



Writing to your local and national politicians

You can find out who your local councillor, County Councillor, MP, MSP, AM, and MEP are at www.writetothem.com

We include a sample letter below, but you will get a better response if you use your own words. When writing your letter, be polite, but clear in your asks. Tell them that you live in their constituency and that this is an important issue to you.

We suggest that you include the following points:-

- ***Pesticide use is dangerous to public health – Many of the pesticides used by UK councils are linked to serious health problems like cancer and neurological problems***
- ***Pesticide use is unnecessary – plenty of non-chemical alternatives exist***
- ***Other towns and cities have already successfully gone pesticide-free – Hundreds of towns from France to Canada – including big cities like Copenhagen and Seattle all manage their open spaces without chemical pesticides.***

You can find more information and facts to include in your letter on our website www.pan-uk.org/pesticide-free

Please email us at pesticide-free@pan-uk.org to let us know you have sent the letter, and tell us what response you get

Good Luck!!

The PAN UK team

Sample letter

(insert your address)

(insert name and address of politician)

Dear XXX,

I am writing to express my concern about the use of pesticides, including the weed killer glyphosate, in [name of your town or borough].

Glyphosate has recently been declared a probable human carcinogen by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and as such I do not believe that it should be used on the streets of XXX and certainly not in areas that are frequented by children such as parks, playgrounds and schools. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups to the harmful effects of pesticide exposure and as such it is our duty to protect them.

I am asking that XXX Council consider working towards stopping the use of all pesticides in areas under its control. Safe, effective alternatives to pesticides are available and these should be at the forefront of your thinking for dealing with unwanted weeds and pests. There is clear evidence and good examples from around the world that the pesticide-free approach is both achievable and effective and that it is reducing the exposure of millions of citizens around the world to the potentially harmful effects of pesticides.

The French government has introduced a law that will stop the use of all non-agricultural pesticides by 2020. Already there are 400 towns and villages in France that do not use pesticides and a further 400 that have severely restricted their use. In, Belgium Wallonia, Flanders and Brussels are moving towards going completely pesticide-free starting in 2017. Other countries throughout the EU are also adopting plans to reduce and stop the use of pesticides in their towns and cities. Since the early 1990's various Canadian Provinces have been implementing legislation to restrict, reduce and prohibit the use of non-essential, cosmetic pesticides. To date eight of the ten Canadian Provinces have introduced such legislation thereby reducing the exposure to pesticides of 30 million Canadian citizens.

Such examples as those above show that it is entirely possible to manage towns and cities without the use of potentially hazardous pesticides. I believe that if XXX were to adopt such an approach it would be greatly to the benefit of all that live here and would be warmly supported by the public.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further and to provide more information on how a pesticide-free XXX can be achieved. I look forward to hearing from you in due course. I can be contacted at the address above or via email at: ***(insert your email)***

Kind regards,

XXX