



We all live downstream.

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.

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Remembering Clean Water Heroes: Founding Clean Water Board member Peter Lockwood died in 2017. His determination, his passion for water and politics, strategic insight, keen legal and financial mind, and razor-sharp sense of humor all came together in Peter's many vears of Board service to leave a lasting mark on our organization and on the movement to protect clean water. Clean Water Action's founder David Zwick died early in 2018. Ralph Nader wrote recently, "More than any other American, David Zwick with all his talents, stamina and character put more forces in motion and organized more grassroots power... for clean water nationwide." He was a "civic hero" who recruited,

trained, mentored and inspired thousands of people to leadership and action, leaving a vibrant legacy of powerful laws such as the groundbreaking Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Acts, and a strong network of friends, colleagues and allies who will continue his work.

Clean Water in the Crosshairs

2017 brought unprecedented assaults on longstanding protections for clean water and a healthy environment. The incoming Trump Administration and polluter-friendly Congress set a record pace of attacks on environmental safeguards — more than one attempted rollback per week throughout the entire year. Clean water was — and remains — in the crosshairs, often front and center in the worst anti-environment actions. Clean Water Action, its members and allies, are on the front lines, as levels of public outrage and engagement continue to increase.

Clean Water Action stepped up its efforts to help this resistance grow quickly, while continuing the organization's long-term grassroots strategy to build power from the state and community levels. As a result, even this most challenging year brought many signs of hope — heartening victories and progress, highlights of which are featured in this Annual Report. Gifts, grants and ongoing pledges of support from Clean Water members and supporters made a critical difference in the most heated battles to defend past victories and grow our clean water movement for the long run.

BUILDING OUR MOVEMENT: Clean Water Action members and supporters responded powerfully to the many urgent calls to action, sending nearly 200,000 hand-written letters and e-mails to public officials in 2017. Tens of thousands more amplified that impact, sharing Clean Water Action's information on social media, making phone calls to public officials, signing petitions and letters of support, volunteering and turning out for meetings, marches and other public events. Many turned out in record numbers for "town halls" and traveled to marches in Washington, DC and state capitals to make their voices heard and to demand leadership from their Senators and Representatives. This democratic exercise of people power matters greatly.



continued on next page

Building for a Green Wave?

Elections have consequences.

That's why Clean Water Action has been working to educate, organize and turn out more "clean water voters." In 2017, candidates who earned Clean Water Action endorsements based on their records and commitments on key water and health issues won big. In Virginia, wins by Gov.







Ralph Northam and
Northern Virginia state
legislative champion,
Del. Kathleen Murphy,
handily reelected
in District 34 signal
people's eagerness to
elevate clean water
concerns at the polls,
given information
they can trust. In
New Jersey, Gov. Phil
Murphy's election led
to Clean Water Action's

appointment on the influential Energy and Environment transition team. The environmental stakes will be even higher in 2018.

Note: Consistent with its 501(c)(3) tax status, Clean Water Fund neither endorses candidates nor advocates for or against their election.

Clean Water in the Crosshairs, continued

but effective part of Clean Water Action's strategy. But in 2017, Clean Water Action's litigation became indispensable as a tool for countering the Trump Administration's often-flagrant disregard for the rule of law. Clean Water Action took leading roles in a half-dozen cases challenging the worst of their actions, fighting to protect and defend clean water, holding officials accountable to the law, and making sure those laws are enforced.

LEADING ON WATER: Clean Water Action's hard-earned technical and policy expertise on water gives the organization a unique and invaluable role documenting, explaining and exposing the biggest threats. The Clean Water research team continued to author cutting edge reports documenting how people's water and health are threatened by polluters' abusive practices, and produced fact sheets and action alerts on anti-environment rollbacks and other policy proposals coming out of Congress, federal agencies newly aligned with polluter interests, and in the states. Clean Water Action

aligned with polluter interests, and in the states. Clean Water Action also stepped up its tracking of Dirty Water votes in Congress — and also some noteworthy leadership on clean water — and produced regularly updated scorecards for voters and the public. In each case, Clean Water Action worked to shine a light on the scientific facts, on political and policy developments, and on the key players and decision points where people's involvement could make a winning difference. Clean Water Action's grassroots organizing and campaign capacity in key states and districts, ability to organize and work with diverse allies and coalitions — and special focus on water and drinking water — remain critically important for the broader environmental movement's defense strategy in 2018 and beyond.

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Promoting clean water, from watershed to water tap.

The reverberations from high profile crises such as those in Flint, Michigan (lead in drinking water), Lake Erie (cyanotoxin contamination) and West Virginia's Elk River (chemical tank spill) continue to spotlight the need for action. Clean Water Action is also front and center in efforts to keep commonsense protections from being weakened or repealed.

Whether seeking improvements aimed at Putting Drinking Water First or fighting to keep laws such as the Clean Water Act strong and effective, Clean Water Action's programs continue to focus on bringing more environmental, health and community voices to bear in all the arenas where clean water and drinking water are at stake: decisions on how energy is produced and transported, how



food is grown, how infrastructure is managed, where chemical facilities are sited, where and how development takes place, and more. When drinking water protection becomes a primary consideration — not an afterthought — solutions that reduce and prevent pollution become even more important. This is central to Clean Water Action's approach for tackling longstanding older problems and new or emerging challenges.

▶ Defending the Clean Water Rule: Clean Water Action's Philadelphia team delivers thousands of letters and postcards, including more than 2300 from Clean Water Action members, to EPA's Region 3 Philadelphia office. Clean Water Action and allies mobilized people across the country to submit more than 500,000 comments opposing the EPA's Dirty Water plans to roll back the rule protecting wetlands, streams and drinking water for one in three Americans





Two of Clean Water Action's biggest recent accomplishments to protect water — adoption of the Clean Water Rule protecting smaller streams, wetlands and drinking water sources — and new federal limits on toxic water pollution discharged by coalburning power plants, faced numerous rollback attempts in 2017 and beyond. Clean Water Action continues its vigorous defense of these hard-fought protections and its leadership of forward-looking collaboratives such as the Clean Water for All Coalition.

▶ Putting Drinking Water First white paper, published by Clean Water Action in 2017, defines a commonsense approach for clean, healthy water: make drinking water a priority, not an afterthought, and manage development, agriculture and industrial activity accordingly.





Clean Drinking Water Starts at Home — and at the Source

Flint, Michigan's much-publicized drinking water crisis was caused by a perfect storm of government indifference and incompetence, aging lead-containing pipes and plumbing inside and outside of homes, problems with the water supply itself, and failures in the treatment process. While continuing to join with Flint residents and allies to push for investments to fix the community's water woes and the longer term health challenges those have created, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are also helping to launch and lead a new national effort to tackle one of the major sources of lead in drinking water, the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative. Clean Water is ramping up its activity in communities across the country:

- Advancing an updated Lead and Copper Rule in Michigan that will be the nation's strongest, once finalized.
- Launching new organizing drives with community partners in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia to provide at-risk homes with filters and secure utility commitments to start lead service line replacement programs.
- Organizing neighbor-to-neighbor canvassing, community meetings and multilingual door hanger materials to build local awareness and momentum for action to reduce lead in Newark, New Jersey.
- Beginning to work with local governments and water utilities in Massachusetts communities where aging infrastructure poses
 potential lead threats.

Clean Water also continues its leading role in the national Source Water Protection Collaborative.

- Persuaded the California Water Resources Board to adopt a strict drinking water standard for the **toxic contaminant 1,2,3 TCP** and new also new "beneficial uses" standards to protect people who catch and eat fish for economic or cultural reasons.
- Helped communities bring new attention and resources to pollution in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, winning state legislation to address annual discharges of nearly 150 million gallons of sewage and other contaminants from Alexandria, Virginia, and \$3.7 million in funding for Anacostia toxics cleanup in Washington, DC.
- → Began winding down a decade-long Clean Water Act citizen suits enforcement project in Massachusetts which settled **pollution** cases at more than 30 facilities and yielded more than \$1.35 million in restoration and cleanup funding.
- ≥ Launched a statewide campaign to tackle **septic system pollution** in Michigan through a combination of state rules and local ordinances requiring regular inspections to find and fix problems that threaten people's water and health.



▲ Checking for impurities in East Orosi, California.

Clean Water Action and allies are building momentum for creation of a state Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to fill gaps that leave 1 million people without access to clean drinking water.



▲ Clean Water Action is seeking stronger protections for the Monocacy River, a critical recreational, ecological and historic resource and source of a quarter of Frederick, Maryland's drinking water.

▼ Water Action Day: Clean Water Action and allies brought more than 1,000 Minnesotans to the state capitol in April to meet with lawmakers and advocate for water protections.



- Advancing proven, cost-effective water conservation measures and practices (smarter lawn watering, water-saving toilet upgrades, etc.) across the Dallas-Ft. Worth region in Texas as alternatives to costlier and damaging new dams and reservoirs.
- Continued leadership of the Rhode Island
 Green Infrastructure Coalition, focused on
 implementing projects in urban Providence and
 Newport to improve water quality and reduce
 flooding; published the coalition's Nature at Work
 News electronic newsletter; and launched a new
 Bay Friendly Homes Aquidneck Island project
 to encourage residential-scale installations in
 Newport, Middletown and Portsmouth, including
 an elementary school demonstration/pilot.
- Joined with Texas communities to protect water and quality of life by keeping the state from taking away local governments' rights to limit tree-cutting by developers; and, in Travis County, helped win a bond election that sets aside land for future parks, conservation easements for water, new trails and greenways in minority communities.

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

2017 brought fresh attacks on climate safeguards and clean energy by Congress and the White House. Clean Water Action joined with environmental and scientific community colleagues to challenge the lack of qualifications and expose flagrant conflicts of interest among the Administration's senior appointees at the departments of Interior and Energy and at the Environmental Protection Agency. Clean Water Action continues to challenge the Administration's policies and actions — in the courts, in the court of public opinion, and through strategic organizing in key states and communities.

Clean Water Action's expertise on the interconnections between water, energy and environmental policy remains a key resource for defending past gains and for winning stronger protections. Clean Water Action's oil and gas team has taken the lead on documenting and exposing drinking water threats posed by hydraulic fracturing (fracking), "enhanced recovery," and other extreme energy development techniques. Clean Water Action is helping people limit the industry's harm to water and health, and to secure stronger protections for their communities.



▲ Rallying for the Climate: Clean Water Action was well represented at climate marches in Washington, DC and around the country. Below: Clean Water graphics for Earth Day and the Climate March.







Recognizing that climate change is water change — that the same pollution that warms the planet also makes water problems worse — Clean Water Action and grassroots supporters are also pressing our case with state and local officials and business leaders, organizing them to stand up and oppose proposals that would weaken commonsense safeguards. Clean Water Action helped environmentalists secure a major win in the spring, when the Trump Administration's proposed fast-track repeal of new limits on methane pollution from oil and gas development on public lands failed in Congress.

Clean Water Action is also helping people to lead locally on climate change, filling the void left by the Trump Administration's abdication of global leadership:

- Helping states and communities set more ambitious targets for transitioning to clean wind and solar.
- Leading coalitions in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island pressing for expanded use of carbon pricing tools to drive climate solutions.
- Campaigning and winning in the Midwest and elsewhere to close down the oldest, dirtiest power plants.
- Supporting local networks of clean energy leaders working to "solarize" towns and neighborhoods, set ambitious "fossil fuel free" goals, and lift up grassroots leaders' voices on climate justice and equity, so the benefits from clean energy are accessible to more people.

▼ Documenting Danger to Water and Democracy. Clean Water Action continued to release groundbreaking research reports in 2017:

- "Stranglehold," on the oil and gas industry's outsized expenditures on political donations and lobbying and the corrosive and corrupting impacts of that spending, which set new records in 2017.
- A close-up look at how lax industry oversight practices in EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's home state of Oklahoma have jeopardized drinking water there.
- The first serious evaluation for public audiences of threats posed by the industry's little-known and poorly regulated "Enhanced Oil Recovery" (EOR) drilling techniques now used in 60% of U.S. oil production a crisis in the making. Wells of this type in Texas and California account for about half of all EOR activity nationwide.



▶ Won new requirements for California oil companies to disclose more of the **chemicals injected underground**, dumped in pits and "recycled" in irrigation water. Brought a new organizer on board, based in Lost Hills, to help Kern County communities fight back against industry abuses.

Joined forces with local ground water districts and other environmental allies and concerned residents in September, persuading Texas environmental officials not to permit a proposed "landfarm" that would have mixed oil and gas drilling wastes with soil to be spread on open fields in Nacogdoches near a tributary of Lake Sam Rayburn, a major drinking water supply.

Won new methane rules requiring all new Pennsylvania oil and gas wells, pipelines and compressor stations to reduce leaks by more than 90%, and stripped the worst anti-environment "riders" from the state's budget, sending more than 7,000 calls to state lawmakers and the Governor during the debate.

Engaged in ongoing partnerships across sixty Connecticut communities, working with Clean Energy Task Force leaders and teams to support their ramp-up of renewable energy initiatives, get credits for town projects, and become more active in state energy policy.

Involved hundreds of North Texas members in a successful push to stop a proposed hydraulic fracturing wastewater (frackwater) disposal well from being drilled 600 feet from Lake Arlington, drinking water source for 500,000 area residents.



▲ June 2017 Lobby Day organized by Clean Water Action and allies brought 100 activists to Trenton, New Jersey to help defeat legislation that would have weakened ethics laws, allowing Pinelands Commissioners with conflicts of interest to vote on controversial pipeline proposals.



▲ Dangerous oil trains: "Most of my district is within one mile of the tracks that crude oil has been transported on. I don't want any more crude oil tank cars putting the neighborhoods in my district at risk."

—Baltimore Councilman Ed Reisinger.

Clean Water Action and grassroots leaders are bringing more communities and local officials together to demand improved protections from oil train dangers in Maryland.

- Capped a decade-long campaign to close two of Michigan's dirtiest coal-fired power plants, Lansing Board of Water and Light's Eckert and Erickson plants, with BWL's August decision that it would retire Erickson by 2025. (Eckert's 2020 closure was announced in 2016.)
- Began a new climate justice and resilience project in Central Falls, Rhode Island, hosting a November "greening" meeting with community residents whose over-paved urban neighborhoods lack protective tree cover, leaving too many of their homes, schools and businesses especially vulnerable.
- Exposed Texas' failure to comply with EPA agreements on underground oil and gas waste disposal, forcing acknowledgement of 54 violations and prompting EPA to request the first-ever mapping of sites where underground waste injection could jeopardize potential drinking water sources.
- Collected more than 23,000 comments to Michigan officials, calling for shutdown of the Line 5 oil pipeline, which crosses the sensitive Straits of Mackinac, endangering the entire **Great Lakes ecosystem**; more state lawmakers joined the fight in the face of mounting constituent pressure.
- ▶ Mobilized public support for **offshore wind development** near Ocean City, Maryland, helping win Utility Commission approval for plans that could power 500,000 homes and employ 9,000 people, starting in 2020.

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

Clean Water Action continues to make progress through local, state and national campaigns to reduce toxic chemical use and exposure, and to cut back on single-use throwaway trash before it ends up in our water. Stopping pollution before it starts is a commonsense solution that brings immediate health and environmental benefits and costs less than cleanup.

Throughout 2017, Clean Water Action continued to promote policies that spur safer alternatives to toxic chemicals and defend critical protections against rollback proposals from Congress and the Trump Administration. Clean Water Action also continued to advance changes in the marketplace by leading and supporting consumer campaigns that publicize toxic ingredients and wasteful practices and demand safer, more sustainable alternatives. Key partners in these efforts include the SAFER states network, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Mind the Store and other campaign coalitions.



▲ Consumer Safety: Responding to Clean Water Action and allies' consumer campaigns, Minnesota-based retailers Target and Best Buy have committed to begin reducing toxic chemicals in their products and supply chains.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: ReThink Disposable





ReThink Disposable, a program of Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund, prevents waste before it starts by working with local governments, businesses and institutions, and consumers to minimize single-use disposable packaging in food service and in the workplace, to conserve resources, and to prevent waste and ocean litter pollution.

This innovative and award-winning program continues to expand in California and in 2017 began operating in Rhode Island and New Jersey, both locations where Clean Water had been working with local governments, businesses and other nonprofits on strategies to make public events and meetings greener and less wasteful. As the program grows, Clean Water Action is bringing more businesses on board, and training more staff to conduct waste audits and develop cost-saving waste reduction strategies.

ReThink Disposable has helped more than 100 food businesses and institutional dining operations eliminate more than 10 million single-use disposable items per year, yielding significant savings from avoided disposal fees and supply purchases. In 2017, the program produced a report on the climate benefits of reducing single-use disposables.

▲ Unpackaging Alameda: Clean Water Action teamed up with the city of Alameda and its Downtown Business Association to launch an ambitious initiative to move the entire island away from single-use packaging and disposables, creating a model for other communities. Above: ReThink Disposable manager Samantha Sommers (festooned with bags), joined by the city's Kerry Parker, Mayor Trish Spencer and Donna Layburn, the business group's President (l to r).

- ➤ Won comprehensive label listing requirements in California for all chemicals used in cleaning products.
- Secured commitments from Connecticut's public health, consumer protection and environmental agencies to start listing chemicals of concern for **children's health**, and advanced policies favoring flame retardant-free options for furniture procurement by the state.
- Helped pass antibiotic reform legislation in Maryland to ban use on healthy livestock and poultry as part of an ongoing collaborative campaign to reduce farms' environmental and health impacts.

Single-use straws? No, thanks! Clean Water Action and the Asbury Park, New Jersey Boardwalk launched a "Straws by Request" program (straws for customers only by request) on Memorial Day weekend, starting with four popular beachfront watering holes, then signed a dozen businesses up for a "Straws Free December." One business reports cutting its annual straw use from 6,500 to 650. The U.S. consumes 500 million straws per day. End to end, those straws could circle the planet more than two-and-a-half times. Most disposable straws are made from toxic and non-renewable petroleum, and are among the top plastic waste items found on beaches and harming wildlife.



- Continued to propel Boston forward as a national leader in **Zero Waste policies**, pressing for the city to maximize the potential health and economic benefits of this transition for disadvantaged communities.
- ≥ Campaigned to block Pennsylvania legislation that would have prevented local governments from banning or imposing fees on **single-use plastic bags**, securing a gubernatorial veto once the bill passed the legislature; defeated similar legislation in Texas; helped five Rhode Island communities pass plastic bag bills.
- ► Home Furnishings Safety: Clean Water published an online guide to help consumers avoid exposure to toxic flame retardants and to build support for banning their use. Rhode Island became the first state to pass legislation phasing out the entire class of chemicals organohalogen flame retardants — in both furniture and children's products, thanks in part to tireless championing of the measure by longtime Clean Water Action organizer and canvass leader Dave Gerraughty, who passed away a few months later, in 2018, after a difficult struggle with cancer. Similar campaigns continue to build momentum with local and national partners including environmental health activists and firefighters in Connecticut, Minnesota, Massachusetts and other states — yielding new flame retardant-free government purchasing policies in Connecticut and Minnesota.





Protecting water and health, from watershed to water tap.

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.

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

Arcadia Power, helping Clean Water Action members boost clean renewable energy development by adding wind and solar to their home energy mix.

www.ArcadiaPower.com/cleanwater

AVEDA, supporting Clean Water Fund programs in California, New England and Pennsylvania through Earth Month fundraising and grants. www.Aveda.com

Beneficial State Bank, where profits are invested in clean energy, sustainable farming and community benefit.

Benevity.org, collaborating with Clean Water Fund and Earth Share to support environmental giving options in workplace philanthropy.

CleanChoice Energy (formerly Ethical Electric) helping Clean Water Action members choose clean renewable wind and solar for the electricity supply.

www.CleanChoiceEnergy/CleanWater

Energy Sage, providing an online platform to help Clean Water Action members request and evaluate solar energy options. www.EnergySage.com/p/CleanWater

Guacamole Fund, supporting Clean Water Fund through tabling opportunities and special fundraising with touring artists Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne.* www.guacfund.org

Heavy Seas Beer, celebrating the connection between clean water and great beer.

www.HSBeer.com

Kleen Kanteen, sponsoring Clean Water Fund's ReThink Disposable programs. www.kleankanteen.com*

Patagonia, supporting Clean Water Fund's programs with grants and product donations.* www.patagonia.com

SurveyMonkey Contribute, with 300,000+ volunteer survey panelists sharing their opinions to generate donations for Clean Water Fund. https://contribute.surveymonkey.com/ charity-sign-up/clean-water-fund

Tango Card, offering its clients the opportunity to donate rewards and incentives to Clean Water Fund. www.tangocard.com

TemperCraft stainless, insulated bottles, tumblers and growlers.*

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

WORKPLACE GIVING

Clean Water Fund receives additional support from thousands more who participate in



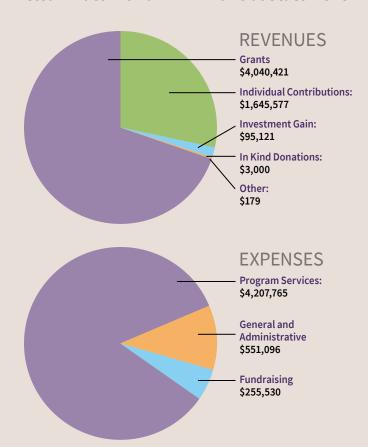
their employers' matching gift and/or workplace giving programs. Clean Water Fund is a founding member of **Earth Share**, the national organization which raises workplace giving funds for its members — the nation's leading environmental and conservation nonprofits. Clean Water Fund is active in Earth 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**

MATCHING GIFTS

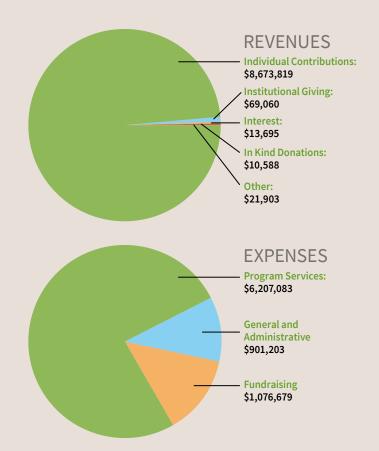
Many employers will match their employees' donations to Clean Water Fund. Clean Water Fund welcomes such gifts. In most instances, your check or credit card pledge must be payable to Clean Water Fund to qualify for companies' matching programs. Contact your employer's human resources or philanthropy 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



Clean Water Fund FY17 Financial Statement



Clean Water Action FY17 Financial Statement



Headquartered in Washington, DC, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund operate programs nationally, regionally and locally, from a network of 19+ field offices around the country. To learn more about state and regional programs visit www.cleanwateraction.org/states



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