



What if... ?

Reporters and activists are, rightfully so, holding up the Standing Rock victory as a shining example of how, by breaking out of our single-issue and limited-constituency silos, and standing our common ground against corporations and politicians, we create a powerful synergy capable of protecting our common home. We should follow this example more often, as Naomi Klein recently suggested: “The line between resistance and results is bright and undeniable. That kind of victory is rare precisely because it’s contagious, because it shows people everywhere that organizing and resistance is not futile. And as Donald Trump moves closer and closer to the White House, that message is important indeed.”

Couldn’t agree more. Let’s replicate this model of solidarity and resistance over and over as we face what could well turn out to be the greatest threats in modern history to our health, our environment and our basic rights. But let’s not stop there.

What if instead of declaring victory and moving on to the next battle, we could leave the Standing Rock community with the inspiration and tools and resources to restore their land to the fertile, biodiverse, productive resource that it once was?

What if, instead of limiting ourselves to staving off the next attack, we applied ourselves, with equal passion, to the task of collaborating with the water protectors to build the foundation for a cleaner, healthier environment, a healthier and stronger community, and improved economic and climate stability?

What if we altered the course of the future for our brothers and sisters at Standing Rock, and made possible what activist and author Derrick Jensen describes as “a time after where life flourishes, where buffalo can come home, and the same for salmon and prairie dogs and prairies and forests and carbon and rivers and mountains?”

Read *Standing Rock: Can We Bring the Buffalo Home?* orgcns.org/2hcFEUN

No Place Like Home

Want to rid the world of toxic chemicals? There’s no better place to start than in your own community. But how does an “ordinary” citizen with no political experience get the ball rolling?

With our friends at Beyond Pesticides, we’ve created an online tool that lets you see which communities in the U.S. have already banned or restricted the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides. You’ll even find the full text for each law—so instead of starting from scratch, you can just replicate or adapt existing laws for your own community. More than 115 communities in 21 states have passed ordinances to protect their citizens from exposure to toxic chemicals—and in almost all those cases, it was a citizen-led group, not a city lawmaker, who led the charge.

Check out the newly launched Map of Local Pesticide Reform Policies, then sign up to learn how you can get started in your community. The map will be updated regularly. If your city, county or state has passed legislation but you’re not on the map, contact info@beyondpesticides.org.

Read the press release: orgcns.org/2hFtFq

Take Action: orgcns.org/2gCtJMv



Partially Fair?

The world of consumer labeling is far from perfect. Just look at the mess created by allowing companies to slap a “natural,” “all-natural,” or “100% Natural” on products containing everything from GMOs, to additives to toxic chemicals like glyphosate.

That said, there are a few labels you can count on. A certified organic product must contain ingredients that are at least 95-percent organic. A product labeled “vegan” is reliably 100-percent—not partially, plant-based. The same goes for a certified Kosher product—there are no ingredients in that product that are only “partially” Kosher.

Unfortunately, in the world of fair trade certifications, standards are much lower. A product can be certified and labeled “Fair Trade” even if only a mere 20 percent of its ingredients are actually fair trade. Many manufacturers take advantage of that low standard. The one exception is the Fair for Life certification, which has consistently adhered to a higher standard. Unfortunately, the folks running Fair for Life may soon trade in their high standards for the 20-percent rule—unless consumers can convince them otherwise.

Compare eco-social and fair trade certifications: orgcns.org/2hgc7cp

Take Action: orgcns.org/2haKX4Z

‘Living Dangerously’

On Wednesday, December 6, National Geographic launched its “Years of Living Dangerously” series on climate change. To mark the event, Citizens Climate Lobby is encouraging local U.S. chapters to host house parties, beginning December 8, so members can get together to watch and discuss the series.

In this two-minute teaser, actor Bradley Whitford (he played White House Deputy Chief of Staff Josh Lyman on the NBC television drama “The West Wing”) challenges viewers to do the uncomfortable—reach out to people they disagree with, and find some common ground on the global warming issue. Discouraged by the lack of interest and progress by politicians, Whitford says the good news is that the people are way ahead of the politicians when it comes to understanding how dire the situation is. Watch the video: orgcns.org/2hg5y9R

Contact your nearest Citizens’ Climate Lobby chapter to find a party near you! orgcns.org/2hg6JpT

Watch more ‘Living Dangerously’ episodes: orgcns.org/2hgdqIs

From Biomedicine to Beets

Yosef Camire used to be a biomedical engineer. Today he’s pulling beets, harvesting spinach and making compost on his family’s regenerative vegetable farm in Peyton, Colorado, a farm that produces 40,000 pounds of produce every year. How did that happen?

In 2014, Camire and his family founded Ahava Farm because they wanted to have an impact on climate change, land restoration and food security. In an interview with our Regeneration International team, Camire said he’s now growing 75-plus varieties of heirloom-only produce. He’s also raising about 225 chickens and 30 ducks, for eggs, and maintains a few top-bar beehives for pollination and honey. Fourteen alpacas provide biodiversity and manure and a little wool.

Read RI’s interview with the founder of Ahava Farm:

orgcns.org/2hqbsYe