



 CLEAN WATER ACTION • CLEAN WATER FUND

2015  
ANNUAL REPORT



**CLEAN WATER ACTION**'s mission is to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems.

**JOIN US!** Together we're making a difference for Clean Water:

- Take action to protect drinking water and clean up polluted waterways;
- Get health-harming toxics out of everyday products;
- Protect our water from dirty energy threats — drilling and fracking for oil and gas, and power plant pollution;
- Build a future of clean water and clean energy;
- Keep our clean water laws strong and effective to protect water and health.

*We all live downstream.*

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Despite long odds and big obstacles, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund made exciting progress in 2015.

We saw rules finalized that will protect drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans and reduce toxic pollution from coal fired power plants. We raised the alarm about oil and gas wastewater contaminating underground sources of drinking water, and forced CA to take action on thousands of wastewater wells illegally destroying underground aquifers.

We banned toxic flame retardants in MN and cesspools in RI; won a 2+ year moratorium on fracking in MD and restored protection from fracking for state parks in PA. We protected stream buffers in NJ, got 600 mws of new solar power approved in TX, and banned foam foodware and plastic bags in communities around the nation.

The common ingredient in all of this is YOU! Your financial support — your membership — your activism — make all this possible. So check out what we've accomplished with your support in 2015, and thanks again for helping make it happen!

Yours for Clean Water,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Wendelgass".

Robert Wendelgass

*President & CEO, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund*



## *Promoting clean water, from watershed to water tap*

Clean Water Action's mission and programs are centered around protecting clean water, now and for future generations. Completion of the Obama Administration's Clean Water Rule — a Clean Water Action victory more than ten years in the making — is a critical step toward restoring the nation's historic commitment to fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for all Americans. Defending this rule in Congress and the courts and ensuring its effective implementation remain top priorities for Clean Water Action.

Clean Water Action's programs protect and promote clean water and healthy communities through:

- “Upstream” pollution prevention to protect drinking water and keep toxics out of consumer products and out of our water.
- Energy choices that protect water and create jobs, stronger protections from fossil fuel development activities and power plant pollution.
- Controls on pollution from farms and from paved surfaces and lawns in suburbs and cities.
- Smarter water systems and green infrastructure to manage and conserve water.
- Increased investment to improve systems and infrastructure for water protection, treatment and distribution, and strengthen drinking water source protection.





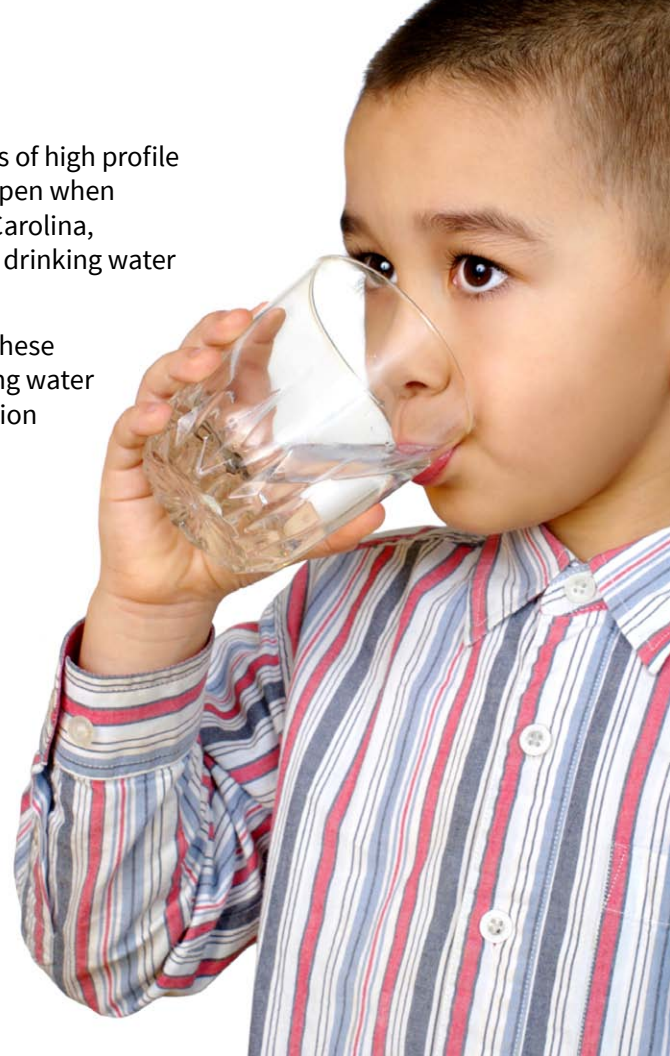
## *Putting Drinking Water First*

Public awareness and concern about drinking water are on the rise. A series of high profile water crises have devastated communities and demonstrate what can happen when drinking water is not a priority: Duke Energy's toxic coal-ash spill in North Carolina, Freedom Industries' chemical spill in West Virginia, toxic algae in Lake Erie, drinking water for Toledo, Ohio, and, now, lead contamination in Flint, Michigan.

Putting Drinking Water First is exactly what officials failed to do in each of these cases, upending hundreds of thousands of people's lives when their drinking water became undrinkable. Each could have been prevented, but those in a position to do something about it had other priorities.

### *It's time to invest in clean water and get serious about Putting Drinking Water First:*

- Invest to protect water sources for fishing, swimming and drinking.
- Invest to repair and upgrade water systems and infrastructure.
- Invest in improved monitoring, research and science to help guide the smartest choices to protect water and health.
- Invest to get lead out of contact with drinking water in communities nationwide.



# highlights



The Clean Water Rule was finalized for streams, wetlands, drinking water sources. ►

The Clean Water Rule attracted more public support than any previous federal action to protect clean water, and Clean Water Action provided the leadership and grassroots power to make it possible. Over the past several years alone, Clean Water Action mobilized more than 1 million letters, calls, emails and postcards to Congress and the White House demanding that Clean Water Act protections be clarified and restored. This hard-fought victory demonstrates how Clean Water Action's signature programs of smart, strategic, tenacious grassroots-based organizing and campaigning can deliver powerful results.



EPA's Gina McCarthy signs the final Clean Water Rule.



## Clean Water published white paper on Putting Drinking Water First.

Putting Drinking Water First is at the core of Clean Water's campaigns on drinking water policy and the pollution sources that threaten our drinking water. Growing food, producing energy for electricity and transportation, making products and building communities can lead to water pollution and to contamination of drinking water sources. Putting Drinking Water First means making decisions about our activities with impacts on drinking water as a primary concern. This will not only protect our drinking water, but lead to more sustainable and fair approaches to controlling environmental hazards.

*Read the Putting Drinking Water First papers and find out how you can get involved at [www.CleanWater.org/PDWF](http://www.CleanWater.org/PDWF)*





# highlights

✓ Clean Water Action mobilized thousands of supporters to win a phaseout of cesspools in Rhode Island. ►



Gov. Gina Raimondo signs the cesspool phaseout bill at Save the Bay headquarters as Clean Water Action Rhode Island staff look on.

✓ Clean Water Action defended landmark groundwater protections from polluter attacks in California.

✓ Clean Water Action strengthened Colorado's state water planning to increase role of conservation and efficiency for meeting communities' future needs.



✓ Clean Water Action won a veto override to keep strong storm/flood buffers in New Jersey. ▼



✓ Clean Water Action presented local advocates in Massachusetts with the latest watershed restoration settlement check from ongoing enforcement litigation. ►



✓ Clean Water Action launched the Northern Virginia Healthy Communities Coalition to make Northern Virginia a leader in sustainable water and communities.

*Supporting clean energy solutions to create jobs and economic growth, fight climate-changing pollution and protect our water.*

Clean Water Action's programs address a broad range of water-energy concerns:

- Toxic water pollution from power plants
- Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions
- Fossil fuel development, drilling and fracking for oil and gas
- Smart growth, transportation and sustainable development
- Energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy development

The worst sources of climate-changing pollution are also directly and indirectly responsible for significant water pollution. Climate change makes dirty energy's impacts on water quantity and quality even worse.

Clean Water Action's programs help reduce reliance on dirty fossil fuels, substituting clean renewable energy to save money, create jobs and reduce pollution. Clean Water Action is also organizing for strong limits on power plants' water pollution, restricting discharges of polluted oil and gas wastewater and other industry pollution, and cutting back on global warming pollution.

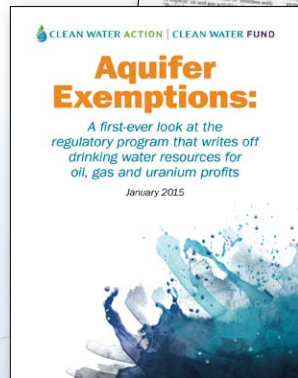


# highlights



Clean Water published reports revealing unsafe oil and gas wastewater disposal, placing water at risk. ▶

Drilling, and the water that is consumed, polluted, dumped, injected or sent off to sewage plants creates pollution headaches and other problems for communities across the country. Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund have uncovered major protection gaps — underenforcement that is allowing industry to wreck drinkable underground water reserves.





# highlights



Clean Water members' advocacy pushed Austin, Texas to commit to 600 megawatts of clean solar by 2019. ►



After years of Clean Water activism, Lansing Board of Power and Light committed to retire old polluting Eckert and Ericsson coal plants in Michigan. ◀

✓ Clean Water Action helped enact a 2+ year fracking moratorium in Maryland. ▼



✓ We helped get Governor Wolf to stop any new fracking in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

✓ Power Forward coalition was launched to fight dirty energy pipelines and support the transition to clean energy in Massachusetts. ▼



✓ Clean Water Action got EPA to finalize strong standards to reduce toxic water pollution from power plants and protect drinking water sources.

*Advancing “upstream” solutions.  
Protecting people — especially children —  
from toxic harm. Reducing and preventing  
waste and pollution at the source.*

The best environmental health solutions prevent pollution and waste before people’s health is affected, before air, land, water or food become contaminated. The outdated laws on the books today don’t do that. Products, ingredients and manufacturing practices that pollute are the norm, and the marketplace is awash in chemicals that can cause cancers, birth defects and learning or developmental disabilities.

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are national leaders in the movement to reform policies on chemicals and environmental health to make preventing harm the priority. Solutions include increased public involvement in decisions on what is allowed into the marketplace, and mandatory bans or phase-outs of the worst toxics in favor of safer alternatives. Through the SAFER states network, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Mind the Store and other coalitions and campaigns, Clean Water Action is organizing at the local, state and national levels. Pioneering programs such as ReThink Disposable and campaigns for “take back” policies are helping to shift responsibility for solutions onto businesses and manufacturers.





# highlights



✓ Our ReThink Disposable program won the Governor's award for "Environmental and Economic Excellence" in California. ▲


✓ We helped get the Children and Firefighters Health Protection act passed to phase out toxic flame retardants in Minnesota; and joined with Firefighters to advance a similar ban in Massachusetts. ▼




# highlights

 Rhode Island Clean Water launched its “Green Scene” program to give event organizers the tools to minimize an event’s impact on the environment and host community. ►



 The strong microbeads ban we helped pass in California spurred passage of a federal ban and prompted more rapid phase-outs by companies.

 We convinced Connecticut officials to develop a list of the worst toxic threats in consumer products and to promote safer alternatives.

 We convinced Prince George’s County, Virginia to ban foam foodware, joining bans in Washington, DC and in Montgomery County, Maryland.





**CLEAN WATER FUND**'s programs reach and involve more than one million households each year through outreach, education, organizing, advocacy and policy action at the local, state and national levels.

Together with Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund supports the goal of **fishable, swimmable, drinkable water** for everyone.

Priority programs and strategies include:

- Policies that Put Drinking Water First, from watershed to water tap;
- Environmental health solutions that prevent waste and pollution at the source;
- Clean energy and climate solutions that create jobs and protect water.

Clean Water Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose programs build on and complement those of Clean Water Action.

Clean Water Fund and Clean Water Action share some staffing and offices and collaborate on programs, including many described in this Annual Report. *Clean Water Fund's involvement is limited to those activities appropriate to its 501(c)(3) tax status.*

*Protecting water and health,  
from watershed to water tap.*

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## BUSINESSES FOR CLEAN WATER

*We gratefully acknowledge gifts, grants and partnership donations from the following business supporters:*

**AVEDA**, supporting Clean Water Fund programs in California, New England and Pennsylvania through Earth Month fundraising. [www.Aveda.com](http://www.Aveda.com)

**Guacamole Fund** supporting Clean Water Fund through tabling opportunities and special fundraising with touring artists Crosby, Stills and Nash, Jackson Browne and Bonnie Raitt. [www.guacfund.org](http://www.guacfund.org)

**Kleen Kanteen**, sponsoring Clean Water Fund's ReThink Disposable project. [www.kleankanteen.com](http://www.kleankanteen.com)

**Patagonia**, supporting Clean Water Fund's programs with grants and product donations. [www.patagonia.com](http://www.patagonia.com)

**Sungevity**, providing free iQuotes on rooftop solar installations for Clean Water supporters and making donations to Clean Water Fund for each installed system. [www.sungevity.org/clean-water-fund](http://www.sungevity.org/clean-water-fund)

**SurveyMonkey Contribute**, with 227,000+ volunteer survey panelists sharing their opinions to generate donations for Clean Water Fund. [www.surveymonkey.com/charity/clean-water-fund](http://www.surveymonkey.com/charity/clean-water-fund)

**Philadelphia Eagles**, a sustainability leader among professional sports franchises, supporting water protection programs in Pennsylvania.

**Tango Card**, offering its clients the opportunity to donate rewards and incentives to Clean Water Fund. [www.tangocard.com](http://www.tangocard.com)



*Clean Water Fund's newest partnership, with Baltimore-based Heavy Seas Beer celebrates the connection between clean water and great beer.*



## LEGACY GIFTS

**Your Clean Water Legacy** – Both Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund welcome gifts by will or bequest, by beneficiary designations on insurance, retirement or investment accounts, or through donation of appreciated assets. For many people, creating a legacy gift can be surprisingly easy and is one powerful way to have a lasting impact for clean water. Call or e-mail to request your Clean Water Legacy Gift information packet today. Please let us know if you have already made a Clean Water legacy gift commitment so that we may thank you. Call **202.330.2379** or e-mail [legacy@cleanwater.org](mailto:legacy@cleanwater.org)

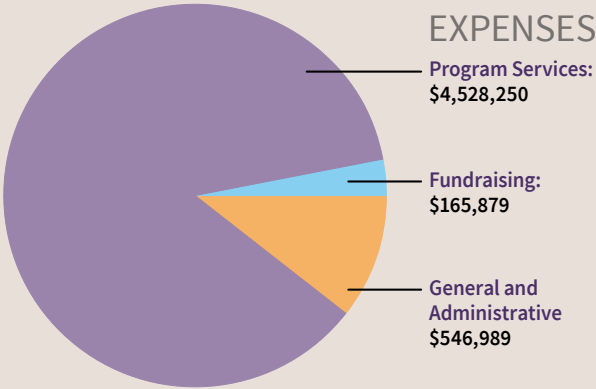
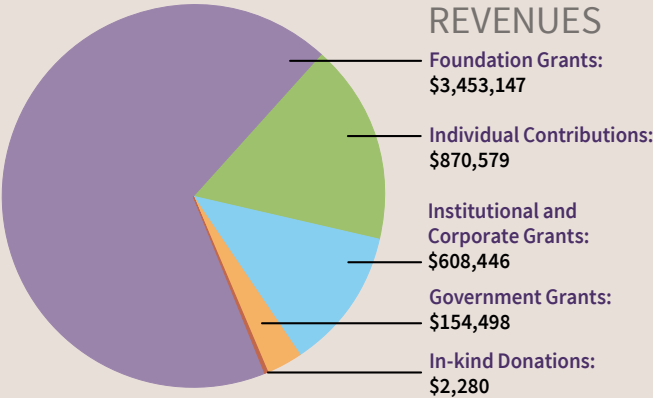
## WORKPLACE GIVING

Clean Water Fund receives additional support from thousands more who participate in their employers' matching gift and/or workplace giving programs. Clean Water Fund is a founding member of **Earth Share**, the national organization which raises workplace giving funds for its members — the nation's leading environmental and conservation nonprofits. Clean Water Fund is active in Earth Share's national leadership and its many state affiliates and chapters, as well as with the independent Minnesota Environmental Fund. Federal employees support Clean Water Fund (CFC #10636) through the Combined Federal Campaign. Contact Clean Water Fund to see if a workplace giving program could be an asset for your business or workplace, [development@cleanwater.org](mailto:development@cleanwater.org)

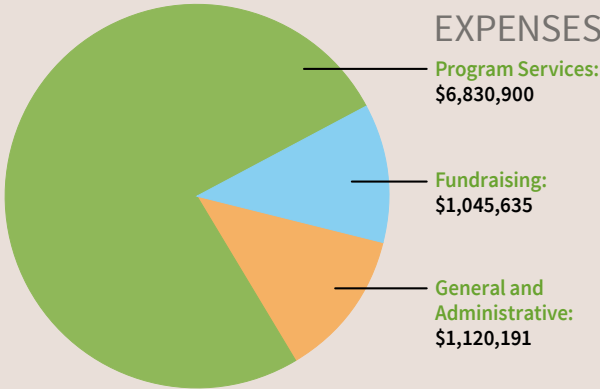
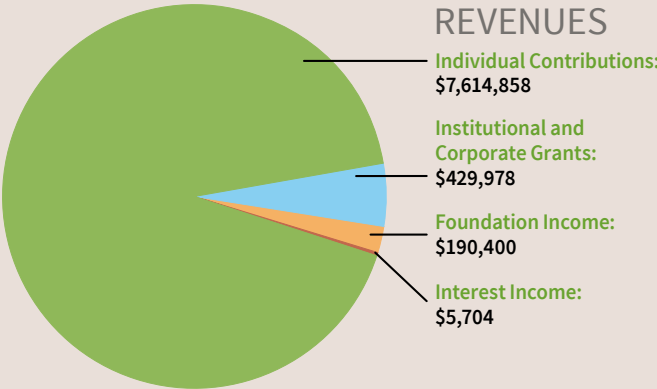
## MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match their employees' donations to Clean Water Fund. Clean Water Fund welcomes such gifts. In most instances, your check or credit card pledge must be payable to Clean Water Fund to qualify for companies' matching programs. Contact your employer's human resources or philanthropy department to see if this is an option to double or even triple the impact of your clean water donations. Let us know how we can be of assistance, [development@cleanwater.org](mailto:development@cleanwater.org)

# Clean Water Fund FY15 Financial Statement



# Clean Water Action FY15 Financial Statement



Based in Washington, DC, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund operate locally-staffed environmental programs serving communities in more than 22 states. To learn more about state and regional programs visit [www.cleanwateraction.org/states](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/states)



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