

## TOXIC EMISSIONS FROM FACTORY FARMS NO LONGER A SECRET

Thanks to a decision in April from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the government and the public will once again have access to information about potentially deadly air pollution from industrial animal facilities.

Factory farms are responsible for tons of dangerous gas that foul our air with as many as 400 different harmful substances. These include:

- Ammonia, which can cause dizziness, eye irritation, chronic lung ailments, respiratory illness and nausea;
- Methane and carbon dioxide, which are major drivers of climate change, ingredients for acid rain, and can even cause brain damage; and
- Hydrogen sulfide, which can be deadly and regularly leads to seizures and comas.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) also cites mental health deterioration among people living near factory farms and that children raised in these communities are more likely to develop asthma or bronchitis.

An average dairy cow produces well over 100 pounds of manure a day—more than 200 times what an average human produces. A facility with hundreds or thousands of cows can produce the same amount of waste as a town, or even a city. Unlike human sewage, which is treated at wastewater plants to create a non-polluting discharge, these animal facilities usually store their untreated waste in huge open pits. The waste is then sprayed into the air and onto fields in massive quantities—much more than is needed to fertilize the fields. This leads to substantial toxic air pollution from both the pits and the fields. The EPA itself estimates that nearly three quarters of US ammonia pollution comes from these livestock facilities.

For years, the EPA has exempted factory farms from the pollution reporting laws that other industries must follow – laws designed to inform and protect the public. But, thankfully, that is changing now that the D.C. Circuit Court has ruled that we have a right to know about the massive amounts of toxic emissions that come from industrial animal facilities.

[Excerpted from:

[http://earthjustice.org/blog/2017-april/toxic-emissions-from-factory-farms-no-longer-a-secret?utm\\_source=crm&utm\\_content=smog\\_ReadMoreButton&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter](http://earthjustice.org/blog/2017-april/toxic-emissions-from-factory-farms-no-longer-a-secret?utm_source=crm&utm_content=smog_ReadMoreButton&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter) by Jonathan Smith and from [http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/closing-loop-hole-that-exempted-factory-farms-from-pollution-laws-is-a-huge-win/?utm\\_source=Green+Monster+Mailing+List&utm\\_campaign=3d9d46258a-NEWSLETTER\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_bbf62ddf34-3d9d46258a-107461037](http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/closing-loop-hole-that-exempted-factory-farms-from-pollution-laws-is-a-huge-win/?utm_source=Green+Monster+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=3d9d46258a-NEWSLETTER_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_bbf62ddf34-3d9d46258a-107461037) by Kim Smith ]

**FACTS:** According to Department of Energy figures, the coal industry, which has been losing jobs for years, now has about 54,000 mining jobs and employs about 160,000 people in total. Solar power alone now employs 373,000 people part- or full-time in this country and yet represents only a small part of U.S. energy output, though it's growing fast.

A recent Sierra Club analysis of Energy Department job figures found that “nationally, clean energy jobs outnumber all fossil fuel jobs by over 2.5 to 1, and exceed all jobs in coal and gas by 5 to 1.” In addition, according to a report from the Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Corps program, “solar and wind jobs are growing at a rate 12 times as fast as the rest of the U.S. economy.”

## UUSC SUPPORTS BOYCOTT OF WENDY'S

Thousands of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee supporters have joined in this action over the past year, signing petitions and boycotting



the fast food chain until they agree to fair pay and working conditions.

Wendy's remains the last U.S. fast food chain to sign on to the Fair Food Program developed by Florida's Coalition of Immokalee Workers. UUSC urges Wendy's to support workers' rights and economic justice.

[from: *Toward Justice*, UUSC e-newsletter, Spring 2017, V. 2]

**IRONY:** Kentucky Coal Mining Museum in Benham, Kentucky is switching to solar power in hopes of saving money on energy costs.

[from: <https://www.northernplains.org/kentucky-coal-mining-museum-switches-solar-power/> by Travis Andrews]

## THE DEBATE OVER CONFEDERATE SYMBOLS

Recently New Orleans removed four Confederate monuments. It was the latest chapter in the contentious battle over the official display of Confederate symbols. By now, the debate is familiar. People who favor removal say Confederate icons symbolize white supremacy. People who favor displaying these icons see them as racially innocuous reminders of history. But what is less well-known is the actual history of these symbols after the Civil War which sheds important light on the debate.

Confederate symbols largely disappeared after the Civil War. And when they reappeared, it was not because of a newfound appreciation of Southern history. Instead, white Southerners reintroduced these symbols as a means of resisting the Civil Rights movement. The desire to maintain whites' dominant position in the racial hierarchy of the US was at the root of the rediscovery of Confederate symbols.

It wasn't until 1948 that the Confederate flag re-emerged as a potent political symbol. The reason was the Dixiecrat revolt — when Strom Thurmond led a walkout of white Southerners from the Democratic National Convention to protest President Truman's push for civil rights. Consequently, the flag became strongly linked to white supremacy and opposition to civil rights for African Americans.

Read the entire article at

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/06/12/confederate-symbols-largely-disappeared-after-the-civil-war-the-fight-against-civil-rights-brought-them-back/?utm\\_term=.022ba0fb3d02&wpisrc=nl\\_p1most-partner-1&wpm=1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/06/12/confederate-symbols-largely-disappeared-after-the-civil-war-the-fight-against-civil-rights-brought-them-back/?utm_term=.022ba0fb3d02&wpisrc=nl_p1most-partner-1&wpm=1)

## THE WASTE FREE GROCERY REVOLUTION

Consider the amount of plastic from a grocery run. Beyond the plastic bags at the checkout (which you've replaced with reusable bags, right?), there are plastic produce bags, plastic containers for bulk items, and plastic packaging for the snacks we love.

The EPA estimates that containers and packaging make up 23% of landfill waste. Food packaging and containers make up a large portion of this trash mountain. It is estimated that the average American creates around 4 pounds of trash every day, most of which is related to our food habits.

Enter zero waste grocery stores. Beyond charging for plastic bags or refusing to provide bags at all, zero waste grocery stores have removed all forms of unnecessary waste from their business models. That

means no products that come in individual wrappers — just a variety of package-free loose products. This zero waste dream has become the reality for “Original Unverpackt,” a grocery store in Germany that doesn't sell anything in packages and requires customers to bring their own reusable containers to purchase items. This is also the concept behind France's “Day by day.” where it also means limiting the amount of food one must purchase. If you need one cinnamon stick for a recipe, you can purchase a single cinnamon stick.

The zero waste grocery store trend is only just starting in the U.S.; so far there is only one — “In.Gredients” in Austin, Texas. Find out what you can do to start a zero waste revolution in your town. Together, we can turn this tide against food waste.

[From: [www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/america-needs-a-zero-waste-grocery-store/](http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/america-needs-a-zero-waste-grocery-store/) by Kate Good]

Our UU Fair Trade Corner has begun this zero waste effort by selling Washable Produce Bags to take to the grocery. These reusable produce bags do not retain water, so you can store your produce in the bags. When the bag gets dirty, simply wash off and reuse. Read more in the May 1 issue of the *CR*.

## IT'S OFFICIAL: KFC GOES DRUG-FREE

More than 70 % of medically important antibiotics in the United States are sold for use on livestock and poultry. And more than 96 % of those drugs are routinely distributed in feed or water, often to animals that are not sick, but to speed up growth and help animals survive crowded and unsanitary conditions on industrial farms. Consequently, some bacteria become resistant, multiply, and spread to threaten humans. It's a practice that is fueling the increasing failure of the drugs we rely on to treat a wide range of human infections.

Federal policy regulating agriculture antibiotics use has not stopped this misuse. But U.S. food companies are responding to growing consumer concern and committing to end the use of medically important antibiotics. KFC becomes the newest addition to this leader's circle, announcing that after 2018, the company will only sell chicken raised without antibiotics important to human medicine. Given that KFC is the nation's largest chicken-on-the-bone quick-service restaurant in the US, its commitment to responsible antibiotics use will have an impact throughout the chicken industry.

[from: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/lena-brook/its-official-kfc-goes-drug-free> by Lena Brook]