



Pure Earth is Bringing Lead Poisoning to the TED Mainstage at TED2026

Email from Drew McCartor, President, Pure Earth, to Pure Earth news subscribers, March 27, 2026



Dear Elizabeth,

I am thrilled to share that I will be speaking at [TED2026 in Vancouver](#), where I will take the mainstage to talk about Pure Earth's initiative to [protect 500 million children](#) from lead poisoning.



One of the goals of my talk is to reframe our understanding of the scale of harm. Lead poisoning causes more deaths annually than all natural disasters, active wars, traffic accidents, HIV, and malaria *combined*. It's time we stop treating this issue as a footnote in the human story and treat it as the headline it is.

My TED talk won't be available for a few months, but I'll be sharing updates on LinkedIn from behind the scenes. I hope you'll [follow along](#).

If you're interested in learning more about our Audacious Project, you can join us virtually on April 9th for *From Bold Ideas to Global Impact: How Collaborative Philanthropy Fuels Change*, a webinar hosted by Devex with The Audacious Project. Keep scrolling for more details and a registration link.

Sincerely,
Drew McCartor
President, Pure Earth



Webinar on April 9th with Devex and The Audacious Project

From Bold Ideas to Global Impact: How Collaborative Philanthropy Fuels Change

[Register for the Virtual Event](#)

On April 9th, Drew will join global leaders for a virtual conversation with Raj Kumar, President and Editor-in-Chief at Devex, to discuss how catalytic philanthropy is helping scale solutions to lead poisoning and other urgent global challenges.

Over the past eight years, The Audacious Project community has mobilized \$7.6 billion toward bold initiatives in health, climate, education, and economic opportunity. Drew will be among fellow grantee leaders sharing practical insights on how funding, cross-sector collaboration, and storytelling can accelerate real impact for communities worldwide.

[Register Now](#)



In Ghana, Training the Trainers



Earlier this month, Pure Earth brought together senior leadership, technical experts, and representatives from the Ghana and Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authorities for a Training of Trainers workshop in Ghana.

Participants built hands-on skills in identifying and assessing lead contamination risks, from used lead-acid battery recycling sites to consumer products found in everyday markets. The goal: equip teams not just to identify lead exposure, but to train others, building the regional capacity needed for lasting reductions in lead exposure.

[Read More on the Blog](#)

OUR MISSION

Pure Earth partners with governments, communities and industry leaders to identify and implement solutions that stop toxic exposures, protect health, and restore environments.

Solve Pollution. Save Lives. Protect The Planet.

[Donate to Support Our Work](#)

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