

For most of the world, the pesticide aldicarb exists only in history books, like DDT. But now a pesticide company called [AgLogic wants to bring this widely banned chemical back into our food system](#) by selling it to citrus growers in Florida.

If the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approves aldicarb — a neurotoxin that can pollute water, harm children's brain development, and is classified as “extremely hazardous” by the World Health Organization — it will be bad news for Florida.

Aldicarb is responsible for the largest known outbreak of foodborne pesticide illness in the United States, when 1,300 people fell ill after eating watermelon in the 1980s. Exposure can cause developmental defects, dizziness, blurred vision, abdominal pain, and vomiting. And it poses similar risks to wildlife.

The Trump EPA approved aldicarb over two years ago, but environmental advocates worked with Florida farmers to beat it back in court before the pesticide was ever used on Florida citrus groves.

LINK: <https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/health/company-wants-to-use-dangerous-pesticide-on-florida-oranges/77-b45b2f58-33b0-42c7-85f3-6a01893bcbfd>

Several weeks ago in the conservation newsletter, I mentioned how the Miami Seaquarium was going to be returning its killer whale to its home waters off the Pacific Northwest following 50 years in captivity. The move was forced by decades of advocacy from animal rights and Indigenous groups. [The whale died earlier this week](#) before it could swim free again.

To Indigenous people, this animal had a spirit. It was a relative. At best, it spent a half century incarcerated in Miami. At worst, it was enslaved.

This animal was wild captured and sent to south Florida. It was not born in captivity. It was not injured and unable to return to the wild. It was a free-swimming whale captured and relocated for the amusement of Seaquarium visitors.

This is no longer a common practice, but serves as an example of the cruelty with which America has historically treated animals. Look into coyote killing contests and cyanide bombs for more evidence.

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/aug/18/tokitae-killer-whale-miami-seaquarium-dies-captivity>

What's the greatest obstacle to developing more solar energy? Other than political resistance from the Right Wing and Big Oil, it's space. Municipal-grade power generation from solar panels can require hundreds of acres of land on which to place the panels. That land oftentimes supports animals and plants and has significant conservation value.

What to do?

Where there's a will there's a way, and in England, [they're covering a trash dump with solar panels](#), enough to power 17,000 homes. Garbage dumps, commercial roofing and parking lots, abandoned mines, roadways... America's landscape is covered by millions of acres of industrial or development wasteland suitable for solar panels, if there is a will to do so.

LINK: https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-08-12/solar-farm-near-london-built-on-giant-trash-heap?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=socialflow-organic&utm_content=citylab

The richest 10% of Americans are responsible for [40% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions](#).

LINK: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/08/17/greenhouse-emissions-income-inequality/>

There's a company called PragerU that produces so-called educational videos with a distinctly conservative slant. Florida just became the first state in the nation to approve the use of PragerU's videos in public school classrooms.

In addition to lectures promoting the benefits of slavery, there's a video stating, in regards to climate change, ["things aren't that bad."](#)

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2023/08/17/amid-record-heat-florida-agencies-give-epa-climate-change-rules-a-cold-shoulder/>