Nature Conservancy: Resource Guide

Ongoing

Generated November 20, 2026 · 9 open facilities · closed facilities are not listed · call before you go: details change quickly

LA

Gulf Oil Spill Digital Mapping and Online Imagery Activity

Info/Hotline · Open

Mapping Network/Crisis Mappers

LA

Service Temporary

CNN – Citizens Monitor Gulf After Oil Spill
Includes work by CrisisMappers Group members: GrassrootsMapping, Ushahidi, CrisisCommons.

http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TECH/05/06/crowdsource.gulf.oil

Date: Fri, 7 May 2010 10:25:11 -0700 [05:25PM UTC]
From: Jeffrey Johnson

Subject: [CrisisMappers] Re: CC-OilSpill [grassrootsmapping] oil slick: can we make a 1-page info sheet to print?
Headers: Show All Headers | Show Mailing List Information

Absolutely they will be geocoded and timestamped. We intend to collect time series of images over the next weeks/months and and these will be distributed as tiles that can be added as overlays or base maps to other web map apps that are based on google maps or openlayers or the like.

They are out shooting today, but mostly training local students to do the work, we have sent down 10 canons with the chdk, but it is totally conceivable to do the shooting with mobile phones using an intevalometer app.

Jeff

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 10:18 AM, Yobie Benjamin wrote:

[Hide Quoted Text]
Fantastic! Are the pics going to be time and geo coded. It would be very useful for people evaluating for economic damages... before and after oil sludge hits the beaches.

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 9:58 AM, Jeffrey Johnson <ortelius @gmail.com> wrote:

Yep, we have a site where the photos are warped to the ground and mosaicked.

http://cartagen.org/maps

Jeff

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 9:51 AM, Yobie Benjamin> wrote:

It does not change the need for naming, tagging and uploading protocols to
video and photo sites unless you intend to create your own video and photo
servers/repositories.

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 9:40 AM, Jeffrey Johnson >
wrote:

Sorry if I wasnt clear. We are doing this with normal digital cameras and kites and balloons. This has nothing to do with the mobile app really.

Jeff

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 9:33 AM, Yobie Benjamin <yobie @acm.org> wrote:

Can you write the instructions? We would have to combine this with the mobile apps functions to come up with a "1 pager". Realistically there are multiple protocols to do this:

What to do if you have an iPhone or Android?

2 megapixel iPhones (non video capable)
3.2 megapixel or above iPhone and Androids (video and still photo capable)

What to do if you have a stand alone video camera? (applies also to video uploads from iPhones and Androids)

gulfoilspillvideo is an account I have setup in YOUTUBE and we can upload all videos to this account BUT we need cc folks to reach out to YOUTUBE and/or Google to allow unlimited uploads to this account. I am unaware if Heather or Andrew have a special account in YOUTUBE

What to do if you have a still photo?

I do not have an account in Flickr or Picasa though I can setup an account. CC (Heather or Andrew) again need to call the selected photo site and get an unlimited upload account.

It is CRITICAL that EVERY video and still photo be geo–tagged OR have some location description (closest address is good but at the very least Parish/County, State (stand alone still or video cameras will not have geo tag capabilities) and each should have date and time stamps. Tags would help greatly (some unique hashtag will be better... we don't want 10,000,000 search returns on oiled birds. We'll do better with something like
#CC_oiled_birds... a more knowledgeable person can create those tags)

My 2 cents

On Fri, May 7, 2010 at 9:09 AM, Jeffrey Johnson
wrote:

Hi all,

The grassroots mapping folks have deployed to the gulf to begin working with local groups to low–altitude, low–cost, yet very high–res aerial imagery capture. They have brought gear and cameras to distribute, and now have a small army of local students and volunteers to help, and are setting up training sessions.

http://wiki.grassrootsmapping.org/show/GrassrootsMappingGulfCoastOilSpill
http://grassrootsmapping.org/

They would like to put together a double sided '1 pager' that explains the process and has contact information etc on it (see below).

Is there a graphic artist or similar on one of these lists that can assist with this? I can work on the content with someone, but my design skillz are sorely lacking.

Thanks,

Jeff

Forwarded message
From: Jeffrey Warren
Date: Fri, May 7, 2010 at 8:41 AM
Subject: [grassrootsmapping] oil slick: can we make a 1–page info sheet to print?
To: Liz Barry
grassrootsmapping @googlegroups.com,
Nathan Cooke

Hi, all –

New york team, Jeff Johnson, and Nathan Cooke... would you be willing to help with this?

we're setting up training sessions right now and it would be wonderful to have a single sheet hand out that covers:

– checklist of needed materials (see the illustration on the grassrootsmapping wiki)
– quick rundown of how to use the cameras with the CHDK, focus on keeping batteries charged
– who to ask for help
– where to sign up as a volunteer
– contact information and where to upload the imagery
– where to print out more of the flyer itself

perhaps that's too much for one page. But some way we could have that hand out to give out at the trainings would be super.

maybe either as a wiki page or a google doc, maybe google doc is better. that way we can refine it as we learn about what people are confused about.

best,
jeff

––
Yobie Benjamin
yobie at acm.org
Mobile/Text Msgs: 347–878–3262
http://bit.ly/bI65Gw
Skype – yobieb
Twitter – @yobie
AOL IM & Yahoo IM – yobie

Date: Thu, 6 May 2010 10:33:30 –0700 [05/06/2010 05:33PM UTC]
From: France Lamy <flamy @google.com>
To: Crisismappers <crisismappers @googlegroups.com>
Reply–To: crisismappers @googlegroups.com
Subject: [CrisisMappers] Google Crisis Response –– Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

Greetings,

To help with the rescue and recovery efforts for the oil spill catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico, we created a "Crisis Response" site which contains imagery & maps of the locations of the oil, fishing closures and affected areas, the ability to upload videos directly to YouTube, and more. We will update this site as more information becomes available.

http://www.google.com/crisisresponse/oilspill/
http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2010/05/mapping–gulf–oil–spill–in–google–earth.html

Thanks!
France

––
France Lamy, Ph.D.
Program Manager
Google.org
Mountain View
+1 (415) 736–1031 (direct)
+1 (415) 690–5129 (cell)

Date: Wed, 05 May 2010 10:21:42 –0400 [05/05/2010 02:21PM UTC]
From: Lars Bromley
To: crisismappers @googlegroups.com
Reply–To: crisismappers @googlegroups.com
Subject: Re: [CrisisMappers] GIS / imagery layers for Gulf oil plume

Also, one other bit, the good folks at SkyTruth are doing remote sensing work on this as well:

http://www.skytruth.org/

Lars

"Lars Bromley"5/5/2010 10:09 AM >>>

Hi All, In case its needed and not crossed these wires yet, a bunch of data on the Gulf oil spill is discussed in the below messages from a conservation GIS mailing list (SCGIS).

Lars

Joseph Kerski 5/4/2010 9:22 PM >>>

All:
In addition to the ArcGIS Online data already mentioned:

Interactive map that ESRI has posted that allows the viewing of location–based feeds, including news and videos, here:

http://www.esri.com/services/disaster–response/gulf–oil–spill–2010/index.html

This application is powered by ArcGIS Server. Individuals can add data to this mapping application. The ability to add content is provided by ArcGIS Server 10 beta hosted in the Amazon Web Service infrastructure.

If you want to dig deeper and use some remotely sensed imagery, you might try some MODIS data.
All MODIS data are free, and there are several images of the oil slick:
http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/

For daily images see:
http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/subsets/?subset=USA7

This page provides GIS compatible imagery: Select "more info," select the granule of interest from the list at the bottom of the page. Click on the link to get an uncorrected 5–minute swath image, down to 250 meter resolution. Make sure you also download the world file so the image will be georegistered within your GIS. You could also download a KML and use it in ArcGIS Explorer.

For example, I found a 250m MODIS image with world file available on:
http://rapidfire.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/gallery/?2010119–0429/Louisiana.A2010119.1648.250m.jpg

Joseph Kerski

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jkerski@esri.com
Education Manager
ESRI – Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.
1 International Court
Broomfield CO 80021–3200 USA
Tel 303–449–7779 x 8237
Fax 303–449–8830
Join the GIS Education Community: http://edcommunity.esri.com

On Tue, May 4, 2010 at 2:16 PM, Matt Merrifield
wrote:

Lynn * ESRI has a bunch of stuff here

http://www.arcgisonline.com/home/group.html?owner=ESRI_response_team&title=ESRI%20Gulf%20Oil%20Spill%20Response

good luck!

Matt Merrifield
GIS Manager
The Nature Conservancy of California
37.791, –122.395
415.281.0475 (desk)
415.793.4759 (mobile)

From: Society for Conservation and GIS [mailto:SCGIS@LISTSERV.URI.EDU]
On Behalf Of Lynn Kutner
Sent: Tuesday, May 04, 2010 1:57 PM
To: SCGIS @LISTSERV.URI.EDU
Subject: ISO GIS layer for deepwater horizon oil plume

Hi all *

Anyone have a link to download a GIS layer with the current extent of the Deepwater Horizon oil plume?

There are a zillion results that come up when I do a google search * and I*m not quickly finding what I need.

The map from ABC and on the NYT website references NOAA as their data source, but I*m not seeing where / how to download that from NOAA

MANY MANY THANKS!

Lynn

Lynn Kutner
Conservation Data Analyst
NatureServe
ph: (703) 797–4804

SCGIS:The
LISTSERV for the Society for Conservation GIS www.scgis.org
To unsubscribe send the following email message to
LISTSERV@LISTSERV.URI.EDU: SIGNOFF SCGIS

SCGIS:The
LISTSERV for the Society for Conservation GIS www.scgis.org
To unsubscribe send the following email message to
LISTSERV @LISTSERV.URI.EDU: SIGNOFF SCGIS

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SCGIS:The LISTSERV for the Society for Conservation GIS
www.scgis.org

To unsubscribe send the following email message
to LISTSERV @LISTSERV.URI.EDU:
SIGNOFF SCGIS

Date: Tue, 4 May 2010 11:07:23 –0400 [05/04/2010 03:07PM UTC]
From: Jeffrey Warren
To: crisismappers @googlegroups.com
Reply–To: crisismappers @googlegroups.com
Subject: [CrisisMappers] citizen (grassroots) mapping effort of spill coastline

Ok we've had a couple responses and will hopefully have someone down there with some ballooning/kiting/airplaning equipment by tomorrow.

Does anyone have more contacts of folks on the ground there who we could connect with and help to document not only the spill's arrival onshore, but the citizen response? We'd like to capture high–resolution low–altitude imagery of specific sites for documentation purposes (i.e. possible legal role in the litigation) as well as for media coverage...

I want to emphasis that we're not trying to map the entire spill nor 'outdo' official mapping efforts, but to focus on documenting the risks/damage to specific sites and good enough resolution to see specific effects. Not really for immediate crisis response, but as a way of adding another independent data source for analysis or press coverage. We're also taking the position that we won't know how useful the data will be until later – but it's inexpensive to do.

Any additional local contacts in the spill zone would be appreciated, as would suggestions of high–relevance sites to focus on.

To join in the organizing effort or just listen in, join the Grasroots Mapping mailing list at http://groups.google.com/group/grassrootsmapping/ or learn more about our tools/techniques at http://grassrootsmapping.org

Best,
Jeff

On Mon, May 3, 2010 at 11:52 AM, Jeffrey Warren wrote:

I don't know if it'd be useful to have a matching crowdsourced aerial imaging campaign (using balloons and kites as in grassrootsmapping.org), but if there's any interest, some of us at the grassrootsmapping mailing list would love to help.

An alternative public domain dataset to the official story might help empower those who's lives are being affected directly.

On May 3, 2010 11:23 AM, "Anne" wrote:

First Hurricane Katrina and now the BP oil spill. It really does feel like too much. A man named Jason told me this today. "Well, I was a wholesaler / retailer." He buys fish from the boats and re sells it in New Orleans. But today Jason spoke of his livelihood in the past tense. What else can we think when oil is gushing into our Gulf of Mexico?

These are the stories that we are mapping:
http://www.oilspill.labucketbrigade.org/
; via (504) 27 27 OIL

There are two dynamics happening on this, day three of our Oil Spill Crisis Map. I thought it might be helpful to the larger community to elucidate them. We have a great team at the Louisiana Bucket Brigade: Mariko, Shannon, Anna, Clayton and I, along with much guidance and support from Tulane University's Zach Holden and Dr.'s Nancy Mock and Nathan Morrow.

Item One: Coordinating aid in a disaster zone

In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath I recall watching an aid worker in a truck of some kind – Red Cross or World Vision – drive by and just look at me out of their window. Me, a hurricane victim! But at its best aid empowers local people, and so many organizations did this after Hurricane Katrina. Our newspaper – The Times Picayune – ran a headline on the first anniversary of the storm. It was a giant THANK YOU for all of the help. We needed it then and we need it now.

As with Katrina, lots of organizations have come in, and this is true regarding mapping. We are trying to coordinate many different sets of people doing many different things. I am reminded of the piece that Patrick wrote regarding an SMS Code of Conduct for Humanitarian Response. Yes, one is needed, but perhaps it's not so different from whatever the code of conduct is for Humanitarian Response in general.

Some sort of Code might be especially useful for disasters here in the U.S. While disasters in other parts of the world have barriers of geography and language, this U.S. based disaster is comparably accessible. And so there are potentially more players to manage. In this case, managing all of these players has been nearly as challenging as dealing with this oil spill. If I am not mistaken, this is the first time Ushahidi has been deployed for a U.S. disaster. I know it has been used for crime maps in Atlanta and Snowmaggedon in D.C., but this is the first U.S. disaster response. Am I right? You learn a lot by being first!

One note to those who help people in disaster zones: don't be too high tech. Some of the tools being offered are just too fancy to be utilized by real people. Other people are so bogged down in tech speak that we can't understand what they are saying.

Item two: Populating the map

We have another long day tomorrow and it's already 12:30. I'll finish this tomorrow.

Thanks for all of the help, advice and good wishes. The spirit of the Crisis Mappers is important to us – I love the vibe and the appreciation of what is happening on the ground. On this ground now we are expecting oil. And shrimpers stand around waiting as Red Cross trucks drive up and offer lunch. No one wants to take it. Sometimes, though, you just don't have a choice.

Anne

––
You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "CrisisMappers" group.
To post to this group, send email to crisismappers@googlegroups.com.
To unsubscribe from this group, send email to crisismappers+unsubscribe @googlegroups.com<crisismappers%2Bunsubscribe@googlegroups.com>
.
For more options, visit this group at http://groups.google.com/group/crisismappers?hl=en.

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Environmental, Wildlife; Hotline, Environmental Emergency Reporting, "at–risk" Wildlife; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Maps, Environmental Impact Tracking; Information Resource, Maps, Pollutants/ Toxin; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental
Campaigns: 2010 Oil Spill Gulf of Mexico; Crisis Mappers (GoogleGroup); Ending Pollution; Nature Conservancy
Updated May 27, 2010 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/5840

MA

Who Decides (local control of natural resources)

Info/Hotline · Open

Based in Gloucester, but addressing regional needs., Gloucester, MA
Web whodecides.net/Home_Page.php
Service Temporary

These are organizers, activists, successful in passing legislation at the local and state level.

Services offered: Advocacy, Economic Justice for Impoverished Populations; Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Health & Human Rights; Advocacy, Human Rights; Advocacy, International Policy; Advocacy, Social Justice; Advocacy, Voters Advocacy; Advocay, Disaster, Survivors of Disaster; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Community Outreach Programs; Community Outreach Programs, Rural; Community Outreach, Public Awareness, Humanitarian Issues; Community Service Program; Demographic Served: Environmental Disaster, Populations Affected by; Demographic Served: Survivors, Natural Disaster Impacted Communities; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Documentation, Environmental Education; Event Listings; Events, Community Meetings; Hotline, Environmental Emergency Reporting; Information Resource * (ANY/ALL Types); Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Information Resource, Watchdog Site, Government; Information Resource, Watchdog Site, Social Justice; Information Resource, Watchdog, Transparency & Accountability; New "business" models, Sustainable Societies; Resource Website for "Green" Living Suggestions; Training, Activism; Training, Government Policy; Training Government, Training on How it Works; Youth, Leadership Development; Youth, Mentor Program; Youth Outreach; Youth Program
Campaigns: Democracy School / CELDF (Human/Nature Rights Legal Training); Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Global Warming Relief Supplies/Services; Nature Conservancy; Social Activists/Organizers
Updated May 28, 2012 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8967

Edible Boston (magazine/regional resources/purveyors of locally/sustainably produced food)

Info/Hotline · Open

MA
Web www.ediblecommunities.com/boston/resources/resources.htm
Service Temporary

This magazine is the local/regional "bible" for finding locally/responsibly produced food. It's forms a "meeting place" for fine food officianados in their search for local sources.

Go to the link above to see links to the advertisers, which I am constantly and pleasantly surprised, whenever I think I've found a NEW local farm or producer, and I check the link and they are already there.

I also use the link to find great places to eat.

Terra (2011), outside Boston

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Directories, Organic/Local Food Producers/Users; Documentation, Environmental Education; Food, Locally Produced ($ NOT FREE); Food, Organic ($ NOT FREE); Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Responsible Buying Guides; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; New "Business" Models; New "business" models, Food Production/Distribution; Recycling, Food; Resource Databases for Supplies/Services (NO FEE); Resource Website for "Green" (incl socially just) Products/Services; Resource Website for "Green" Living Suggestions; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training, Culinary; Training, Farming, Organic
Campaigns: Edible Communities; Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Global Warming Relief Supplies/Services; Nature Conservancy; Northeast Organic Farming Association
Updated Sep 18, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8966

PA

Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund

Info/Hotline · Open

Environmental Advocacy
P.O. Box 2016; Chambersburg, PA 17201, PA
Phone (717) 709–0457
Web celdf.org
Service Temporary

info @ celdf.org

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Environmental, Wildlife; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Assistance, Referrals, Legal Referrals; Demographic Served: Environmental Disaster, Populations Affected by; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Documentation, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental, Reports of Greenwashing; Legal, Attorney, Pro Bono Attorney, Volunteer; Legal, Services, Consultation for Non–Profit Organizations; Legal, Services, Volunteer; Services, Legal Assistance; Training, Green Energy, Development of Energy Creation Facilities
Campaigns: Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Nature Conservancy
Updated Apr 21, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/7873

Worldwide

Transition Towns (Transition Network) Sustainable Communities

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.transitionnetwork.org
Service Temporary

This group helps communities develop process and policies so that they will become more resilient and economically/ecologically sustainable in a "post–carbon" world.

Go to the link above for guidelines on how to become a "transition town".

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Energy; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Solar; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Environmental, Wildlife; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Assistance, Referrals * General Information & Referral; Demographic Served: Artists/Artist Communities; Demographic Served: Environmental Disaster, Populations Affected by; Demographic Served: Social Peers; Demographic Served: Survivors, Natural Disaster Impacted Communities; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Demographic Served: Victims of Economic Injustice, Urban; Demographic Served: Victims of Environmental Injustice; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Disaster Mitigation, Economic, Community; Disaster Mitigation, Environmental; Disasters in the Making/Disasters Waiting to Happen (reports of risk of disaster); Documentation, Disaster Planning; Documentation, Disaster Preparedness Guidance, Community Groups; Documentation, Environmental Education; Documentation, Standards, Health & Human Rights; Event Listings; Events, Community Meetings; Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Education, Energy Conservation; Information Resource, Environmental Education , Recycling; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Recycling Methods; Information Resources, Disaster Mitigation; New "Business" Models; New "business" models, Government; New "business" models, Sustainable Societies; Services, Disaster Preparedness; Training, Government Policy; Training Government, Training on How it Works
Campaigns: Alternative Societies; Ending Extreme Poverty; Ending Pollution; Nature Conservancy; New "Business" Models; Social Activists/Organizers; Transition Towns (Transition Network)
Updated Sep 18, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8969

Other locations

Democracy School (pro–bono legal help for towns to protect against corporate extraction)

Info/Hotline · Open

Regional Offices/organizers

Web www.celdf.org/what–is–democracy–school
Service Temporary

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Environmental, Wildlife; Demographic Served: Environmental Disaster, Populations Affected by; Demographic Served: Survivors, Natural Disaster Impacted Communities; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Demographic Served: Victims of Economic Injustice, Urban; Demographic Served: Victims of Environmental Injustice; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Documentation, Environmental Education; Hotline, Environmental Emergency Reporting; Hotline, Legal Advice & Referrals; Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Legal, Human Rights; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Legal, Attorney, Pro Bono Attorney, Volunteer; New "Business" Models; New "business" models, Government; New "business" models, Sustainable Societies; Services, Legal Assistance; Services, Legal, Community, Environmental Issues; Training, Activism; Training, Citizen Activism, Constitutional Law; Training, Government Policy; Training Government, Training on How it Works; Training, Legal
Campaigns: Democracy School / CELDF (Human/Nature Rights Legal Training); Nature Conservancy; Social Activists/ Organizers
Updated Sep 18, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8968

Edible Communities (magazine/regional resources/purveyors of locally/sustainably produced food)

Info/Hotline · Open

Web www.ediblecommunities.com/content/edible–publications
Service Temporary

Various Cities. Check list...It changes as new cities come online

http://www.ediblecommunities.com/content/about/about–us.htmit

Edible Allegheny
Edible Aspen
Edible Austin
Edible Boston
Edible Brooklyn
Edible Blue Ridge
Edible Buffalo
Edible Cape Cod
Edible Chicago
Edible Columbus
Edible East Bay
Edible Dallas & Fort Worth
Edible DC
Edible East End
Edible Finger Lakes
Edible Front Range
Edible Grande Traverse
Edible Green Mountains
Edible Hawaiian Islands
Edible Hudson Valley
Edible Iowa River Valley
Edible Indy
Edible Jersey
Edible Louisville
Edible Madison
Edible Manhattan
Edible Marin & Wine Country
Edible Memphis
Edible Michiana
Edible Monterey Bay
Edible New Orleans
Edible Nutmeg
Edible Ohio Valley

Edible Ojai
Edible Orange County
Edible Orlando
Edible Philly
Edible Phoenix
Edible Piedmont
Edible Portland
Edible Queens
Edible Reno–Tahoe
Edible Rhody
Edible Sacramento
Edible San Diego
Edible San Francisco
Edible San Juan Mountains
Edible Santa Barbara
Edible Santa Fe
Edible Sarasota
Edible Seattle Edible Shasta–Butte
Edible Sonoran Desert
Edible South Florida
Edible South Shore
Edible Toronto
Edible Twin Cities
Edible Upcountry
Edible Vancouver
Edible Vineyard
Edible Wasatch
Edible Westside
Edible White Mountains
Edible WOW (Michigan)

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Community Garden Program; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Directories, Organic/Local Food Producers/Users; Food, Locally Produced ($ NOT FREE); Food, Organic ($ NOT FREE); Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Responsible Buying Guides; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Recycling, Food; Resource Databases for Supplies/Services (NO FEE); Resource Website for "Green" (incl socially just) Products/Services; Resource Website for "Green" Living Suggestions; Training * (ANY/ALL Types of Instruction) ; Training, Culinary; Training, Farming, Organic
Campaigns: Alternative Societies; Edible Communities; Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Global Warming Relief Supplies/Services; Nature Conservancy; Northeast Organic Farming Association
Updated Sep 18, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/8965

Organic Food on a Budget (Sludge–Free) OrganicConsumers.org

Info/Hotline · Open

Consumer Buying Guides
Web organicconsumers.org/articles/article_16803.cfm
Service Temporary

from the website:

Organic Foods on a Limited Budget

* The Dollar Stretcher, Bradenton FL, February 2009
Straight to the Source

Buying Organic Foods

Does anyone know how to save money on organic foods? I am very health conscious and have recently decided it was best for my two young daughters and me to make a real effort to eat foods without preservatives and hormones. Unfortunately, recent trips to local markets show how expensive it is to do just that. I had hoped Dollar Stretcher readers might have some advice on how to save money on organic/natural foods.
Jean K. in Boca Raton, FL

Grow Your Own Organic Produce

Try your local farmers' market, where you are likely to find organic items available for considerably less than what you pay in the grocery stores. Going to the farmers' market is a great habit to get into anyway, since you'll find wonderful fresh foods and you will help sustain local farmers.

In my area, the farmers' market is open year–round, and features many seasonal festivals spotlighting everything from strawberries to mudbugs (crawfish). Even when I lived in an area that required me to drive 25 minutes to the farmers' market, I found that the money I saved on the produce I bought to make my own salads (as opposed to spending $5.95 plus tax per salad per day at work) and the quality of the produce made the effort very cost–effective.

Farmers' markets are also a great way to teach kids about farming and what goes into producing the food they eat. You might also consider growing your own organic produce this spring. I once lived in a condo that had a balcony roughly the size of a refrigerator, yet I managed to grow cucumbers in hanging baskets, leaf lettuce in an old dishpan, loads of herbs, and cherry tomatoes and peppers in pots. Check your local library for books on container gardening, and ask friends if they might want to join in and split seed packages. This, too, is a great project in which to involve kids. My niece and nephew helped me plant all the seeds for my balcony garden, and then cheerfully raided the tomato and cucumber plants in our "air farm" (thus named because of the balcony location) at every visit.
Alicia

Join (or Start) an Organic Produce Co–op

A friend and I run one out of her living room. We buy from a produce wholesaler (the same one that delivers to the local health food stores). Watch for the trucks and look them up online. We have semi–annual meetings to decide what kinds of produce to order and how often. We have about 15 members who give us a standing order for every two weeks. If we have enough membership interest, we order a case of that particular produce, and when the produce comes, we sort it out. We use last time's produce boxes, and write everyone's names on them and sort into them, using the standing order each member has placed. It helps to have your members' standing orders be a range (i.e. 6–10 apples), because the cases aren't always the same quantities from week to week.

I use Excel to fill in everyone's bill (because we don't know the exact price until the produce comes with an invoice). We mark each item up only 10% (as opposed to the store's 40–50%), and the extra money gets split between those who sort that week, as a credit off of their bill. I require that every member put in a deposit, which I keep in a separate checking account, just for this co–op. Then, I'm able to write a check when the produce is delivered each produce day, and the members pay for their produce upon pickup, which replenishes the bank account.

I found members using my son's school newsletter and bulletin boards in schools and public buildings. Fifteen to twenty members is a good sized group, as everyone's boxes fit in my friend's living room for sorting, and it seems to be enough people to get full cases of most items we want. It does take a good bit of time organizing, but I think it's well worth it. Every once in a while, I check at the grocery store to compare to their organic prices, and I've saved about 30%. I'm getting organic produce and paying conventional prices, though I admit that for a sale–watcher, conventional produce would likely be cheaper. But the long–term benefits to my family's health make organics worth it to me. And we eat more fruits and veggies this way, because they are delivered on a regular basis, and I can do my meal planning around what's coming on produce day. And, I've gotten to meet some wonderful people that I otherwise wouldn't know.
Abbie in Michigan

Talk to the Farmers

If you go to green markets where you can actually discuss with farmers, try to find small farmers whose agricultural practices you agree with, but who may not have an organic certification and the price premium that goes with it. Certification is long and expensive, and many small producers won't take the trouble of getting certified, even if they use ecological farming practices.
Catherine in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Stick to Whole Foods

My husband and I eat only organic food and these are the tips that help us save money:

· Stick primarily to unprocessed foods. The price of prepared organic food (dry cereals, frozen meals, crackers, etc.) is steep, but if you eat mostly whole foods (veggies, fruits, grains, beans, meats, etc.), you will save money. You may invest a little more in prep and cooking, but you will save money and be serving healthy foods to your family. And cook simply. If you are serving the best and freshest foods, they often don't need much adornment.

· Shop for fruits and veggies at you local farmers' market and strive to eat only in–season produce. You will get superior produce, support your local farmers and save money. You could also look into buying a share from a local farm. How this works is for a small fee per week you receive a box of fresh produce and, depending on the farm, fruit. You must usually commit to a season (typically March through October here) and pick up your box each week from a pick up location. You don't get to choose what you get though so you must learn how to be adventurous in the kitchen. For more information, Google "CSA farms." Some farms are organic and some are not, so make sure you know what you are getting.

· Check out your local natural food store. In the past, I have avoided shopping at mine because I figured that it would be more expensive than buying from the big supermarket down the street (economies of scale and all), but I was wrong. Their prices are cheaper and they carry a much larger selection of organic and natural foods than the big supermarkets.

· Try the bulk bins. Many regular supermarkets have started carrying bulk organic items and your natural food store will probably have an even better selection. Rice, pasta, oatmeal, nuts, etc. are all there and at rock bottom prices.

· Check out Trader Joes. If you can find what you are looking for, you will almost always get the best price here. Go with a list and stick to it. Trader Joes is temptation city and it is easy to pick a few extra items that look good and end up spending more than you budgeted for.

· Another place to get rock bottom prices is your local Costco or Sams Club. The big warehouse stores are carrying more and more organic products and you can often get a great deal. In our area, eggs, canned tomatoes, milk, dog food (yes, our dog even eats organic food!) and environmentally friendly laundry soap are cheaper here than anywhere else.

· If you have the time, space, and desire, grow your own. Even a row of green beans or a couple of cherry tomato plants on your balcony can provide a lot of food for just a few dollar investment in a packet of seeds. If you can't find organic seed in your area, just look on the Internet and you will find plenty of companies who sell at least some organic seed. You can also check out many great organic gardening books at your local library or check the Internet of organic growing tips.

· Look into joining a natural food co–op in your area. Members take advantage of the idea of bulk buying to get better prices on items. Google "food co–ops" for more information.

Chris

Go Direct

Try to link up with local farmers who grow organic food and buy directly from them. They are often families who are trying to get by just like you are and would be happy to help out like–minded folks, maybe even bartering for your purchases. The organic items you buy in the store cost more because of the packaging, shipping and so on. If you can buy local, you avoid all that unnecessary cost.
A

Find a Local CSA

Try to join a food co–operative or buy a "share" of a farm through community supported agriculture (CSA). You get delicious, healthy, organic food at a reasonable cost and help local farmers as well! Find a local CSA at www.localharvest.org/csa/
Denise

Shop Online

eBay has many sellers who offer organic. http://www.netrition.com/ is another invaluable source. I suggest Googling whatever product you're searching for (no dairy or perishable products of course) to find your best price. Also if you have a Whole Foods store nearby, I can't recommend them too highly. My youngest daughter lives near one (about two hours from me) and when I visit her, I buy milk. A gallon of organic milk often costs less than a gallon of hormone–laced milk does at Wal–Mart!

Jayne

Make Wise Choices

Sprouting seeds is a fun and economical way to stretch your organic budget. Seed sprouting kits range widely in price or you can make one from easily available items. There are wonderful websites devoted to the subject. Children love this do–it–yourself project. Begin with good, organic seed. A little seed goes a long way!

When you cannot afford organic, it is important to make wise choices when purchasing produce. For a list of the worst and best choices for non–organic foods, visit www.foodnews.org/walletguide.php
R. S. in Valdez, Alaska

Florida Organics

I live in Royal Palm Beach (not to far from Boca) and almost exclusively buy organic foods for a family of three for about $150 to $200 every two weeks. Here is how I do it:

· I live within a five–mile radius of a Wal–Mart superstore, Target superstore, Publix, Winn–Dixie, Albertson's, BJ's wholesale club, and a Costco wholesale club. All of these stores sell organic foods. I look in the sales flyers for any organics on sale, write up a two–week menu, gather coupons, and head out. I first start at Wal–Mart. They are almost always the cheapest though Target often matches or comes close to their prices. Then I go to Target for anything I couldn't get at Wal–Mart. I usually finish up at Publix for a few things. I rarely go to the other stores unless they are having a great sale on something or I can only get it there. When cruising the aisles at Wal–Mart, I keep an eye out for clearance foods in the aisles. I have gotten many good buys this way. At Target, I make sure to always go by the endcaps to see if there is anything worth getting. Also, I have a price list for all three stores for the items I buy regularly so if a price goes up I can see if it's cheaper at one of the other stores.

· Publix every so often puts out a flyer with their name brand of organic foods. This is a great time to stock up, especially on the canned goods.

· When buying certain brands of organic foods, there are often coupons on the box, etc. Cut them out and use them.

· Start eating more beans and less meat. Beans are a lot cheaper! I make at least two bean dinners a week, double the recipe, and freeze half for another time. Beans are also a great way to stretch recipes to get more from them. We've gotten to the point where we only eat meat once or twice a week, which is healthier for you anyway.

· Vegetables are also cheaper than meat. Look for recipes that have a lot of vegetables in them.

· Milk and bread freezes very well, so stock up when they go on sale.

· I bake a lot of my own breads and muffins and then freeze them for later use.

· Stick strictly to your shopping list and don't fall for impulse buys unless, of course, they are on clearance or unadvertised sale and you will use them soon. Remember to buy only what you really need or can use and then use it! It's no deal if it's sitting on the shelf for six months or you end up throwing it out because it went bad.

· In Boynton Beach, there is a farm called Green Cay Produce. They are a CSA farm (Community Supported Agriculture) where the produce is grown locally and can be delivered to your door or you can pick it up. There is a charge for delivery. You can get a large box or small box of produce. I get the large box and we were constantly overwhelmed by how much we get. I often share with neighbors. If you decide to go this route, make sure you get the right size box for your family. This is not an organic farm, but they use environmentally friendly growing practices that are often recommended for organic farms. I will tell you some of the best tasting produce I've ever had has come from this farm. For more information, visit their web site at http://www.veggies4u.com/.

· Another way to get organic produce is through the South Florida Organic Produce Buying Club. Members of the club have the produce delivered in bulk. It is about 20 percent below retail. The club has 15 members to a group. There is a host who divides each members share and you pick it up in a designated spot. There is already a group in Boca. For more information, visit their website at http://www.organicbuyingclubsofla.com/.

· You can also have organic food delivered to your door from Delicious Organics based in Miami. They have wild fish, chicken, meats, dairy, snacks, juice, nuts, chocolate, coffee and tea. There is a $50 minimum order with a $5 surcharge or $100 with no surcharge, plus a $9.95 delivery fee. They generally run about 20 percent lower than retail. For more information, visit their website at http://www.delicousorganics.com/.

Ruth in Royal Palm Beach

First, Simplify Your Menu

The key to organic is to simplify your menu first. Figure out what your family likes, or can live without, and go from there. Consider a garden to get the much needed tomatoes, green peppers, spinach, etc. in order to make the favorites for the family. Then learn to can and freeze your food properly. Consider canning the best recycling ever! Get canning equipment for next to nothing by just asking around, and maybe can with a friend to make it "less painful."

I gave up "convenience" foods, especially in the organic health food section. I can't rationalize mac and cheese el natural, when making it from scratch is way better and just as easy. Invest in simplified cookbooks that break it down to the basics, such as Moosewood Classics, Cheap, Fast, Good, Miserly Meals, and the indispensable Less is More Cookbook. These are the most used books in my cupboard because of the wide range of menus and simple ingredients.

Do some research online for local co-ops. I found a co-op 30 minutes away that delivers once every month, so I order flour, rice, oats, herbs, and dried fruit in bulk and it gets delivered to my door. If I don't think I'll use everything, I call some friends to split the food. It's a lot of fun and saves money buying bulk organics.

The biggest challenge I've found in organics is dairy. I have a hard time buying $4 gallons of milk or $6 chunk of cheese. Therefore, I analyzed my use of these ingredients and decided to add water to my whole milk, make my own yogurt, and change my attitude on good cheese (it's worth it to spend the $6). In the end, I'm no longer spending money on cereal (I make my own fabulous granola), junk food, or convenience food, so then I can afford a good, better tasting chunk of cheese
Heidi

Consider the Long-Term Benefits

I really struggle with this too! We want to serve our family the highest quality foods, but we also do not want to pay and arm and a leg for them. Here are some suggestions that I have used.

· First, recognize that buying high quality and/or organic products are better choices in the long run. Dr. Sears points out in his book The Healthiest Kid in the Neighborhood that in the long run children who eat better are healthier and thus save money on healthcare costs.

· Research which foods are the highest in pesticides and other chemical additives. For instance, apples and peaches are always important to buy organically, while bananas are not as high in pesticides. You can also research which areas are ones to stay away from (buy grapes grown in the U.S. instead of Chile due to higher amounts of pesticides used there).

· Come up with a general list of products you want to buy organically and look around at your local groceries. Find out which ones tend to have those products cheaper more regularly. Also, those tend to be the stores that have higher turnover rates for these products, which means that they are usually fresher.

· Conduct an Internet search for "organic coupons." You'll be surprised at how many you might find that way. If this does not yield you what you want, then go to each company's website. I wanted a coupon for Laura's Lean Beef, but there was not one on the website to print. I e-mailed them asking for one and they sent me some in the mail. I now am on their mailing list so that I continue to get deals. Also look in your Sunday Circulars for coupons. More and more companies are getting on the bandwagon and adding organic products to their lines.

· This spring start a home garden. Even a sunny spot on a terrace or deck can support a potted garden. Freeze or can what you have in excess. Also reap the bounty from friends and family's gardens. Offer to water while they are away on vacation in turn for being able to pick the garden during that time.

· In the appropriate seasons, visit farms that are organic where you can pick your own. We froze an abundance of raspberries this last season and are still enjoying them.

· Visit your local farmer's market or food co–op. Usually they are the cheapest places to buy produce. Remember that the fruits and veggies that have to travel across country to reach you have had many of their vitamins lost through oxidation. Locally grown produce is usually the best way to go. Plus, you are supporting the people of your area.

Gabrielle in Knoxville, TN

PRIVACY POLICY:

Privacy Policy:
In Summary:
The Organic Consumers Association does not sell, lease, give–away, disclose or otherwise release your email or other information to other organizations or individuals. Our practice is to send very minimal email, normally 2–3 per month.

In Detail:
The Organic Consumers Association is a non–profit, grassroots organization and receives contact information through various means, such as, online volunteer signup, donations, newsletter subscriptions, and other outreach. This contact information is used by our "individual coordinators" and "coalition partners" (NGO's/ organizations) around the United States and world to achieve our mission:

The Organic Consumers Association is a public interest organization dedicated to promoting health justice and sustainability. A central focus of the OCA is building a healthy, equitable, and sustainable system of food production and consumption. We are a global clearinghouse for information and grassroots technical assistance.

OCA may contact you concerning our work or the work of our coalition partners. We will not give your name to other organizations. You may be notified about participating with outreach educational activities such as: lectures, media interviews, demonstrations, teach–ins, phone trees, newsletters (Organic Bytes), website updates, leaflet distribution, book sales, etc.

Our volunteer management system is designed to allow you to participate with us in areas of your choosing. If you have not submitted/updated your choices, please do so in order for us to best work together.

National Grassroots Network:
We currently have over 850,000 people in our data base, including subscribers to our electronic newsletter, members, volunteers, and supporters, and 3000 cooperating retail coops, natural food stores, CSAs, and farmers markets.

Services offered: Advocacy, * (ANY/ALL Types); Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Solar; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Advocacy, Environmental, Wildlife; Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics; Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics, GOOD PRIVACY POLICY; Advocacy, Privacy/Ethics, GOOD PRIVACY POLICY, for advocacy groups; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Demographic Served: Environmental Disaster, Populations Affected by; Demographic Served: Low Income Folks; Demographic Served: Social Peers; Demographic Served: Survivors, Natural Disaster Impacted Communities; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Demographic Served: Vulnerable & Marginalized Populations; Directories, Organic/Local Food Producers/Users; Documentation, Environmental Education; Food, Organic ($ NOT FREE); Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Responsible Buying Guides; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental, Reports of Greenwashing; Resource Databases for Supplies/Services (NO FEE); Resource Website for "Green" (incl socially just) Products/Services; Resource Website for "Green" Living Suggestions; Training, Farming, Organic Farming
Campaigns: Ending Extreme Poverty; Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Global Warming Relief Supplies/Services; Nature Conservancy; Northeast Organic Farming Association
Updated Feb 8, 2012 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/7875

United Sludge–Free Alliance

Info/Hotline · Open

Environmental Advocacy
Web www.usludgefree.org
Service Temporary

from the website (see the site to get the referenced docs):

For just one moment, think of everything that gets flushed or rinsed down the drain in your home. In America, we don't separate our household and industrial waste so all the human waste, cleaners, poisons, soaps, and pharmaceutical combine with the waste of every business, industry, school and hospital to create a toxic stew that collects at one of over 16,000 waste water treatment plants (WWTP). Include in this mix the leachates from landfills, Superfund sites, and other industrial clean–up projects. This is sewage. The role of the WWTP is to separate the sewage solids from the liquids after treating with chemicals, minerals, squeezing and heating in order to release the water back into our communities. The solid by–product remaining after the water is

removed from the sewage is called sludge. Sludge is tested for arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc – the nine elements that the EPA requires for testing to determine if it is "safe" to apply to the land that supplies our food and the source of our water. Half of the 7 million tons of sewage sludge created annually in America is land applied.

Of the thousands of chemicals, pathogens, heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, and bacteria compressed into sludge, testing varies from once a month to once a year, depending on the size of the WWTP. Although the EPA then classifies Class A sludge as "pathogen free" and Class B sludge as "pathogen–reduced" (based on only nine elements) no substantial studies have EVER been conducted by federal, state, or local officials to determine if sludge is safe to for human use. Municipalities pay a hefty sum for sewage haulers to dispose of the sludge, with some of the largest sewage disposal companies making over five hundred million dollars annually to find a place to throw Americas sewage waste. And by changing their name from 'Federation of Sewage Workers Association" to the cozier, "Water Environmental Federation" and calling sludge "biosolids" the industry who is paid to remove our waste from the communities of American has quietly eased its way onto our open space and farmlands.

So, what happens to all that sludge? Since ocean dumping was stopped in the United States by environmental groups in the 1980's, because of the dead zones the sludge created in our oceans, disposal options most often used in America include landfill, incineration, and "land application". What is "land application"? Because of measurable amounts of elements like nitrogen and phosphorous, the sludge industry and government bodies overlook the toxins in sludge and market the sewage by–product as fertilizer. Class A sludge is spread in our parks, golf courses, playgrounds, and forests and sold to the gardening public as bagged fertilizer. The amount of sludge that is land applied varies from state to state depending on how strict the laws are.

Class A sludge is marketed, and delivered free of charge, to thousands of farmers in 26 states as a fertilizer option. As the price of fuel and petroleum based fertilizers squeeze farm budgets, and farmers are only told of the benefits of free sludge, the temptation to apply sludge to farmland increases. Food crops may be grown in fields treated with Class A sludge without testing the products for levels of pathogens, heavy metals, or pharmaceuticals in spite of the fact that plants uptake nutrients and toxins from the soil. Meat and dairy animals may graze in fields treated with Class A sludge without testing the product in spite of the fact that heavy metals, hormone mimickers and chemicals collect in muscle and fat tissue.

In most states, the generator of the sludge is required to obtain a permit to spread sludge on farm fields. Farmers or landowners who use the Class B sludge are required to prepare and implement a Farm Conservation Plan with the appropriate Best Management practices approved by the County Conservation District. All of these terms sound great, but “permitting” toxic waste to be poured on our food and water does nothing to protect our health, safety, food or future. If you can farm it, you can sludge it. Depending on the size of the waste water treatment plant, testing of sludge is required once a month to once a year. Food products must maintain a waiting period between the time of sludging and growing, while non–food products may be grown directly on Class B sludged land. Although easily ignored, the nutrient/toxin uptake in products like hay or cotton should not be underestimated. Hay products are fed to meat animals and livestock or used to grow food products and cotton seed is used to create food quality oil. Again, testing is done to “prove” the nutrient value of sludge for plants, but no substantial scientific studies has been done on the hazards or safety of sludge on human health. While towns and cities struggle to control high levels of toxins, bacteria and hormone mimickers in their municipal water supply and homeowner's private wells come up polluted, suspicions turn to the corporate sludging industries, which shrug shoulders and say, "Prove it!" There is no state or national data collection of health or safety concerns from citizens and communities that are forced to accept sewage sludge.

Plants aren't the only thing growing from sludge. Illnesses and health problems –including nausea, vomiting, burning eyes, congestion, various infections, and respiratory problems – have been recorded and continue to grow in communities throughout the country. Three deaths are linked to land application of sludge. When the sludge is dry, and the dust can be inhaled by any resident or passing commuter, the smell is relatively mild. When the rains come or the sludge is wet the smell, akin to rotting flesh, can gag the sturdiest stomach or instigate asthma attacks in adults and children. Every community surrounded by sludged properties, struggles to protect themselves. Elected officials and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are unwilling to change the laws that allow and promote the relentless flinging of Americas toxic goo on lands that provide our food and water. Sludge is not a farm or environmental issue – sludge is a health and safety issue.

Even those who do not live in farm communities question the safety of our food and water supply. When our meats are tainted, our tomatoes are laced with salmonella, our spinach is rife with E. Coli and milk from one Georgia farmer tested 120 higher than legal limit for thallium – a substance found in rat poison – America is beginning to recognize that something is seriously wrong. Scientific studies and warnings are ignored or changed to support a system that encourages pollution transfer on a massive scale, at the detriment of America's health and democracy. Should we be fighting to prove that we are being poisoned by an obvious pollution source or should we be re–evaluating our sewage sludge disposal options as an alternative energy source? Asking serious questions about responsibilities of our disposal system and its connection to our food and water sources is just the beginning of recognizing our role in what happens next to our health, wealth and happiness. Are you ready to get involved? What is your food and water safety worth? What future will our children inherit?
Smart Guide on Sludge Use and Food Production

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy's comprehensive, approachable and well–referenced overview about the concerns of land application of sewage sludge: What's in sludge? How can contaminants from sludge end up in our food? What's the concern? What is the Government's role and What Can You Do? The best 'one–stop' paper on the concerns of sewage sludge to the health and safety of our food, water and communities. (pdf)

Potential Health Impact of Certain Persistent and Other Chemicals Detected in Sludge

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy chart linking health impacts and the chemically associated with their exposure. (pdf)

Crapshoot: the Gamble with Our Wastes

The National Film Board of Canada has an award–winning 52 minute documentary on sewage and sludge. A hazardous mix of waste is flushed into the sewer every day. The billions of litres of water – combined with unknown quantities of chemicals, solvents, heavy metals, human waste and food – where does it all go? And what does it do to us? The entire film is now available for viewing free on the internet on the NFB website.

The Dirty Work of 'Recycling' America's Sewage Sludge

Cornerstone work by Caroline Snyder, Ph.D., investigating the serious illnesses, including deaths, and adverse environmental impacts linked to land application of sewage sludge. In depth investigation of the link between the US EPA, the wastewater treatment industry and Congress to fund industry–friendly scientists and discouraging independent research, to prevent local governments from restricting land application and to thwart litigation against municipalities and the industry. (pdf)
Sludge Happens

Josh Harkinson of Mother Jones Magazine looks at the issues. In theory, recycling poop is the perfect solution to the one truly unavoidable byproduct of human civilization. But as sludge has spread across the country, so have concerns that it may cause as many environmental problems as it solves. Read article

Crap Happens: A Grist Special Report on How We Dispose of Our Poop – A Grist Special Series

Catherine Price's four–part series on sludge fertilizer. Grab some extra toilet paper and get ready for some straight poop on poop including: "Sludge, farmer's friend or toxic slime?", "Regulating biosolids", "Businesses struggle to profit from sewage sludge", and "For some eco–pioneers, solving the sludge problem means getting their hands dirty." Read articles
Raking through Sludge Exposed a Stink

Jeff Tollefson of Nature News Magazine explores questions that remain about sludge's impact on human and animal health – the program has been the subject of multiple lawsuits for more than a decade – including law suits by an EPA whistleblower and two Georgia dairy farmers who lost their farms. (pdf)
Basic Talking Points

Quick talking points prepared by USFA to get you started and involved. (pdf)
USFA Suggested Reading

Our suggested reading of articles found on our website for an overview of the many concerning challenges of sewage sludge use. (pdf)

Services offered: Advocacy, Environmental; Advocacy, Environmental, Land Preservation; Advocacy, Environmental, Water; Agriculture/Farming/Gardening Resource; Demographic Served: Sustainable Communities; Directories, Organic/Local Food Producers/Users; Hotline, Environmental Emergency Reporting; Information Resource, Economics, Sustainable; Information Resource, Environmental Education; Information Resource, Environmental Impacts; Information Resource, Toxins, Consumer Products; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental; Information Resource: Watchdogs, Environmental, Reports of Greenwashing; Resource Website for "Green" Living Suggestions; Training, Farming, Organic Farming
Campaigns: Ending Pollution; Environmental Sustainability; Nature Conservancy
Updated Apr 21, 2011 · https://reliefdb.org/shelters/7874