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- Welcome
- About Us
- Search
- View Activist Agenda
- Want to submit something to the Activist Agenda?
- Contact Us

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Activist Agenda Item

Title:	Edmonton's Pesticide Problem – What We Can Do?
Contact:	
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Date Posted:	Wednesday, Apr 29, 2009
Expiry Date:	Friday, May 08, 2009
	<p>We Need Your Support! Edmonton's Pesticide Problem – What We Can Do? Spring has sprung in Edmonton and the concern for lawn maintenance and weed control is a growing concern for residents. However, too many residents are turning towards harmful pesticides as an answer. The Canadian Cancer Society (Alberta and North West Territories division) has partnered with Sierra Club Prairie and community pesticide reduction advocates in hopes to create awareness about alternative weed control options and establish a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides in Edmonton. Canadians and Pesticides 135 Canadian municipalities already have pesticide-free laws In 2005, Quebec banned the sale and use of pesticides and British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia are seeking similar bans.</p>

Events

October 2010						
«					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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 Old Strathcona Farmers' Market
 E-Sage
 Stop Junk Mail
 Eco-Air
 Guerrilla Gardening
 Environmental Law Centre

Environmental Groups

Toxics Watch Society of Alberta
 Sierra Club (Prairie Chapter)
 CPAWS (Northern Alberta Chapter)

Transportation

Edmonton Bicycle Commuters
 Carpool.ca
 Fueleconomy.gov

Green Homes

Riverdale NetZero Duplex
 Eco Solar Home Tour
 Raising Spaces
 Mill Creek NetZero Home
 Rainbarrels
 WSE Technologies
 Shafraaz Kaba's NetZero Home

Description:

On Earth Day, (April 22, 2009), Ontario's ban on the sale and use of cosmetic use of pesticides takes effect.
 Calgary City Council voted in favor of creating a pesticide bylaw by October 2009. They are in drafting stages of establishing a bill to phase out cosmetic use on public lands by 2009 and private use on 2010.
 Many Edmonton councilor members are struggling on this issue and we hope to help them see the importance of this issue and take action in Edmonton.
 Why is pesticide use in Edmonton an issue?
 Roughly 87% of Albertans support a pesticide-free law. Despite this support, pesticide use has increased in the province to from 36% in 1994 to 39% in 2005 (Canadian Cancer Society). A pesticide ban in the city of Edmonton would eliminate the use of cosmetic use of pesticides within city limits and reduce the risk of: non-Hodgkin lymphoma, adult and childhood leukemia, brain, kidney, pancreatic, prostate, and some lung cancers. Citizens have the right to be aware of the associated risks related to cancer-causing products in their community that they are often unaware of.
 Developing a ban within the city would decrease the use of pesticides, thus reducing the risk of cancer in our city. Following the ban in Québec, pesticide usage decreased by half and is anticipated to continue to decrease (Canadian Cancer Society).
 By following the precautionary principal, we are eliminating the risk pesticides pose to our children, family, friends and pets.
 What are we fighting for?
 We are calling for a ban on the use of cosmetic, non-essential and ornamental pesticides that are applied to private and public lawns to reduce to reduce the harmful effects in our community. This includes lawns and gardens, recreations facilities, school grounds, daycare sites and a phase-out of use on golf courses.
 We hope to achieve this through
 Effective communication
 Collaboration
 Public awareness and education
 Promote alternative options
 Advocating with municipal governments for policy change
 The use of cosmetic/ornamental pesticides on private lawns and gardens has no countervailing health benefit and the potential for harm exists.
 We believe that appropriate action should be taken to limit the risk to human health. This is especially true when the reason for using pesticides on lawns is to prevent weeds and plants that can be removed in other potentially less damaging ways.
 What can I do?
 Please join us for a discussion with leaders in health promotion and

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<p>Waste Reduction</p> <p>Earthcycle (give and get free stuff!)</p> <p>100 Foot Diet</p> <p>Edible Weeds The Urban Farmer Alberta Home Gardening</p>	<p>advocates for reducing pesticide use in Edmonton on how we can make a difference together. This will take place in mid-late May. Please also join our mailing list to stay up-to-date on our current activities. Are you interested in fighting pesticide use in Edmonton?</p> <p>To confirm attendance for the meeting or to join our mailing list, please contact: Karlee Stevens at the Canadian Cancer Society karlee.stevens@cancer.ab.ca or 780-437-8404 For more information on pesticides, please go to www.cancer.ca</p>	<p>renewable energy renovations reuse solar solar hot water solar thermal three Rs waste reduction</p>
<p>Energy</p> <p>Bullfrog Power Solar System Data U of A Energy Club</p>		