant is a disaster for our health and environment: Health studies have shown that the risk of adult leukemia is four hundred times greater for those living close to the Pilgrim nuclear plant, and the plant’s cooling system discharges a half billion gallons of water every day, heated and polluted, harming bay life. Worst of all, Pilgrim is built with the same flawed reactor design as the Fukushima nuclear plant. Since the Fukushima disaster, Toxics Action Center has worked with a coalition of groups to call for the plant’s closure. This year, Pilgrim Coalition organized to convince towns to pass resolutions in support of the plant’s closure and this fall, the local groups sued Entergy, Pilgrim’s owner, for violations of the Clean Water Act.

Russell, Mass.: Preventing a dirty incinerator

In October, Russell Biomass abandoned plans to build a massive incinerator on the banks of the Westfield River. The proposed wood-burning plant would have emitted one ton of air pollution per minute, less than 1000 feet from nearby homes. The Concerned Citizens of Russell spearheaded a successful statewide effort to curtail biomass incinerator subsidies from the state and finally convinced Russell Biomass to abandon its plans.

Coventry, R.I.: Neighbors join to take on two asphalt plants

Asphalt plants can release more than 2000 chemicals, including carcinogens like arsenic. Coventry is home to two asphalt plants that have been coating homes and backyards with a black, sticky substance. Concerned about their health, a new group formed to hold the polluters accountable. We’ve worked with Citizens Advocating for a Safe Environment, or CASE, to take their concerns straight to Governor Lincoln Chafee, winning his ear, and together we are pushing for stronger air pollution standards for polluting asphalt plants.

East Providence, R.I.: A major step forward for clean air

Neighbors in East Providence have banded together to prevent an illegally operating polluter from tripling in size. The company Pond View grinds and shreds construction and demolition waste in the open air. Construction waste can include materials like asbestos and lead-painted wood, and dust from the industrial operation had coated homes for years and made it hard for neighbors to breathe. This year we watched the expansion and force Pond View to close. Now they are watching the site cleanup.

Hartford, Conn.: Taking steps toward zero waste

For decades, Hartford residents have endured pollution from the city’s trash incinerator. In 2012, the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) and Toxics Action Center organized for zero waste, and won: Hartford’s City Council passed a resolution to support phasing out incineration and moving towards zero waste, a visionary goal that will help maximize reduce, reuse, recycle.

New Haven, Conn: Group forms to stop sewage sludge burning

Sewage sludge is dirty business, and burning it releases heavy metals and other toxins. New Haven’s sewage incinerator burns nearly 25 tons of waste daily. Eight years ago activists convinced the Board of Aldermen to pass a resolution to phase out the incinerator by 2035. With the deadline approaching, the sewer authority instead proposed to expand the plant. We joined forces with the New Haven Environmental Justice Network to convince the city leaders to make good on their promise.
Recent Campaigns: Cleaning Up & Preventing

Citizens for a Green Scarborough finally claimed victory when their town council upheld a vote banning toxic pesticides on town-owned lands. The win was the result of more than a year of work to raise awareness about the threat pesticides pose to human health, and it sprung out of a growing movement across Maine promoting local organic policies.

Toxics Action Center is working with a broad coalition to stop ExemMob from bringing tar sands oil from Canada through New England. Tar sands oil, the dirtiest oil in the world, would risk New England rivers and the watershed of Sebago Lake that provides drinking water to thousands in Maine. We joined other environmental groups to train citizens from across the state to pass town resolutions against the transport of tar sands oil. Currently, we are working with a community group in South Portland, the final export port, to pass an ordinance banning the tar sands pipeline from the town.

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Pollution Throughout New England

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Local Leader Spotlight: Pauline Rodrigues Inspires a Statewide Effort to Transition Beyond Coal

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Coal and nuclear plants have threatened the health and safety of New England towns and cities for decades. Yet only recently has the opportunity arisen to replace these aging plants with new, clean energy sources like wind and solar. In 2012, Toxics Action Center worked with communities to retire the worst plants, fight off dangerous new projects like incinerators, fracking, and tar sands pipelines, and move toward a cleaner and better energy future.

Transitioning Past Coal

The five remaining coal-burning power plants in New England are major sources of mercury, sulfur dioxide, soot, and smog. Communities surrounding these smokestacks are now working together for a transition away from dirty energy and planning ahead for coal retirement. To assist these communities, Toxics Action Center organized with groups like Action for a Healthy Holyoke! and Coalition for Clean Air South Coast in Somerset. Over the last year we provided strategic organizing help, training on grassroots campaign skills, and support in coordinating efforts across the state.

In Massachusetts, Toxics Action Center brought together organizations from across the state to form Coal Free Massachusetts. After a coordinated day of action with press conferences in front of the Bay State’s three remaining coal plants, and our efforts to build support in the business community and among the public, Governor Patrick and the legislature took notice. A statewide task force was appointed in September to plan for redevelopment of these last dirty coal plants.

In Connecticut, we helped from the Healthy Connecticut Alliance to work for a healthier and more economically vibrant Bridgeport. The Bridgeport Harbor Station Coal Plant was designated one of the top 10 worst environmental justice offenders by the NAACP. In less than one year, with our organizing help, the Alliance built enough public support to convince city officials to sit down at the table with community leaders and power plant owners to discuss a transition towards closure.

In New Hampshire, PSNH, the owners of New Hampshire’s two coal plants in Bow and Portsmouth, “won” a spot on Toxics Action Center’s 2012 Dirty Dozen list, as one of New England’s worst polluters. Working with other partners in the state, we launched a grassroots campaign to stop subsidizing dirty coal power in the Granite State.

Working To Close Aging Nuclear Plants

The Fukushima meltdown in Japan in 2011 was a wake-up call to the dangers of aging nuclear power plants across New England. The Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Mass., shares the same flawed design as Fukushima and has been cited for numerous safety violations. In 2012, we worked with leaders from across the South Shore to call for new safety measures and to block the plant’s relicensing. Anna Baker, a stay-at-home mom from Marshfield, formed Pilgrim Make Us Safe Today, and Meg Sheehan, a long-term environmental leader and local attorney from Plymouth, organized with more than 700 neighborhood groups, and the winners included repeat offenders who have still not convinced city officials to sit down at the table with community leaders and power plant owners to discuss a transition towards closure.

In March, we hosted our 25th Annual Environmental Action Conference. The event brought together nearly 350 activists, community leaders, and experts for a day of skills training, networking, and inspiration. Attorney Jan Schlichtmann, lawyer from the Woburn trial, and Lois Gibbs, mother-turned-activist from Love Canal, joined us for inspiring keynotes. At the conference, we held a “25 Years of Victories” award ceremony honoring 25 community groups who have won profound victories to protect the environment and human health over Toxics Action Center’s history. Recipients included groups like Fair Play for Harpswell and Fishing Families for Harpswell, who together prevented a massive liquefied natural gas plant off the coast of Maine that would have risked the bay and its fishing economy. Another award went to Coalition Against the Asphalt Plant, a group of neighbors from several Boston neighborhoods, who won a twelve year fight to prevent a massive new asphalt plant from being built in Boston.

Toxics Action Center held a different sort of awards ceremony in November, “celebrating” the worst New England polluters by giving out the Dirty Dozen Awards. We released the report, “25 Years of the Dirty Dozen: Past and Current Pollution Threats in New England,” profiling twelve of the most notorious pollution threats in the region and proposing solutions. All twelve sites were chosen by a selection committee comprised of environmental and human health experts, and the winners included repeat offenders who have still not cleaned up their messes, such as Entergy’s Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, as well as several emerging threats, including the proposed Northeast Tar Sands pipeline. The report garnered more than 60 mentions in various TV, newspaper and radio news outlets throughout the region.

Celebrating Our Anniversary With 25 Years Of Victories Awards

Outstanding community activists were honored with the 25 Years of Victories Awards at the 25th Annual Toxics Action Center Conference, held in March 2012.
2012 Financial Information & Supporters

At Toxics Action Center, we pride ourselves on our ability to get an incredible amount done with limited resources. We are able to maximize our impact by focusing on building the capacity of neighborhood groups for the long run. We are so thankful for your contribution. Together, we are moving toward a New England where everyone can drink clean water, breathe clean air and live in a healthy community.

We are sincerely grateful to the following organizations for their financial support during 2012.

Toxics Action Center Foundation Funders
- Anonymous
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- Second Sector New England
- Vermont Community Foundation
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More ways to support Toxics Action Center
Toxics Action Center gratefully accepts bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Through your gift, you can make sure that New England residents get the help they need to clean up and prevent pollution in their communities. For information, call 617-747-4389 or email plannedgiving@toxicsaction.org.

Ask us about the Toxics Action Center Legacy Circle, the honorary society for our legacy donors.

Curbing Toxic Pesticides

Many of us grew up thinking pesticides were the best thing to protect us from mosquitoes or give us a beautiful green lawn. Now, research has clearly established a link between pesticides and many serious health effects, from learning disabilities to cancer. Across New England, Toxics Action Center is working alongside community activists to protect children and families from toxic pesticide spraying.

Massachusetts: Another Win to Protect Drinking Water
For nearly four years, we’ve worked successfully with the local group GreenCAPE (Cape Alliance for Pesticide Education) to stop NSTAR's plans to spray pesticides underneath 150 miles of power lines across the Cape. In 2012, we won a major victory when the Town of Wellfleet passed an organic policy banning toxic pesticides and harmful synthetic fertilizers on town-owned lands. Our staff trained the group on campaign strategy, messaging, and media and helped win the unanimous vote. Wellfleet was the first to take action, and we hope to work with GreenCAPE to spread this citizen movement for healthy lawns and safe drinking water Cape-wide.

Local Leader Spotlight: Marla Zando Takes Her Campaign Statewide

Marla Zando has led the fight to ban pesticides on town land in Scarborough, Maine.

“No matter the outcome, we will have learned a lot and I will always be grateful that we were able to stand our ground because we had a lot of help from friends at Toxics Action Center.”
— Mary Ann Babinski
Westfield Concerned Citizens

Connecticut: Stopping Rollbacks on Safe School Grounds Laws
Children are the most susceptible to health problems caused by toxic pesticides. Conn. has one of the nation's strongest pesticide bans for school grounds, but industry lobbyists and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities are pushing to change that. Toxics Action Center worked with the Safe Grounds Coalition to protect safe school grounds and strengthen the law. Over the last year, we helped citizen leaders shine a spotlight on the issue in the media and put industry lobbyists on the defensive.

Toxics Action Center organizer Tracie Konopinski worked with Marla Zando and Citizens for a Green Scarborough to pass and uphold a town-wide policy to restrict use of toxic pesticides on town-owned land. Last summer Marla and Toxics Action Center staff worked together to talk with neighbors about going chemical-free on their own lawns too.

The issue hit home for Marla: Since she began working on the issue, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. “When I started working on this, my son was just two years old. I imagined him rolling around these fields, and knew that toxins build up over time. For me, it’s really about children's health and well-being,” she said.

Now Marla and her neighbors are taking it beyond their own community, becoming leaders in the statewide effort to ban pesticides on all school grounds in Maine. Over the last year, our staff and volunteers educated 4,400 Mainers about the issue, gathered more than 4,400 petitions, built a coalition of more than 120 teachers and coaches in support of banning toxic pesticides on school grounds, and released a report surveying Maine schools and making a case for strong action.

TOXICS ACTION CENTER | 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
TOXICS ACTION CENTER | 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
As Toxics Action Center's new Executive Director, it is a pleasure to bring you this look back on a year in which we were as strong as ever. In 2012 our team organized in 85 communities across New England, helped win a dozen local victories, and celebrated our 25th anniversary.

25 years after our founding, I believe strongly that our work couldn’t be more important or more relevant. The reality is that toxic pollution continues to threaten our health and the environment. Decades after Woburn, Love Canal, and Three Mile Island, we’re still experiencing the tragic wake-up calls of the Fukushima nuclear disaster, the BP oil spill, and the Big Branch coal mine collapse. Versions of these stories play out in a smaller scale right here in New England every day.

Toxics Action Center’s work is based on the idea that hard times can bring us together to spur political action, and that neighbors banding together and drawing bright lines between right and wrong will bring us closer to our vision of clean air and clean water, healthy and vibrant communities, and state and local governments that act responsibly and democratically.

Our history is filled with stories of seemingly ordinary people taking on extraordinary leadership in their communities and winning profound victories to protect our health and the environment.

Thanks to the courageous work of activists and the support of members like you, this annual report features many victories. For example: In Framingham, Mass., we worked to close down General Chemical, a hazardous waste transfer station with an atrocious track record of environmental violations, including a massive underground toxic plume that contaminated neighborhood homes. We organized with Junia and Sidney Faust and their neighbors to grow the community group FACES—Framingham Action Coalition for Environmental Safety. By turning out hundreds to public hearings, and pressuring local government, we helped FACES close General Chemical and free Framingham from decades of unrestrained pollution.

Our work in Framingham and other communities would not be possible without the generosity of thousands of people who support Toxics Action Center financially every year, and I am grateful for your support.

Thank you,

Sylvia Broude
Executive Director

“All I want to know how much the town of Framingham owes to the work of Toxics Action Center for your leadership of the community group Framingham Action Coalition for Environmental Safety.”

— Michael Hugo, Chairman of the Framingham Board of Health
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TOXICS ACTION CENTER
2012 Annual Report

ORGANIZING WITH RESIDENTS TO CLEAN UP AND PREVENT POLLUTION IN NEW ENGLAND SINCE 1987

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