Once upon a time there was a little girl on a playground who noticed gray smoke pouring out of the windows of a school across the street. “Fire!” the little girl shouted.

A man sat calmly on a nearby bench. “I don’t see any fire,” he said. “Fire!” the girl cried again. “But I only see smoke,” said the man. “Fire!” the girl shouted, over and over. But no one paid any attention. A few hours later, the school had burned to the ground.

The moral of this story? Where there’s smoke, there’s a good chance you’ll find fire. That’s the precautionary principle practiced by most governments in Europe when it comes to protecting public health from the 4.2 billion cell phones in the world and the electromagnetic radiation they emit. Refusing to adhere to this “better safe than sorry” principle has caused catastrophic health and environmental effects globally, writes David Gee, an editor of The Precautionary Principle in the 20th Century: Late Lessons From Early Warnings. The book analyzes the dismal failures of governments around the world to respond to early danger signs in the environment, from rising levels of carcinogens to the depletion of Atlantic fisheries. In February 2009, Gee testified in Brussels at a European Commission workshop on electromagnetic fields (EMFs) and health. He warned about the profound danger posed by cell phone radiation—also called electropollution—which many scientists are now calling the “worst toxin in planetary history.”
UNPLUGGED CHILDREN, CELL PHONES AND HEALTH

By Carrie Hyman, CMD & Marcia Zina Mager

The most of this world! Where there's smoke, there's a good chance you'll find this. That's the case in health and environmental education, where the dominant narrative is that health and environmental education is the solution to all of our problems. The work of Dr. Michael Kiefer, a medical doctor and the director of the Bioinitiative Report, challenges this dominant narrative. He argues that health and environmental education is not the solution to all of our problems, but rather a distraction from the real problems that we face. The report calls for a radical rethinking of the way we think about health and the environment, and for a focus on the root causes of these problems. The report recommends that we focus on reducing our exposure to toxic chemicals, improving our diet, and increasing our physical activity. It also calls for a more holistic approach to health and the environment, one that recognizes the interconnectedness of all of these factors. The report concludes that by focusing on these root causes, we can make a real difference in the health of the planet and its inhabitants.