



Local Champion Action List: Phase out Roundup use

November 2013

Mobilise community support to:

1. Review council's duty of care to prevent the adverse impacts of synthetic chemical use on workers and residents;
2. Revise council policy on the spraying of Roundup (glyphosate) weedkiller and other chemicals in all public places – especially playgrounds, schools, sports fields and streets;
3. Phase out Roundup use by 30/6/14 in light of the evidence* of its toxicity to workers, public health and the environment;
4. Manage weeds by non-chemical means: e.g. weed steamers as used around Sydney & Perth:
<http://weedsteamers.com.au/about%20us.html>

Action List

Organise

1. Local action team to raise awareness of chem hazards and change council policy
2. Recruit sympathetic councilors and local identities as key members

Outreach

3. Set time and place for a public meeting with six-week lead-in time
4. Distribute leaflets and information in shops, schools, newsletters and local papers
5. Ask local groups to use their mailing lists to contact influential audiences
6. Inform the community through media announcements, calls to local radio, etc.
7. At the meeting, present the petition text and recruit people to work for your goals
8. Submit public meeting minutes, vote of support and petition to local council

Petition

9. Print the chem-free petition and collect signatures from local people
10. Submit petition and evidence of harm to council, with sympathetic councilors
11. Team to liaise between council and community during the review process
12. Ensure phase out is fully implemented in the agreed time frames

Checklist

Media: local papers, radio, newsletters, TV stations, local websites, facebook

Community Groups: recruit people particularly affected by herbicide use who may want policy change
e.g: schools, sports clubs and community gardens

Elected councilors: Talk personally to each local councilor and inform them

Council staff: contact and brief those in relevant departments



Background Information

Some Roundup risks

The weedkiller Roundup and its active ingredient glyphosate have been detected in soil, air, rain, groundwater, food, people's urine. In women's blood, glyphosate can cross the placental barrier and expose a fetus to these synthetic chemical residues. See more: <http://tinyurl.com/k7vjvox>

Big successes

A case study of chem-free success is the Dutch City of Rotterdam where Monsanto's Glyphosate Roundup Herbicide is banned. The petition campaign was called "Non-toxic Sidewalks for Our Children." With Green Party support, concerned citizens made big changes for their city and their future. See more: <http://tinyurl.com/m7ft6yk>

Greater Dandenong in Victoria is also considering a proposal to use steam instead of chemicals: <http://dandenong.starcommunity.com.au/journal/2013-10-28/pressure-is-on-for-steam-weed-killer/#comment-8439>

Some Evidence of Harm

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23756170>

<http://tinyurl.com/n54ahv6>

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/tx1001749>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15862083>

http://www.trentu.ca/biology/berrill/Research/Roundup_Poster.htm

<http://tinyurl.com/mpb9ecb>

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=weed-whacking-herbicide-p>

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15929894>

Contact us

Please tell Gene Ethics of your successes and failures in the process of making your local council herbicide-free.

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