

GREAT LAKES PFAS ACTION NETWORK

GREAT LAKES PFAS ACTION NETWORK 2023 IMPACT

Throughout 2023 the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network (GLPAN) made major strides in bringing together a formidable coalition of PFAS-impacted community members. We supported these communities through resources and education, and together we shared our stories and priority issues to decision-makers, the media, and the public in order to address the PFAS crisis in Michigan and across the Great Lakes region.

REACHING PEOPLE IMPACTED BY PFAS CONTAMINATION

This year, we capitalized on the continued growth of GLPAN to shine a spotlight on the need for action to address toxic PFAS in Michigan and across the Great Lakes region.

We doubled down on data-driven digital advertising via Google, Facebook, and Instagram to connect with more impacted community members, sign them up for our email list, and provide important resources and updates to those who rely on them most.



334,858
DIGITAL AD IMPRESSIONS



690
SIGN UPS TO GET INVOLVED



3,843
TOTAL GLPAN EMAIL SUBSCRIBERS



172,958
SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

DOOR-TO-DOOR CANVASSING IN IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

For the first time, we launched a door-to-door canvass in West Michigan to reach people living in impacted communities and provide them with information and resources. Our eight-person canvass team spent six weeks knocking on doors in Ottawa, Berrien, Kent, and Allegan Counties to raise awareness about PFAS contamination and encourage residents to sign up to get involved with GLPAN.



10,346
DOORS
KNOCKED



1,709
CONVERSATIONS
WITH RESIDENTS



236
SIGN UPS TO
GET INVOLVED

COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM AND PUBLIC WEBINARS

- Expanded our Community Action Team to 32 impacted community members from 19 different communities. They engaged with decision-makers, the media, and the public at events across Michigan and other Great Lakes states.
- Attended conferences to raise awareness about GLPAN and share our personal stories. We attended the Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Conference in Cleveland and the International Society of Exposure Science Conference in Chicago.
- Hosted screenings of the film No Defense in East Lansing and Grayling, MI to connect with impacted communities and grow our network.

2023 COMMUNITY ACTION MINI-GRANTS: FUNDING PROJECTS TO SUPPORT PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY PFAS

Capitalizing on our momentum from 2022, we launched our Community Action Mini-Grants program in 2023. We distributed small grants to PFAS-impacted communities and organizations working on PFAS testing, education, and other important projects that are making a difference at the local level.



\$36,000
GRANTED TO IMPACTED COMMUNITIES,
INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS



12
FUNDED PROJECTS



SAVE FALK ROAD COMMITTEE

Holly, Michigan

Contamination from a nearby landfill has been a source of concern for Holly residents. Residents worked with a Sierra Club volunteer to collect soil and water samples, then used the test results to elevate the issue to the state of Michigan and advocated for increased testing and community participation.

WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS

West Bend, Wisconsin

This project brought together partners to create Wisconsin-specific PFAS resource guides for Wisconsin residents. The guides outlined how PFAS are regulated, the health impacts, and what residents can do when PFAS are found in their drinking water supply.

FLINT MOSAIC WATER MURAL

Flint, Michigan

A partnership between Kate Pepin, local mosaic artist, and the Flint River Watershed Coalition, this project engaged Flint youth and community members to create a mosaic mural that raised awareness about PFAS contamination and other water justice issues.



PROGRESS FOR PFAS-CONTAMINATED COMMUNITIES

PENTAGON TO ADDRESS PFAS AT WURTSMITH BASE NEAR OSCODA

August 22, 2023

The U.S. military has agreed to install groundwater treatment systems to stop the flow of PFAS contamination around the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda — a move hailed by politicians and local advocates.

The decision, first announced in Oscoda [The week of Aug. 14, 2023], is seen as a first-in-nation step by the U.S. Defense Department to take quicker action to contain the compound from spreading, and follows years of criticism from local and state officials about the commitment and pace of military efforts to address the environmental harm.

CONGRESSMAN KILDEE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS EXPOSED TO PFAS

June 21, 2023

[In June 2021,] Congressman Dan Kildee, co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force, introduced legislation to ensure that veterans and families exposed to toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at military installations get health care and benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

LAWMAKERS PLAN TO ADDRESS PFAS IN PRODUCTS, SUPPORT FOR IMPACTED COMMUNITIES AND MORE

May 9, 2023

A group of lawmakers and advocates gathered in Lansing Tuesday [May 2, 2023] to announce the anticipated rollout of a large set of bills targeting toxic “forever chemicals,” which have long plagued Michigan’s drinking water, soil and air.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made substances, often byproducts of manufacturing, that pose threats to public health. The Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART), has so far identified more than 230 sites in the state with PFAS contamination and 11,000 more potential sites.

Michigan Advance →

Lawmakers say new legislation will hold polluters accountable, increase transparency

OCTOBER 25, 2023

On Wednesday morning, state Sen. Jeff Irwin (D-Ann Arbor) and state Rep. Jason Morgan (D-Ann Arbor) joined environmental advocates to break down the details of a newly introduced “polluter pay” package intended to bolster the state’s environmental cleanup standards.

The long-anticipated package of bills was introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Bloomberg Law

Michigan PFAS Cleanup Seen as Signal of More Pentagon Commitment

AUGUST 30, 2023

Two Pentagon projects to prevent more PFAS from flowing into a Michigan lake are being flagged by local residents as a hopeful sign of a new top-level commitment to avoid exacerbating existing problems.

The Air Force will install groundwater treatment systems to stop the flow of PFAS contamination around the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda.



RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT PFAS CONTAMINATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION

Through earned media and public engagement events, we spread awareness about GLPAN and called on leaders to take action to address PFAS contamination. We attended various conferences and speaking engagements across the country and worked with reporters and newspapers to amplify our message.



221
STORIES MENTIONING GLPAN



COMMUNITY LEADERS IN ACTION



“

You work hard for what you have, and you have a legacy, and you build for generations to get where you're at... It was all taken away from me in one swoop because of big business dumping PFAS down the drain.”

JASON GROSTIC
FARM OWNER



PFAS IN DETROIT'S MOST CONTAMINATED ZIP CODE

Scan to watch Community Leader Theresa Landrum's story