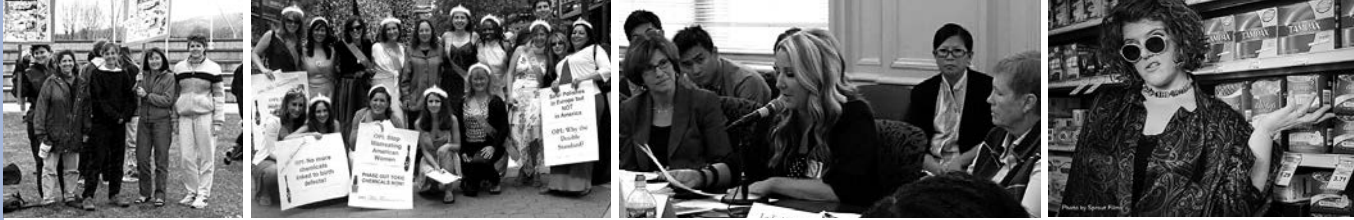




WOMEN'S VOICES
FOR THE EARTH
www.womensvoices.org



20 YEARS of Raising Women's Voices



Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago a small group women, fed up with the level of sexism in the environmental movement at the time, created an organization to build power and give stronger voice to women, especially under-represented women including women workers, women of color, young women and others, whose concerns were not being adequately addressed. Led by WVE's founder, Bryony Schwan, these smart women recognized the inextricable links between the health of our communities and the health of the environment. And in 1995, Women's Voices for the Earth was born.

Our earliest campaigns were Montana-based and spearheaded by tireless volunteers. Together, we reduced dioxin pollution from a pulp mill, helped stop a proposed gold mine and closed down medical waste incinerators. By 2000, our reach and the powerful energy of women organizing had grown, and it became clear that WVE's work needed to expand beyond Montana.

Today, the Women's Voices community is more than 25,000 members strong and we reach nearly 100,000 people nationwide through our campaigns, website and social media platforms. Our work helps realize a vision where women lead to create a healthy environment without toxic chemicals in our workplaces, homes, and communities. WVE raises awareness of critical health issues facing the nation's nail and hair salon workers due to toxic beauty salon products. We move major multi-national corporations to reformulate products like Tide laundry detergent, and change how they do business. We take on issues no one else will touch, like toxics in feminine care products. We push for chemical policy reform nationally to ensure that dangerous chemicals in the products we use, the air we breathe and the food we eat, do not harm our health or environment.

With all of you fueling the work, Women's Voices has remained rooted in our original goal and has become one of the most effective women-led environmental health organizations in the country today.

Thank you for advancing this crucially important work with us. We look forward to another 20 years of lifting up women's voices, power, and wisdom for a healthy future. It is an honor to do this work with you.



Anuja Mendiratta
Anuja Mendiratta,
BOARD CHAIR



Erin Switalski
Erin Switalski,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After six years, our amazing Board Chair is terming off. We thank her for her incredible service and dedication to this work!

THE VOICE

1995

- WVE Founded
- Hosts annual *Finding Common Ground: Gender, Justice and the Environment Conference*.

1996

- Train derailment in Alberton, MT causes 2nd largest chlorine spill in US history. WVE assists evacuees, forming group Alberton Community Evacuees (ACE).

1997

- Inducted into the Grassroots Hall of Fame.

1998

- WVE launches campaign on PVC plastic children's toys.

- WVE Board member Christine Kaufmann and WVE Staff Gail Gutsche elected to MT Legislature.

1999

- WVE and MEIC win precedent setting lawsuit affirming Montanans "fundamental right to a clean and healthful environment".

2000

- WVE Staff Bryony Schwan testifies at EPA's Science Advisory Board meeting on Dioxin in Washington DC.
- WVE lobbies at United Nations Treaty Negotiations on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) conference in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Fort Harrison medical waste incinerator in Helena, MT shuts down days before WVE hosts expert forum on the hazards of incineration.

2001

- WVE organizes 120 public viewings of Bill Moyers' *Trade Secrets* exposing chemical industry cover-ups.
- MT Legislature passes Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act sponsored by Rep. Gail Gutsche
- Publishes Breast Cancer: An Unchecked Epidemic.

2002

- Co-releases report, *Not Too Pretty*, and runs full page ad in the New York Times exposing cosmetics products containing phthalates.

2003

- WVE and others press National Park Service to issue public health advisory due to snowmobile pollution in Yellowstone.
- Nationwide breastmilk study of PBDEs published by EWG - includes two Montana moms.

2004

- WVE, Coalition for Safe Lab & Friends of the Bitterroot reach settlement with National Institutes of Health on lawsuit regarding BL4 bioterrorism lab in Hamilton, MT. Ensures greater community safety protections.
- Publishes *Hardrock Mining: Risks to Community Health*
- Co-founds the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, a coalition of women's, public health, labor, environmental health and consumer right groups.

2005

- Park County Garbage Incinerator, the last one in MT, closed!
- Boise VA Medical Center idles use of their medical waste incinerator in response to WVE's grassroots campaign.

2006

- Organizes grassroots campaign in MT & ID, to convince supermarket chain, Albertsons Inc., to post visible warnings about mercury contamination in fish.

2007

- Co-founds the National Healthy Nail & Beauty Salon Alliance.
- Releases *Glossed Over* report on toxic chemicals in nail products and health impacts to salon workers.
- Convinces OPI Inc., the largest global manufacturer of nail products for salons, to eliminate several major chemicals of concern from their products.

2008

- Sets an industry precedent by influencing the Soap and Detergent Association and the Consumer Specialty Products Association to release an ingredient communication plan.
- Creates WVE's Green Cleaning Party Kits.
- Releases *The Dirt on Cleaning Product Companies*, rating companies on their use and disclosure of toxic chemicals in cleaners.
- Releases *A Little Prettier*, a report on companies' declining use of phthalates in personal care products & cosmetics with the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

2009

- Convinces SC Johnson & Son to remove phthalates and disclose all of the ingredients in their cleaning products on a website.
- Releases *Disinfectant Overkill*, report on health impacts linked to overuse of disinfectant products.
- Co-releases reports *Phasing out the Toxic Trio: a Review of Popular Nail Polish Brands* and *No More Toxic Tub*.
- WVE joins Earthjustice in suing four leading cleaning product manufacturers for failing to comply with a New York law that requires them to disclose the ingredients they use in their products.

2010

- Releases *What's That Smell*, a report on toxic chemicals in fragrance.
- Convinces Simple Green to remove phthalates & synthetic musks from products.
- Co-releases *Not So Sexy* on toxic chemicals in leading perfumes and cologne.

2011

- Releases *Dirty Secrets: What's Hiding in Your Cleaning Products*, a report revealing hidden toxic chemicals in top brand name cleaners.
- Convinces FDA and OSHA to issue a warning letter and hazard alert on the formaldehyde-containing Brazilian Blowout.
- Convinces Clorox to disclose all ingredients in their products, including a master list of fragrance ingredients, and to remove synthetic musks.
- Convinces SC Johnson to disclose all ingredients (except fragrance).
- Organizes the Congressional briefing "Toxic Exposures in Salons" in support of the Safe Cosmetics Act.

2012

- Receives Women's Empowerment Award from Great Nonprofits.
- Through the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, convinces Johnson & Johnson to phase out chemicals that can cause cancer and harm health from all of its products in 57 countries.

2013

- Moves Procter and Gamble to remove the carcinogen 1,4 dioxane from their laundry detergents.
- Releases *Secret Scents: How Hidden Fragrance Allergens Harm Public Health*, moving Simple Green, Clorox, and Reckitt-Benckiser to agree to disclose hidden allergens in fragrance.
- Releases *Chem Fatale: Potential Health Effects of Toxic Chemicals in Feminine Care Products*.

2014

- Convinces SC Johnson & Son to disclose all fragrance ingredients down to .09% in their products.
- Releases "Detox the Box" video to highlight toxics in feminine products.
- Works with Representative Maloney (D-NY) to introduce the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Safety Act.
- Tests Procter and Gamble's Always pads, finding hidden carcinogens, reproductive toxins and neurotoxins.
- Organizes the third annual Healthy Salons Week of Action in Washington DC, with salon workers, to collectively advocate for increased salon worker health, safety and rights.
- Releases *Beauty and Its Beast: Unmasking the Impacts of Toxic Chemicals on Salon Workers* a report that documents the impact of exposure to toxic chemicals on salon worker health.

2015

- Releases the info-graphic "What's the Delay, FDA?" that juxtaposes the failure of the FDA to recall dangerous hair straightening products with bans from states and the international community.
- Releases *Deep Clean: What the Cleaning Industry Should be doing to Protect Your Health* a report that rates companies on ingredient transparency and the transparency of their chemical screening process.

THE VOICES OF WVE

ELIMINATING TOXIC CHEMICALS FROM FEMININE CARE PRODUCTS

Products intended for use on, or in, an incredibly absorbent part

of a woman's body are sold with little to no data assuring the ingredients they contain are safe. We're spearheading this movement with our Detox the Box campaign and lending support to new legislation that will fill serious gaps

in feminine-hygiene regulation. Introduced by Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the Robin Danielson Feminine Hygiene Products Safety Act directs the National Institute of Health to research the impact ingredients in feminine care products may be having on women's health. And we're reaching younger audiences through events like the Planned Parenthood Generational Action Conference. While the feminine care industry spends big bucks targeting younger generations – we are working to educate girls on how to find products to love, that love them back. Learn more at: www.womensvoices.org/detoxthebox



Toxic Chemicals Don't Belong in Feminine Products. PERIOD.

My name is Kessa Juda-Nelson, and I graduated from high school this year in Missoula. I recently attended the Planned

to companies that it's not okay to advertise and sell toxic products to young people—or anyone.

I was so proud to be at the conference where I was able to bond and learn with hundreds of passionate young people who are eager to push forward, and to push back against the shame and stigma surrounding sex, the unrealistic beauty standards that hurt us, and the general lack of respect that puts our minds and bodies at risk.

When I got home from D.C., I showed my Mom the 'Detox the Box' video, and I felt less like Women's Voices is 'my mom's organization' – and more like it's ours.



Parenthood Generation Action Conference in Washington DC, where I was excited to see WVE offering a workshop. I was somewhat familiar with WVE because my mom has been involved for a long time, but I wanted to learn more about toxic chemicals in feminine products.

We watched WVE's 'Detox the Box' video as a group; it was the first time I had seen it. I thought it was such a funny and accessible way to get the message out. It was interesting to see how these companies market to young people like me.

It got me thinking that young people can be hard to reach because we're all just doing our own thing, but everyone wants to take care of their bodies. It's important to know about these issues, and to send a message

What the Cleaning Product Industry Should Be Doing to Protect Your Health

My name is Elva Aguilar. I am a professional house cleaner living and working in California. I have been working in the cleaning industry for 15 years and am proud to own my own company and employ four other house cleaners.

After years of professionally cleaning houses, I became very sick. I had trouble breathing, increasing back pain, but no idea what was wrong. Eventually, doctors realized I had become allergic to the chemicals in most household cleaners. Since companies do not disclose ingredient information, it was impossible for me to know exactly what ingredients were causing my health problems. I felt incredibly frustrated – but instead of giving up on my career, I changed it.

From that moment, I decided to make my own cleaners. I learned to make my own household cleaners from safer ingredients like vinegar. I also changed the name of my company to reflect my new pro-ecology emphasis, "Green Maid Today".

This issue is a very personal one -- it is very difficult for workers like me to find ingredient information for household cleaners because ingredients are not listed on the product labels. This is dangerous. Without this information it is impossible to know that ill effects ingredients may have on my health and the health of my employees.

In April, I shared my personal experiences with toxic chemicals and cleaning products at the hearing on the California Right to Know Act AB708. The bill requires cleaning product manufacturers who sell products in the state to fully disclose all ingredients, including fragrance.

Passing laws like this will allow many to become aware of the noxious effects of some ingredients and therefore give them the information they need to take preventive measures when handling such substances such as the use of face-masks, gloves, special protective clothing, etc. or, more importantly give them the ability to avoid the product all together. I am committed to speaking up on toxic chemicals and cleaning products. This is information we need to know – deserve to know – to protect our health.



ESCALATING THE CAMPAIGN FOR SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS

Since we launched our Safe Cleaning Products Initiative in 2007, our members have taken aim at ingredient disclosure and eliminating toxic chemicals from cleaning products – manufacturers have responded, making strides towards removing certain toxic chemicals & disclosing ingredients online. But there's still work to be done. Escalating the conversation, we released *Deep Clean* – a report exposing how major cleaning product companies use lack of regulations as a loophole to keep customers in the dark about how they screen for dangerous chemicals and their overall standards of product safety. *Deep Clean* provides the clear framework of what consumers expect an effective screening process to look like. Learn more at www.womensvoices.org/issues/reports/deep-clean/

Working to Protect Salon Worker Health

My name is Safiyyah Edley.

I'm the owner of Luv Mi Kinks salon. My passion for the salon and cosmetology business was birthed at a young age, and I've been dedicated to it for over 20 years. It's a business that I love – and one I want to make better by educating the industry, my customers, and policymakers on the injustices salon workers experience by working with toxic salon chemicals.

It's truly hard to find healthier options when it comes to some salon products. Part of this problem is because some of the manufacturing companies lie on their labels, like labeling everything "natural" when it really isn't or hiding the truth about some of the ingredients used to make their products. I'm especially concerned for our customers, the people who pay us and depend on us for a healthy service.

But the major challenge is compromising your health in order to do what you love and also to take care of your family. It's a challenge I've experienced personally. I was recently diagnosed with uterine fibroid tumors, which I found out about after miscarrying my baby. Some research has been made linking uterine fibroid tumors with chemical exposure to hair relaxers.

Traveling to DC to educate policymakers during the Healthy Salon Days of Action is only the beginning of how I'm driving to

improve working conditions for everyone in this industry. It's so important to me to keep people aware of the dangerous chemicals in some salon products. Working with Women's Voices for the Earth, Black Women for Wellness and the other National Healthy Nail and Beauty Salon Alliance groups on this issue has made me more conscious and verbal within my own community.

My vision for a healthy future is for all salons to be properly ventilated, and make this a state law for salons. I would like to see honest manufacturing companies that don't lie on labels. I would love to see more toxics taken off of ingredient lists nationally, and all cosmetic and salon products regulated by our FDA and other government agencies. By working together, it's a vision that I know we can see happen.



UNRAVELING THE IMPACT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS ON SALON WORKERS

Salon workers, a population dominated by women, are exposed to a myriad of toxic chemicals every day in their

workplaces linked to asthma, dermatitis, neurological symptoms, cancer & more. Working intimately with salon workers, we're escalating pressure on the FDA to remove formaldehyde-releasing hair straighteners from the market and released our first-of-its-kind report, *Beauty and Its*

Beast, that analyzes the unique chemical exposures that salon workers experience, the health impacts they suffer, and the need for greater regulation to ensure improved health and safety in the salon industry. Because no one should have to sacrifice their health for their paycheck. Visit www.womensvoices.org/issues/reports/beauty-and-its-beast/

BUSINESS PARTNERS

WVE Business Partners are committed to promoting healthy working environments for their employees, healthy products and services for customers, and to increasing awareness of the links between women's health and toxic chemicals.

Ava Anderson Non-Toxic	Lunette Cups
The Choosy Chick	Lyne Appel Downing
Dolphin Organics	Makes 3
Earth Mama Angel Baby	Maxim Hygiene Products
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Good Clean Love	Montgomery Distillery
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Email Robyn Hegland at robynh@womensvoices.org

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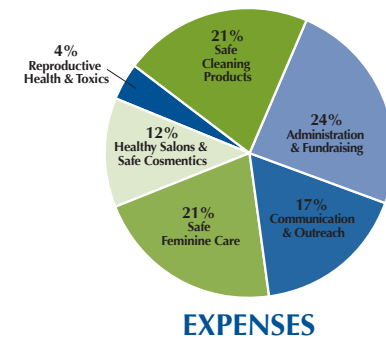
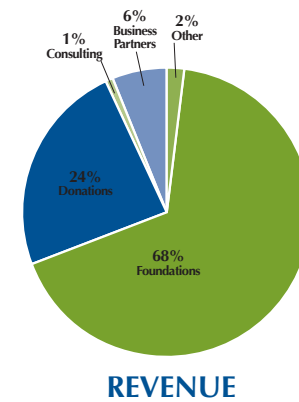
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Fiscal Year 2014 Financials



Our Reach - 2014



WEBSITE

487,657 total views

Average
40,000+
views/month

Blog reach over
3500
views/month



Twitter

(from Sept 2014 to August 2015)

6523 followers

32% growth

Average monthly reach
39,000+

Who's talking about Women's Voices?

Number of times Women's Voices was expert or research was featured in a national, or international, print, online, radio or TV outlet =

143

Major outlets include *The Guardian*, *Huffington Post*, *The Nation*, *Rueters*, *The Dr. OZ Show*, *The Chicago Tribune* and more.

Facebook

(from Sept 2014 to August 2015)



23,312 fans

42% growth

Average monthly post reach
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What's Hiding in Always Pads?



423 Likes 148 Comments 5001 Shares!

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