



Our Impact By the Numbers 2025

 **16**

New members joined the Women of Color Farmers Network to share skills and strengthen their farm businesses

 **21**

Farmworkers and families graduated from the third cohort of the Environmental Justice Academy in Spanish

 **65**

Meetings with legislators and decisionmakers to lobby for reform

 **200+**

Soil samples tested for lead and other contaminants for concerned residents near Durham parks

 **44**

Workshops, events, and presentations, engaging 2,407 parents, farmers, farmworkers, and community members

 **92**

Spray Free Zone yard signs in English and Spanish distributed across NC to protect biodiversity



Safeguarding biodiversity

Toxic Free NC raised awareness about pesticide impacts on biodiversity, promoted safer ways to fight the bite, distributed bilingual yard signs across the state, and advocated for protective policies.



Advocacy for change

2025 was a year of advocacy. Sixty-seven environmental health and justice champions joined us in meetings with legislators to voice concerns about clean air, clean water, healthy food, and the needs of communities.

Protecting families and communities from harmful chemicals

In a year of rollbacks, Toxic Free NC defended critical safeguards and advocated for action on PFAS and 1,4 dioxane pollution in our waterways, and we raised the alarm when 5 new PFAS-pesticides were approved. When the pesticide industry pushed for state and federal legislation that would protect companies and remove legal recourse for communities harmed by exposure, we fought back and successfully defended against their efforts.



Women of Color Farmers Network

In 2025, the Women of Color Farmers Network grew to 45 members across 22 NC counties, who gathered for workshops on advocacy, mushroom cultivation, food safety, herbal medicine making, and more. In response to a challenging year, the group supported one another through mutual aid, connection, and collaborative projects like Rooted Blends, a new herbal spice product launching soon.



“The Women of Color Farmers Network has provided a space for mentorship, knowledge exchange, and empowerment—encouraging me to transform my passion for farming into purposeful action.” - Dotty Yates



EJ Academy

In June, a third cohort graduated from the Environmental Justice Academy, a series of workshops in Spanish providing advocacy skills and training on climate and health issues impacting NC farmworkers. This year’s participants, from Wayne, Duplin, and Johnson counties, collaborated to implement local projects in their communities.



Protecting workers

Heat is deadly for NC workers, who lack basic protections. Toxic Free NC helped collect a record number of public comments favoring a proposed federal heat rule and organized a statewide stakeholder meeting on solutions to save lives. We celebrated when our meeting with NC Labor Commissioner Luke Farley and subsequent pressure led to agency action, and we will keep pushing for more.



Advocacy Skillbuilding

Through a virtual “Grounded Advocacy” series centering farmworkers and farmers, a workshop for the Women of Color Farmers Network, and events like the “Cancer Gag Act Advocacy Hour,” we helped impacted community members gain skills and confidence to share their stories and perspectives with decisionmakers.



Contaminated parks

We fought for environmental justice in Durham, supporting residents demanding accountability and action to address soil contamination in five city parks. Toxic Free NC organized local partners to host four neighborhood soil testing events for communities to connect with resources and solutions.

Sharing info and resources

Through publications, resources, and media engagement, Toxic Free NC provided critical information and recommendations to shift the narrative and shape safer policies. We contributed to a story map about the paraquat supply chain, unpacked contradictions in the MAHA reports, and published a PFAS and Agriculture Policy Brief that helped state and national partners understand “forever” chemical implications for farms.

