



WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM OUR CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS + BOARD CHAIR

DEAR WVE COMMUNITY,

As we reflect on another year of advocating for safer environments, we are yet again amazed by what the transformative power of collective action and an unwavering commitment to justice can accomplish.

With support from our community of advocates, donors, volunteers, and partners, we made significant strides in the fight for environmental health and reproductive justice. Together, we

conducted groundbreaking research on toxic chemicals in everyday products, increasing consumer awareness and strengthening our call for corporate transparency. WVE also contributed to numerous legislative victories, including the passing of new state regulations requiring ingredient transparency in menstrual, intimate care, incontinence, and cleaning products.

Moving the needle forward on our 2022-2027 strategic plan, this year we intensified our focus on the intersection of gender equity,

environmental and reproductive health, and racial justice, centering our work around the constituencies most susceptible to the impact of harmful chemicals and those most often targeted by corporations with products that contain them (children, BIPOC, and LGBTQIA+ individuals in particular).

As we usher in our 30th anniversary in 2025 and enter new political territory, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fighting against threats to health, safety, and human rights and advocating for (and with!) those

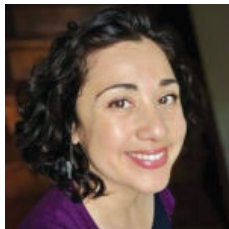


in our communities who face the most significant challenges due to toxic exposures and systemic disparities. Together, we can push back against these challenges and build a future where everyone can live free from harmful chemicals and have a powerful voice in shaping the policies that impact their well-being.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of our supporters. Your commitment to advancing environmental health and championing reproductive justice has been instrumental in our progress.

Thank you for standing with us in 2024. We look forward to continuing this critical work with you by our side.

IN SOLIDARITY,



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Nicole Acevedo

BOARD CHAIR



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Debra Erenberg

INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



A handwritten signature in black ink.

Amber Garcia

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MISSION + VALUES

Women's Voices for the Earth (WVE) **drives action towards a toxic-free future** rooted in gender justice alongside those historically and presently ignored by the environmental health movement by leveraging an intersectional solidarity approach based on our expertise in research, advocacy, and organizing.

WVE's organizational values guide our work and include care and stewardship of our planet, gender justice, anti-oppression, harm prevention, and cultural humility.

IMPACT: OUTCOMES + NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS

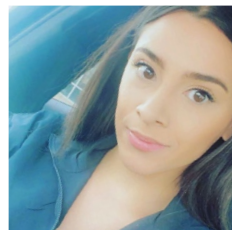
IN AUGUST, we welcomed our 2024-2025 Intimate Care and Menstrual Equity Fellows to the WVE family. A special thank you to our partner organizations [URGE](#), [Earthjustice](#), and [Coming Clean](#) for helping to power this cohort:



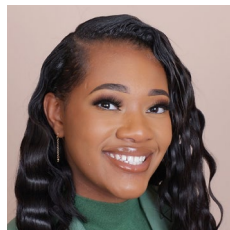
Sai Allareddy
(she/her)



Nu Bawi
(she/her)



Yami Lopez
(she/her)



Miarri Phillips
(she/her)



MY TIME AS A WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

STUDENT FELLOW has been incredibly inspiring, thanks to the remarkable women—the other fellows, as well as the rest of the staff—I've had the privilege to work alongside. From Day 1, I have been learning and growing because of them, and I can't wait to continue engaging with these groups and see where the rest of my fellowship takes me!

— **MIARRI PHILLIPS**, WVE FELLOW



Over the past several months, **our 2024-2025 cohort sharpened their skills in research, community organizing, event planning, and workshop facilitation**—all while deepening their understanding of toxic chemicals in menstrual and intimate care products and their harmful effects on our health.

THIS YEAR OUR FELLOWS:

- **Gathered for a weekend retreat** to build connections, enhance advocacy skills, and collaborate on WVE's mission-driven initiatives.
- **Actively participated in outreach events**, representing WVE at community gatherings and on their campus to uplift our mission and engage with new audiences.
- **Contributed to projects** supporting our organization's resource and campaign development.

WE LAUNCHED a WVE “101 webinar series” to educate and mobilize consumers about toxic chemicals and health hazards associated with period products, intimate care products, household cleaning products, and salon products. In 2024, we hosted five of these informational webinars. We were joined by 175 participants from across the country.

336 REGISTERED FOR EVENT

175 ATTENDED

343 POST-EVENT YOUTUBE VIEWS



Visit our YouTube channel to watch all of our webinars: bit.ly/wvewebinar

In April, we sponsored the Collective Power 2024 Annual Conference: Shaping the Future of Reproductive Justice, hosted by Collective Power for Reproductive Justice on April 12-13 in Amherst, MA. WVE’s Organizing and Network Manager, Trennie Burch and Director of Science and Research, Alexandra Scranton presented a workshop on “Chemicals, Intimate Care Products and Reproductive Harm” and facilitated conversations about menstrual equity and intimate care, the disproportionate health impacts experienced by people of color, and the challenges faced due to the stigmatization of natural bodily functions and intimate care.



COLLECTIVE POWER 2024 WAS TRUE

TO ITS NAME! So excited to be with so many bright, creative and strategic folks working for reproductive justice!

— **ALEXANDRA SCRANTON**,
DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH,
WOMEN’S VOICES FOR THE EARTH



Molly Hirshik
(she/they)
OPERATIONS MANAGER



Jayla Burton
(she/her)
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS



Imani West
(she/her)
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

This year, we took another step toward strengthening our organization by expanding our staff and building our capacity. We welcomed three new team members—**Operations Manager, Molly Hirshik; Director of Programs, Jayla Burton; and Communications Director, Imani West.** This growth marks a significant milestone toward achieving **Tactic 1** of our 2022-2027 Strategic Plan: *To build greater internal infrastructure, expand our team, and establish sustainable HR and administrative systems.*

In June, we promoted safe and toxic-free intimacy within the TGNC and LGBTQIA+ community by passing out condoms from our business partner, Lovability, Inc., at the 2024 Pride Parade in downtown Denver.

> Pictured here are WVE's Operations Manager, Molly, and Organizing and Network Manager, Trennie



In August, we proudly opened the doors to our new headquarters in Denver, Colorado, and marked the occasion with a spirited community event on August 8. This gathering was an opportunity to celebrate WVE's impact, share our bold vision for the future of reproductive and environmental health, and connect with our new neighboring organizations. We were also thrilled to introduce our 2024-2025 Intimate Care and Menstrual Equity Fellows, who played a vital role this year in helping us move this vision forward.

➤ A special thank you to our partners Innersense Organic Beauty, Owl's Brew, Natracare and local establishments, Modl and Amendment XXI, for donating special products and gifts and to our event sponsors, Earthjustice and Coming Clean, for helping to make the event a success!

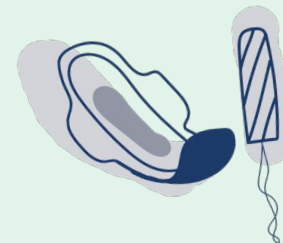




In August, WVE sent a letter on behalf of our organization and eighteen partners, calling on Prestige Consumer Healthcare, Inc.—makers of Summer’s Eve—to stop misleading consumers with false claims that boric acid controls vaginal odor and is safe for daily use. Boric acid is a potent chemical with serious health risks when overused or when used during pregnancy, yet Summer’s Eve continues to

market it as a routine solution, endangering consumer health. In September, we took our “Summer’s Deceive” corporate accountability campaign directly to consumers, and **more than 200 advocates for environmental and reproductive health** contacted Prestige Consumer Healthcare’s President and CEO, Ron Lombardi, urging shifts in corporate practices and full transparency about the health risks associated with their products.

In October, we hosted our 4th Annual Vaginal Health Week (#VHW2024), a week dedicated to education, action, and advocacy around vaginal health and menstrual equity. From October 21 to October 27, we amplified conversations about the systemic and social issues impacting vaginal health, challenged harmful corporate practices, and mobilized our community to take action. Throughout the week, we engaged in powerful discussions, shared critical resources, and elevated the voices of those most impacted by harmful chemicals in period and intimate care products. Together, we pushed for stronger policies, safer products, and equitable access to vaginal health care. **You can catch up on the actions we took by visiting bit.ly/vaginalhealthweek24**

A stylized illustration of a tampon and a menstrual cup. The tampon is on the right, with a white body and a blue string. The menstrual cup is on the left, with a white rim and a blue body. Both are set against a light blue background with a subtle pattern of small white dots.

During Vaginal Health Week, WVE submitted a citizen petition to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) urging the agency to establish official guidance for companies producing douches, wipes, washes, and sprays. With harmful ingredients present in many of these products, WVE advocated for stronger protections to ensure their safety for vaginal and vulvar exposure. To amplify this effort, we mobilized over **200 advocates** to take action by submitting public comments in support of the petition.

In March, WVE provided key recommendations to the United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, contributing to a groundbreaking report on gender and toxics. Our insights played a significant role, with the final report citing our submission **nine times across 27 pages**.



You can read the report at bit.ly/unreporttoxicsgenderequity and our Co-ED's recap of the event at bit.ly/defendinghumanrightsgenderequity

To amplify these findings and explore strategies for implementing its recommendations, we hosted a panel discussion, *"Reproductive Justice and Toxics: Implications of a New UN Report for U.S. Policy,"* in collaboration with Amnesty International USA and Human Rights Watch in Washington, DC, on November 14. **The discussion centered on addressing the intersection of toxics and gender equity from a human rights lens.** Our Co-Executive Director Debra Erenberg was joined by Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY 6th), UN Special Rapporteur Marcos Orellana, LaTricea Adams of Young, Gifted & Green, and Amanda Klasing of Amnesty International USA, who shared critical insights around the report and how we can advance U.S. policy to address toxic chemicals in menstrual and cleaning products, protect reproductive health, and create safer and healthier environments for generations to come.



JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA OUTLETS have looked to WVE for expert opinions on a variety of topics related to toxics and its relation to environmental, reproductive, and vaginal health.

HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:

➤ **NPR referenced our report** "What's In Your Period Products?" in this September 2024 article titled, ["The FDA is probing tampon safety after a study found toxic metals in popular brands."](#)

➤ **WRAL News quoted our Director of Science and Research, Alexandra Scranton,** in their piece titled, ["Toxic chemicals found in tampons, study finds."](#)

"We were excited to see that there's more research coming out now, for the first time, on heavy metals in tampons. Unfortunately, it raises more questions than it provides answers. But it does tell us that we need better regulation, that there are very serious toxic chemicals present in these products that we use in such an intimate part of our bodies." — Alexandra Scranton, Women's Voices for the Earth

➤ **NBC News also quoted our Director of Science and Research** in their article titled, ["Study links talc use to ovarian cancer—a potential boon for thousands suing J&J."](#)

"Although many women have used it to keep their genitals dry, there's no need to use powder to get rid of moisture in that area," said Alexandra Scranton, Director of Science and Research at Women's Voices for the Earth, a nonprofit that aims to eliminate chemicals that negatively affect women's health.

"Moisture in this part of the body is a very healthy thing," Scranton said. "This part of the body is covered in mucous membranes. It's supposed to be moist."

➤ **The Guardian referenced WVE's advocacy** for ingredient transparency and changes in fragrance industry practices in their article, ["Good scents: five eco-friendly ways to make your home smell great."](#)

➤ **Cleaning and Maintenance Management referenced WVE's research report** "Beyond the Label: Health Impacts of Harmful Ingredients in Cleaning Products" in their article ["Be Aware of VOCs in Cleaning Products."](#)
Read the report at bit.ly/beyondthelabelwve



In June, New York's legislature approved a WVE-backed bill requiring ingredient disclosure on diaper packaging. We are proud that Governor Kathy Hochul signed this bill into law at the end of 2024. The bill was modeled on NY's groundbreaking menstrual product ingredient disclosure law, which helped WVE identify previously undisclosed potentially harmful chemicals in period products.

Read the report at bit.ly/wvewhatsinperiodproducts

In addition, seven states passed bans on PFAS in menstrual products, including California, a move largely backed by WVE. We also laid the groundwork for bans on PFAS and other toxics in period products to advance in more states in the upcoming session.

MORE THAN 240 WVE SUPPORTERS asked their congressional representatives to support the Robin Danielson Menstrual Product and Intimate Care Product Safety Act of 2023! This bill cites WVE's research and would require the National Institutes of Health to study the composition of menstrual and intimate care products, with a focus on potential impact on the health of consumers.



THE U.S. NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE (NLM) has chosen to include our website in its historical collections, ensuring our mission and accomplishments will be preserved and accessible to all.

This is not just an honor for us, but a testament to your dedication as well. Find us in the NLM's Environmental Health web archive at bit.ly/environmentalhealtharchive

Locally, we've made strides in menstrual equity through community outreach. Partnering with Sister Carmen, a Denver-based mutual aid food pantry, and The Flow, a menstrual cup education group, we've been able to distribute free menstrual cups and educate community members on intimate care health.



OUR DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, Alexandra Scranton, presented at the American Public Health Association's (APHA) Annual Meeting about toxic chemicals in menstrual products on October 27. Additionally, WVE's video **"Exposed: Impossible Instructions Create Safety Concerns for Toxic Chemical Exposure from Professional Salon Products"** was selected to be screened at the APHA Public Health Film Festival in Minneapolis!



THE APHA ANNUAL MEETING is such a great opportunity to both learn and share WVE's work with a diversity of folks interested in public health from all over the world!
— **ALEXANDRA SCRANTON, DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH,**
WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

OUR WEAVING STRONG LEADERS end-of-year fundraising campaign flourished in 2024, thanks to the unwavering support of our community. Through this campaign, we succeeded in **raising \$30,000**, deepening our investment in emerging leaders advocating for safer intimate care, menstrual, cleaning, and beauty products across the country. We are proud to share that these funds are already fueling our mission and enabling vital movement building work.



OUR MOVEMENT IS STRONGER with each contribution, and each action takes us closer to reaching our shared vision of a world where people—our bodies, workplaces and communities—are supported by healthy environments. Thank you for investing in WVE's work and being an integral part of the solution to combat the toxic reproductive health crisis.

— **NATASHA PIETTE BASHEER**, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH

The FDA is on the cusp of a groundbreaking decision to ban formaldehyde from chemical hair straightening products, and WVE is working to get them over the finish line. The FDA missed their own April and September deadlines to propose a ban. As a result, WVE took the following steps this year:

- **In November 2024**, we sent an email highlighting our deep concerns about the serious health and environmental risks posed by formaldehyde exposure. We highlighted the FDA's delayed action on the formaldehyde ban and sent an urgent ask to prioritize the swift release of its proposed ban.
- **In December 2024**, we sent a letter signed by more than 30 of our organizational partners asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to quickly release the proposed rulemaking in the final days of the Biden Administration. Read our letter to OMB at bit.ly/wveombletter

The most recent update to the FDA's notice of proposed rulemaking includes a mention of the 2021 citizen petition submitted by WVE and Environmental Working Group requesting that the FDA take regulatory action. Learn more about it at bit.ly/formaldehydeupdate

The FDA rule page can be found at bit.ly/4igPosx

2024 PARTNERSHIPS + COLLABORATIONS

At WVE, we believe that this work is only made possible through strong partnerships and collective action. This year, we joined forces and collaborated with organizations, advocates, policymakers and businesses to drive progress in environmental and reproductive health. We invest the time and resources needed to advance our shared mission as part of coalitions like Coming Clean, the JustGreen Partnership, PFAS-Free NY, the National Healthy Nail and Beauty Salon Alliance, Safer States and the National Beauty Justice Coalition. Through strategic alliances with groups like Black Women for Wellness, Breast Cancer Prevention Partners, and the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative we were able to make forward movement in advancing our vision of a healthy and just future free of the impact of toxic chemicals. The National Association of Environmental Medicine is a partner we were thrilled to welcome to the WVE ecosystem in 2024.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:



National Association of
Environmental Medicine

This year we formed a new partnership with the National Association of Environmental Medicine (NAEM). NAEM serves as a resource and community for clinicians to learn and lead in the burgeoning field of environmental medicine. As an educational partner, WVE will provide resources, reports and advocacy opportunities to NAEM's members, and we'll connect WVE supporters with NAEM's great resources and events, too.

WE ARE EXCITED TO PARTNER WITH WOMEN'S VOICES FOR THE EARTH.

Environmental toxins are everywhere and have a dramatic impact on all of our health. While our focus is on treatment and environmental medicine, it is great to have a partner like WVE who is educating, advocating and fighting for the safety of our patient communities, especially the underserved. Together we can make a difference.

**— KATHLEEN MULLIGAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE**

WVE COLLABORATES with several business partners that share our mission of bringing better, safer and more sustainable products into our homes and communities. Their contributions help power our year-round advocacy and educational efforts in safe cleaning, menstrual and intimate care, cosmetics and more:

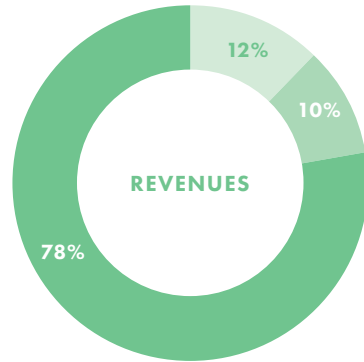
- Bedrock Sandals
- Exa Beauty
- Innersense Organic Beauty
- Lovability
- Meliora Cleaning Products
- Natracare
- Naturepedic
- Owl's Brew

LOVABILITY SHARES WVE'S COMMITMENT TO GENDER JUSTICE and a toxic-free future. By prioritizing body-safe, chemical-free products, we challenge harmful industry norms and advocate for those historically overlooked, empowering women to make informed choices for safer, more sustainable, and equitable sexual wellness.

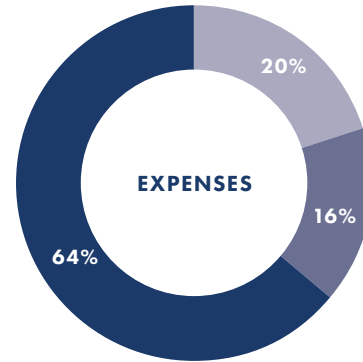
— **MAUREEN POLLACK**, CO-FOUNDER, LOVABILITY



2024 FINANCIAL HEALTH + FUNDER HIGHLIGHTS



- Foundations: 78%
- Business Partners: 10%
- Donations: 12%



- Programs: 64%
- Management & General: 16%
- Fundraising: 20%

Financial information reflects unaudited numbers

SUPPORT OUR CRITICAL WORK TODAY

Now more than ever our work to eliminate toxic chemicals from our homes, schools and workplaces and advance environmental and reproductive health is crucial—and **your support is essential** in helping us continue to fight for safe products, healthier communities, and a just future!

Together, we can push back against the threats to our health and rights. Stay connected by exploring more on our website and signing up for updates and calls to action. Your voice and support are powerful—thank you for standing with us!



Every dollar—no matter the amount—makes a meaningful impact in advancing this work. Please consider making a secure online donation at womensvoices.org/give or using the QR code on this page today.

TEAM + BOARD IN 2024

WVE TEAM

Natasha Piette Basheer (she/her), DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR, CA

Trennie Burch (she/her), ORGANIZING AND NETWORK MANAGER, CO**

Jayla Burton (she/her), DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS, CA*

Debra Erenberg (she/they), INTERIM CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CT

Amber Garcia (they/them), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CO

Molly Hirshik (she/they), OPERATIONS MANAGER, CO*

Alexandra Scranton (she/her), DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, WY

Elizabeth Taveras (she/her), COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, NE**

Imani West (she/her), COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, MD*

**Joined in 2024 **Transitioned in 2024

WVE BOARD

Dr. Nicole Acevedo (she/ella), MN

Boma Brown-West (she/her), IL

Adrienne Ellsworth (she/her), MT

Cynthia Gutierrez (she/ella), CA**

Amanda Klasing (she/her), DC

Charmaine Lang (she/they), CA

Monica Schrock (they/she), WA


Dr. Kyra Naumoff Shields (she/her), CO

Aimée R. Thorne-Thomsen (she/her), CT

Karen Wang (she/her), CA



ENGAGE WITH WVE

 www.womensvoices.org

 Womensvoices@womensvoices.org

 [Instagram.com/womensvoices](https://www.instagram.com/womensvoices)

 [Facebook.com/WeavingVoices](https://www.facebook.com/WeavingVoices)

 [@womensvoiceswve.bksy.social](https://twitter.com/womensvoiceswve.bksy.social)

 [LinkedIn.com/womensvoicesfortheearth](https://www.linkedin.com/womensvoicesfortheearth)

**SUBSCRIBE TO
OUR LISTSERV** 

