

Petition to:

Oak Park Mayor Anan Abu-Taleb
Oak Park Village Trustee Peter Barber
Oak Park Village Trustee Glenn Brewer
Oak Park Village Trustee Colette Lueck
Oak Park Village Trustee Andrea Button Ott
Oak Park Village Trustee Adam Salzman
Oak Park Village Trustee Robert Tucker

Protect Oak Park from Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

I am an Oak Park resident and am deeply concerned about the steadily accumulating evidence about the health effects of toxic chemicals and pesticides, especially for children. Even in extremely small concentrations, they are hazardous to human and animal health. They are also disruptive to the biologically diverse ecosystems upon which human sustainability depends.

I consider this ecological emergency to be a moral issue. I call upon the Oak Park Board of Trustees to respond in the best tradition of our village, as when we confronted issues of housing discrimination, gun control, and gay/lesbian rights.

Specifically, I join in asking the trustees to take bold action, in cooperation with the community's environmental action groups and individual activists, to:

1. Adopt policies that ban the use of toxic chemicals on Village property, and require the use of organic land and integrated pest management;
2. Conduct an official campaign to discourage the use of toxic chemicals and pesticides by private and institutional property owners;
3. Establish a program to educate and certify merchants, pest control and lawn-care companies in the sale and use of non-toxic products and services;
4. Adopt a resolution encouraging the Illinois General Assembly to repeal the state preemptive statute which denies home rule to Illinois county and municipal governments in the regulation of pesticide and chemical use.

I encourage the trustees to examine these issues in depth, by means of your dedicated study sessions and the Environment and Energy Commission.