

Every year, **hundreds**  
of tonnes of **toxic**  
**pesticides** are used  
in the **streets, parks,**  
**schools** and **open spaces**  
of our towns and cities.

**It doesn't have to be  
this way...**



**PESTICIDE  
ACTION  
NETWORK UK**



Have you ever seen somebody dressed in protective clothing riding a quad bike spraying something onto the street, like in this photo; or someone spraying flower beds or grass in your local park? If so, the chances are they are spraying a chemical pesticide that is harmful to human health and to wildlife.



## What are the health hazards?

The pesticide most widely used by local authorities in the UK is the weedkiller Glyphosate. This chemical has been linked to serious human health problems, including cancers and birth defects. Children and nursing mothers are particularly vulnerable to its effects. In March of 2015, the World Health Organization concluded that glyphosate is “probably carcinogenic”. Glyphosate also harms wildlife, including insects, earthworms, fish and amphibians. But dozens of other pesticides are also used by councils and many of them have been associated with illnesses from leukemia, to neurological and reproductive disorders.



Help PAN UK make our towns and cities pesticide free

## Safe, ecological and cost-effective alternatives are available

Most of these pesticide applications are unnecessary. Many non-chemical techniques exist that can replace pesticides and effectively deal with weeds and pests in public places. These include mechanical weeding such as flame, foam or hot water treatments, hand weeding with a good old fashioned hoe or simply by accepting a higher level of “weediness”. These alternatives can control weeds, without posing a threat to human health and wildlife, and cost about the same as using chemicals.

## Other cities have already gone pesticide-free

Paris, Copenhagen and Seattle are among the major cities around the world that have already stopped using pesticides in their parks and other public spaces.

Paris has been pesticide free for over a decade. In fact, France is leading the field in switching away from pesticides. Hundreds of towns and villages across France have stopped – or are in the process of stopping – the use of pesticides.



## What can you do about it?

If British towns and cities are to follow the example of these leading cities around the world, our councils need to hear that residents want an end to the use of harmful and unnecessary chemical pesticides in their areas. We want every village, town and city in the UK to stop using pesticides in public spaces. But we cannot do that without your help. Switching away from pesticides is possible, but councils won't act unless local people ask them to. Write to your local councillor and ask them to stop using pesticides. If you're a parent, ask your local school to use non-chemical approaches. You can even set up your own local campaign – contact us to find out how.



Find out more at [www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free](http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free)

## To make your voice heard, you can:

- 🔥 Sign the online petition at:  
<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/109257>
- 🔥 Write to your MP or local councillor. You can find their contact details here  
[www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)
- 🔥 Download a copy of the petition to print and collect signatures:  
[www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free](http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free)
- 🔥 Download a copy of this leaflet to spread the word:  
[www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free](http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free)

## Who are Pesticide Action Network UK?

PAN UK is based in Brighton. We are the only UK charity focused solely on addressing the harm caused by chemical pesticides.

We work tirelessly to apply pressure to governments, regulators, policy makers, industry and retailers to reduce the impact of harmful pesticides.

Find out more about our work at: [www.pan-uk.org](http://www.pan-uk.org)

## Support Pesticide Action Network UK

You can donate to PAN UK at: [www.justgiving.com/pesticideactionnetworkuk](http://www.justgiving.com/pesticideactionnetworkuk)  
or text **PEST23 £3/£5/£10** to **70070** (e.g. Text PEST23 £3 to donate £3)

### Contact PAN UK

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