



To: CNBC Team Leaders

We, the undersigned, object to the biased reporting on synthetic turf that occurred on 25 October 2022 claiming synthetic turf to be a “greener” choice for those conscious of Climate Change. We call for an informed awareness of synthetic turf as an agent of Climate Change, and unbiased reporting.

The industry biased reporting on synthetic turf, [New, improved artificial grass booms amid California drought](#), played as though a paid advertisement, was seriously ill informed. Synthetic turf is an impervious material that readily reaches temperatures of 160°F-180°F and beyond. It overheats the earth, killing the living biome beneath and adding to runoff of toxic and carcinogenic chemicals known to leach from this petrochemical plastic grass product.

The temperature can cause serious burns: At a surface temperature of 118°F a first-degree burn occurs in 15 minutes, becoming a 3rd degree burn (full skin-thickness) in 20 minutes. At 140°F, a 1st degree burn occurs in 3 seconds and becomes a 3rd degree in 5 seconds. Children have required admission to ICUs for burn treatments. The surface of plastic turf is always hotter than natural grass, concrete, and asphalt.

Athletes are increasingly impacted by heat related illness playing on synthetic surfaces. Deaths from heat stroke doubled from 2015 to 2017 when compared to the 5 preceding years. Football players are eleven times more likely to suffer a heat related illness playing on synthetic turf. Independent peer reviewed research shows significantly increased lower extremity injuries and concussions on synthetic turf, as well. Professional players across multiple sports are calling for a return to natural grass.

To date, every synthetic turf product tested has shown levels of fluorine, an indicator of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are a class of chemicals known to cause a multitude of negative human, domestic animal, wild and aquatic life health effects, bioaccumulating and lasting multiple generations. Synthetic turf pollutes air, water and soil and can pose a violation against the Federal Clean Water Act.

Synthetic turf off gasses both methane and ethylene in ever increasing amounts for the 450+ years it takes for it to decompose, contributing to climate change.

Synthetic turf requires water for cleaning, a frequent condition of warranties. SynLawn,

sold at gardening centers and featured in the report, has a prorated warranty: 100% for years 1-8, dropping rapidly down to 15% for over 15 years. It also requires an “annual refresh” involving inspection, power brooming, enzyme cleaner and addition of environmentally unfriendly “Envirofill” (Prop65 silica sand coated in acrylic and most often with a banned antimicrobial). Failure to obtain the annual refresh (cannot be done by outside vendors), voids the warranty.

For sports, research shows the amount of water needed to reduce the surface temperature for play is significantly greater than that required for Bermuda grass varieties. Watering only cools the surface for 20 minutes before it returns to a dangerous temperature. Pets have had paws burned on plastic grass and, like humans, are subjected to inhaling the toxic gasses and chemicals released.

Synthetic turf is not recyclable, despite industry claims. Not a single scrap of synthetic turf has been recycled in the US.

For those seeking water conservation, xeriscaping, drought tolerant natural grasses and groundcover offer sustainable options that sequester carbon, produce oxygen and support a healthy biome and biodiversity. They can be managed organically and maintained with zero emissions landscaping equipment.

We again ask that you inform yourselves on the environmentally unfriendly, unsustainable, plastics industry driven synthetic turf and provide an unpaid, expert informed, print and video reporting on this globally important topic.

All that appears green is most definitely NOT green!

Respectfully submitted,

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SHPFI is an all-volunteer nonprofit 501-c-3



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<https://CleanEarth4Kids.org>

CleanEarth4Kids.org is a 501(c)(3) non-profit protecting children's health & future, clean air & water, public health, environmental justice, public lands, wildlife and ecosystems.



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