



cleaner *world*
safer *kids*
simpler *pleasures*

Environmental
Working Group

*annual
report
2008*

our water

We have only so much fresh water.

Just water — hold the lead, hold the arsenic, hold the industrial and agricultural chemicals, radioactive isotopes, pharmaceuticals and other impurities — is even harder to come by. EWG has been working hard to conserve and protect our water supply.

Our August 2008 report, *The Unintended Environmental Impacts of the Renewable Fuels Standard: Time to Change Direction in Biofuel Policy*, transformed the debate on corn ethanol by showing that the 2007 energy bill's biofuels mandate would cost billions of gallons of water and worsen the Gulf of Mexico's "Dead Zone."

Our October 2008 report — *Bottled Water Quality Investigation: 10 Major Brands, 38 Pollutants* — was featured in more than two dozen newspapers, including a New York Times editorial and broadcasts reaching 12 million people.

Our 7-year campaign for a nationwide cleanup of perchlorate, a rocket fuel component and thyroid toxin, neared the tipping point. The Bush administration's

refusal to regulate perchlorate as a water pollutant outraged and mobilized environmentalists, consumers, health professionals and scientists — including two EPA science advisory panels, who issued rare public letters of protest.

Our May 2008 analysis, *Without a Paddle: U.S. Law Powerless to Protect Colorado River From Mining*, generated an outpouring of news and commentary by unearthing a surge in mining claims for uranium, gold and other metals along the banks of the Colorado River, the drinking water source for 25 million Americans.

After we documented dozens of mining claims staked within five miles of the Grand Canyon, the House Natural Resources Committee invoked emergency authority to ban new mining claims on more than 1 million acres around the Canyon.

"I have been very impressed by EWG's diligence and effectiveness in addressing real health issues that have been grossly overlooked by our government and our society in general. The fact that groups like this exist gives me hope for the future!" S.M., Sebastopol, CA

our food

Americans have a right to pure, safe food.

We have focused on ridding food of chemicals that present subtle but serious threats to public health. EWG research helped galvanize a nationwide movement to ban bisphenol A (BPA), a plastic component and synthetic estrogen, in baby bottles and food packaging.

Our exposé of conflicts of interest within the National Toxicology Program (NTP) strengthened the hand of scientists and led to a groundbreaking September 2008 NTP declaration that BPA may be toxic at current human exposures. Canada banned BPA in baby bottles, U.S. retailers pulled BPA-based baby bottles from their shelves, major sports bottle manufacturers switched to BPA-free bottles, and federal, state and local lawmakers drafted measures to restrict the chemical's use.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) still hasn't regulated BPA as a food contaminant, but that may change. In October 2008, based on testimony from EWG and other scientists and health advocates, FDA's outside Science Board issued a scathing critique of the agency's stance, prompting FDA scientists to launch a new BPA review. The new assessment is using, among other evidence, EWG's pioneering study of BPA adulteration of canned food.

On December 12, EWG made public internal government documents describing a secret FDA plan to water down federal warnings that tuna contains mercury, a potent neurotoxin especially dangerous to pregnant women and young children. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-VT, denounced FDA for "disregarding sound science." The FDA appears to have shelved the plan.

EWG's June 2008 analysis, *America's Food-to-Fuel Gamble*, correctly forecast that bad weather and supply shortages due to diversion of corn to ethanol distilleries would inflate food and feed prices. Two weeks after the report appeared, Iowa flooded, and grain prices spiked — causing national debate over biofuels to intensify and EWG to emerge as a thoughtful and effective authority on U.S. biofuels policy.

"I love what your group is doing: well reasoned information, communicated in a non-panic form, with constructive information about what changes to make... including legislation when necessary. This is the right approach." A.S., Great Falls, VA

our homes

Most of us think we know a thing or two about pollution.

We've fought long and hard to stop industries from spewing filth into the air, groundwater and soil. Yet biomonitoring tests by EWG and other scientific bodies that are mapping the human toxome have identified hundreds of industrial chemicals, pesticides and other pollutants in the bodies of most Americans. The truth is, our stuff is permeated with powerful toxins and endocrine-disrupting chemicals.

Carpeting, foam furniture padding, upholstery, baby seats, pizza boxes, butter cartons, cosmetics, fragrances, baby shampoo and lotion, bath foam, tooth paste, sunscreens, pots and pans, cleaners – the list of household goods and personal care products impregnated with dangerous chemicals goes on and on.

Until the federal government regulates cosmetics ingredients, countless consumers rely on Skin Deep, EWG's cosmetics safety database, with evaluations of more than 50,000 products, 2,300 brands and 1,500 companies. In 2008, Skin Deep generated 4.8 million unique visits and more than 83 million page views.

EWG biomonitoring tests released in September 2008 found 11 different toxic fire retardant chemicals, called polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), in the blood of 20 toddlers

and preschoolers. The children's PBDE levels were 3 times higher than their mothers. EWG's study generated extensive media coverage of toxic fire retardants, found in consumer electronics and older foam products.

EWG made public government documents showing that the chemical industry successfully pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to remove the chair of an expert advisory panel setting safe exposure levels for DECA, a neurotoxic PBDE banned in Europe and four U.S. states.

An EWG biomonitoring report published in September 2008 found that 20 teenage girls tested positive for 16 chemicals common in personal care products. These included phthalates, triclosan, parabens, and musks, all linked to health problems including cancer and hormone disruption.

In August 2008, EWG advocacy helped move the California state legislature to ban fast-food sandwich wrappers, french-fry bags, pizza boxes and other food packaging containing two Teflon-related chemicals — perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) — linked to cancer and developmental problems in children. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the bill.

"I see so much value in what you do and want the information to continue to be available and added to, so another contribution seemed in order! Thanks for looking out for the welfare of humankind since we cannot rely upon our own producers, vendors, or manufacturers to take personal health into consideration. But with groups like EWG there is hope!" M.H., Darien, CT

donors

thank you

\$250,000 or more

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"The Environmental Working Group's groundbreaking, provocative, and consumer-friendly reports help protect citizens the way our government does not but should. EWG is the whistle blower I turn to over and over again when researching the books, articles, and blogs I write -- an invaluable, far-reaching, and crucial resource." Alexandra Zissu, environmental health journalist and author

* These individuals also contributed to the EWG Action Fund

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"Whether it's quick practical tips or in-depth, up-to-date research, EWG makes it simpler for people to become knowledgeable advocates for their own health -- and activists in the world at large." Siel Ju, environmental journalist

financials

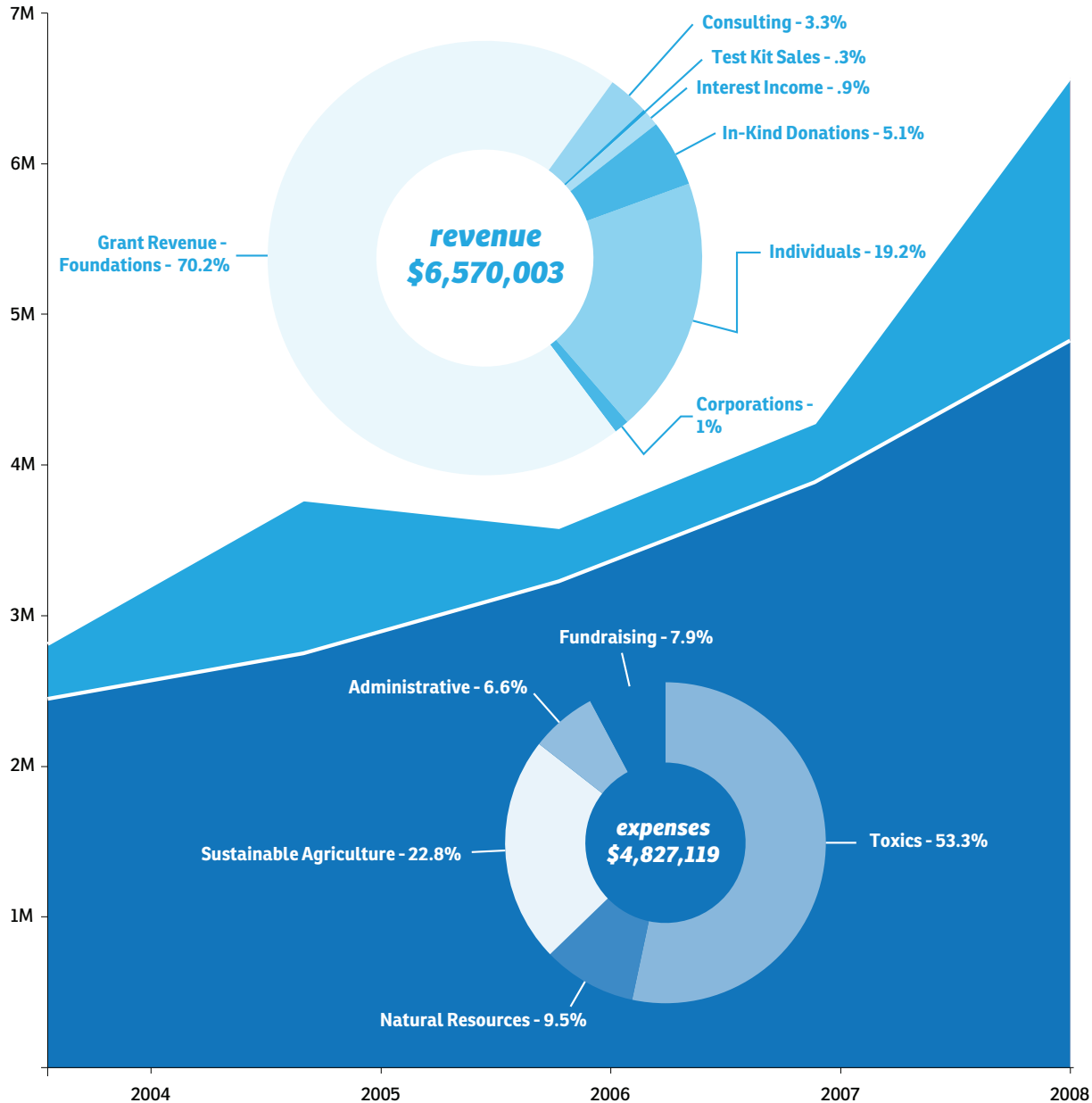
EWG has received the top rating of 4 stars from CharityNavigator.org for five consecutive years: 2003-2007.

2008 REVENUES

Grant Revenue - Foundations \$4,612,652	70.2%
Individuals \$1,261,072	19.2%
In-Kind Donations \$335,998	5.1%
Consulting \$214,690	3.3%
Corporations \$68,174	1%
Interest Income \$59,735	.9%
Test Kit Sales \$17,678	.3%
TOTAL REVENUES \$6,570,003	

2008 EXPENSES

Toxics \$2,572,848	53.3%
Sustainable Agriculture \$1,099,735	22.8%
Natural Resources \$456,356	9.5%
Fundraising \$381,550	7.9%
Administrative \$316,630	6.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,827,119	



This statement represents the consolidated activities of EWG, Inc. and EWG Action Fund. Copies of complete, audited financial statements from which this information is summarized are available upon request.

Letter from the president

Watching a toddler take command of his world is magical. And humbling. As I observe my 17-month-old scramble and squeal through his daily agenda, I realize Cal is teaching me a lot more than I'm ever going to teach him.

Yank pots and pans out of kitchen cabinet with a clamor: check!

Grab dirt out of houseplant and sprinkle over rug: on it!

Chase a panicked Bennie the Cat scampering down the hallway: done!

In tough times, our kids remind us to take stock, keep what matters and forget about the rest. They don't need a lot of complicated or expensive stuff. Is there really anything better than leaping into a pile of leaves or watching a bug or making a cave out of a big box?

They expect us to take care of the basics. Clean air and water, healthy food, safe homes, schools and playgrounds and an unclouded future.

Our responsibilities are straightforward – but hardly simple. Only by working very hard and working together can we hope to rid our water and food of pesticides, pollutants and

industrial chemicals, find household goods free of invisible synthetics and conserve our countryside, rivers and streams and energy sources.

I'm proud to say that with your support, despite political adversity and lean economic times, Environmental Working Group has made great strides towards those goals in 2008. In 2009 and the years to come, we're compiling even more impressive accomplishments.

When you're looking for a good value and some serious game-changing strategies, I hope you'll think about EWG. We're staying lean, playing smart and aim to do nothing less than amazing work in the public interest.

Best,

Ken Cook
President and Co-Founder
Environmental Working Group

