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Headquartered in Washington, DC, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund operate programs nationally, regionally and locally, from a network of 19 offices around the country. We have members and supporters in all 50 states. To learn more about state and regional programs visit www.cleanwateraction.org/states

2020 accomplishments set the stage for continued progress protecting our water and our health

Despite the past year's very challenging circumstances — a hostile anti-environment administration and the coronavirus pandemic's devastating health toll, social and economic disruptions — 2020 proved to be surprisingly productive, in each of Clean Water Action's priority program areas:

WATER: We continued to help communities organize for policies and actions that protect water from pollution and contamination and to advance our vision of clean water for all people and communities. We made continued progress on positive, proactive water solutions at the local, state and federal levels. This includes promising “green infrastructure” solutions to reduce runoff pollution, to get lead out of contact with people's drinking water (supporting \$45 billion in new federal investments toward that end), and to protect drinking water sources. With the Clean Water Act's 50th anniversary and Clean Water Action's own 50th birthday coming up in 2022, it remains clear that — even with continued progress — much remains to be done.

CLIMATE: Clean Water Action recognizes the urgent need for bolder action on climate, and is working with states, communities and businesses to tackle the climate crisis, transition to

renewable energy, and reduce pollution from cars and trucks. People who face daily exposure to oil and gas industry pollution must be protected, along with their air and water. Communities on the receiving end of too much pollution from multiple sources and industries need relief, following the example set by New Jersey's innovative “cumulative impacts” legislation, which places their needs first in future siting and permitting decisions.

WASTE & TOXICS: Clean Water Action is leading the charge for state policies and federal action to get toxic PFAS “forever chemicals” out of our drinking water sources, eliminate their use in food packaging and fire-fighting foam (following California's landmark win), and to prevent and clean up future PFAS pollution of our water (our progress in Colorado). We are also pursuing similar strategies for toxic flame retardant chemicals (following a hard-fought victory in Massachusetts). Our

Re-Think Disposable program continues to support and strengthen networks of businesses and consumers who reject single-use plastics, while also promoting policies, such as those we helped win in New Jersey, California and other states to phase out wasteful throwaway bags and foamware.

DEMOCRACY: Building support for voting reforms and a democracy that works for all is a priority across all Clean Water Action programs. This includes campaigning in support of the transformational For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Curbing polluters' corrosive political and lobbying influence and making it easier for more people to register and vote safely and securely are both essential for realizing our long-term water and health protection goals, including fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for all.

Clean Water Action & Clean Water Fund's 2020 accomplishments set the stage for 2021 priorities, including:

- **Access to clean water for all** — not yet a reality for too many people in the U.S., and central to our mission and vision for the future.
- Strengthening efforts to **stop pollution** before it can start, integrating Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act tools to get the job done.
- Helping communities across the U.S. do more, faster to **get lead out of contact with our drinking water**.
- Tackling the problems of **disproportionate impact** and environmental injustice by which low-income communities, and communities of color in particular, are also forced to bear the brunt of pollution in their air, land, water and workplaces. This annual report calls out our evolving partnerships with **environmental justice** communities and leaders, but these issues are woven throughout all of our programs.
- Continuing to work with businesses and consumers to **stem the tide of single-use disposables**, especially plastic trash, too much of which ends up in our water.
- Repealing the previous administration's disastrous “**Dirty Water Rule**” without delay, and replacing it to make sure all streams, wetlands — including drinking water sources for millions — are protected under the Clean Water Act.
- Protection against residential **water shut-offs**, water bill assistance for low-income households, and support for struggling water systems.
- Making sure new federal spending will address long-neglected **water infrastructure** needs and benefit communities most at risk.
- Advancing **climate solutions** that create jobs and protect clean water.

WATER POLLUTION & DRINKING WATER

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund fought to maintain strong, effective water protections, and mobilized to hold the line against drastic cuts and rollbacks that would undermine laws keeping pollution out of our water, including the water we drink. We joined with allies to challenge the Trump administration's actions in court, including the flawed and dangerous Dirty Water Rule and its decisions not to enforce other key environmental safeguards.

We opposed a new Clean Water Act loophole that would exempt pollution entering our water via underground dumping, pushed for toxic pollution spill prevention, campaigned to protect state and tribal authority to challenge pipelines and other dirty infrastructure, and pressed for stronger limits on toxic coal ash dumping and other coal-power pollution.



Clean Water Action helped lead diverse coalitions, including the national *Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative*, *Sourcewater Collaborative*, *Clean Water for All* coalition, and others, and supported local and state initiatives to fight pollution and hold polluters accountable. We continued to make headway on longstanding challenges: sewage pollution and polluted storm water, green infrastructure solutions, toxic algal outbreaks and industrial agriculture pollution, and access to clean drinking water.

2020 victories and progress for our water also included:

- ★ Winning passage of legislation to ban the extremely toxic pesticide, chlorpyrifos, in Maryland. Although lawmakers failed to override the Governor's veto, state regulators nevertheless moved quickly to phase out and then prohibit its use.
- ★ Helping lead and strengthen the pioneering Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative, now involving 31 organizations and 49 individuals, to increase access to parks and improve conditions in Washington, DC's Ward 7 and 8 neighborhoods along the much-neglected Anacostia River.
- ★ Overseeing initial implementation of California's landmark Safe and Affordable Drinking Fund, advancing its programs to make clean drinking water available to all communities, and also creating models for addressing water and health disparities in other states.
- ★ Helping make Colorado a national leader on toxic PFAS chemical contamination in water, with the state Water Quality Control Commission's unanimous approval of policies to monitor and limit PFAS discharges in water pollution permits. The state will also use water sampling and source investigations to find contamination, identify which water is most at risk, stop it at the source, and develop cleanup plans, with drinking water protection as a priority.
- ★ Supporting communities in New England, in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, across the Midwest, and in other states to accelerate replacement of old lead drinking water service lines. We also continued our leadership role in the national *Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative*, bringing communities together with the water sector, local, state and federal officials to keep resources flowing toward solutions.
- ★ Advancing water equity by helping to found and lead *Water for All of Michigan* coalition focused on water infrastructure and affordability, supporting the Michigan Water Table, and securing action by Gov. Whitmer and the state legislature to prevent water shutoffs for financially distressed households.



CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Climate, energy and water concerns are closely interconnected. Clean Water Action's expertise and campaigning across these areas helped environmental and community allies hold the line on dirty energy projects, advance clean energy solutions, and make the benefits of those solutions more available to all.

Our oil and gas programs continued to address threats from oil and gas production, including fracking, enhanced recovery and wastewater disposal. We pushed for stronger safeguards for land, air and water, and supported communities as they organized to protect their water and health. Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund reported on how oil companies abused federal tax credits for carbon capture and enhanced oil recovery, and why these fossil fuel subsidies should end. We developed *Roadmap for Reform* recommendations on how the Biden administration can better protect water from oil and gas operations.

Clean Water Action continued its support for local climate action and leadership, with an increased emphasis on supporting communities of color already overburdened by pollution, advancing energy efficiency and renewables, and making sure voices of youth and people of color are heard.



Also in 2020:

- ★ Clean Water Action organized with frontline communities on the receiving end of pollution from old polluting power plants, dirty diesel trucks, port and industrial facilities in Newark, New Jersey, and capped a multi-year campaign with a groundbreaking new cumulative impacts law to protect New Jersey residents whose water, air and health are most at risk from multiple pollution exposures.
- ★ In November, Clean Water Action joined with allies to file a new lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's rollbacks on water pollution limits for coal-fired power plants, the single largest direct sources of lead, mercury, arsenic and other toxic water pollution in the U.S.
- ★ Clean Water Action supported organizing with Latinx communities and coalitions in rural Kern County, California to continue air monitoring and push for setbacks to help protect homes, schools and hospitals from oil and gas pollution. Clean Water Action also joined litigation on oil and gas wastewater problems impacting these same communities.
- ★ Clean Water Action advanced climate justice in Maryland by supporting the Peoples Climate Movement and continued organizing and advocacy with community groups seeking to strip state clean energy subsidies from polluting trash incinerators.



PHOTO: AUDREY GERARD

Line 5 Victory: *Following years of advocacy and organizing by Clean Water Action and allies, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced in November that the Line 5 pipeline's continued operation would violate the state's "solemn duty to protect the Great Lakes." This action started the process of revoking the easement that allows the dangerous pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac to remain open. Its closure would eliminate this ongoing threat to Great Lakes water quality and drinking water for millions.*

WASTE AND TOXICS PREVENTION

Clean Water Action remained an active leader in coalitions and networks focused on organizing consumers and moving state policies to prevent pollution and protect health. These include the *SAFER States* network, *Safer Chemicals Healthy Families*, and the *Mind the Store Campaign*, which mobilizes consumers to demand improvements from major retail chains.

2020 also brought increased awareness and action on toxic PFAS chemicals in consumer products, food packaging, nonstick coatings and firefighting foams. Contamination near industrial plants and fire training sites has been detected in drinking water sources, and studies suggest PFAS pollutants may now be present in almost every person's blood. Clean Water Action moved quickly to help communities respond, joined with community partners to press for accountability and "polluter pay" solutions and to promote stronger limits for PFAS chemicals in drinking water.

We worked with environmental allies and congressional leaders to secure bipartisan federal action and funding for toxic PFAS chemical research and cleanup, and to start reducing their use in consumer, household and other products.

We won new state limits on these dangerous "forever chemicals" in California and New Jersey, also setting the stage for progress in Massachusetts and other states. This means the chemicals are starting to be phased out in firefighting foams and excluded altogether under new state government procurement policies in Connecticut and elsewhere. In Colorado, we helped secure regulatory policies to monitor PFAS discharges in water pollution permits, conduct sampling and source investigations to inform cleanup and prevention, and to allow state responses to focus on drinking water.

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund continued our *ReThink Disposable* programs to reach more communities in California, New Jersey, and New England, working with businesses and local governments to reduce single-use disposable trash.

Other state and local actions and victories included:

- ★ Helping community activists demand and win free air filters for people living near notorious Pittsburgh-area polluter, the Clairton Coke Works. Clean Water Action also helped area residents organize to reduce the plant's health-threatening pollution.
- ★ Partnering with city officials in Providence, Rhode Island to make the community a leader on toxics reduction, developing green procurement guidelines for janitorial and other cleaning supplies which will create a healthier work environment for employees and the public.
- ★ Securing passage of California legislation to address a significant source of toxic PFAS contamination threatening firefighters' health and endangering our water. SB 1044, initiated by Clean Water Action in partnership with firefighters, environmental allies and state lawmakers will phase out PFAS-containing firefighting foams in favor of effective non-PFAS alternatives.
- ★ Continuing to lead the way combatting disposable plastic trash in New Jersey, through passage of statewide polystyrene and plastic bag bans.



PHOTO: ROY LUCK (CC BY 2.0) VIA FLICKR 21550937@N03/89060912

DEMOCRACY

The 2020 elections brought dramatic changes in the White House and in Congress, as an anti-environment administration and Congress were replaced by leaders committed to restoring programs and progress on clean air and climate, on toxics, on clean water, and on environmental and racial justice. With so many close contests in Pennsylvania, Michigan and other key states, Clean Water Action members — clean water voters — helped decide the outcomes. In addition to electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, clean water voters: helped Sen. Ed Markey overcome a difficult primary challenge in Massachusetts, re-elected Sen. Gary Peters and U.S. Reps. Elissa Slotkin and Haley Stevens in some of Michigan’s toughest races, and re-elected Rep. Andy Kim in New Jersey. Clean Water Action members didn’t just come out to vote they also joined volunteer phone banks to help turn out voters, and made sure their families and neighbors knew how to vote by mail. Our members put grassroots muscle behind Clean Water Action and allies’ *Count Every Vote* election integrity efforts.

Clean Water Action’s nonpartisan civic engagement programs are in operation year-round and are dedicated to the premise that clean water and a healthy democracy go hand-in-hand. Our outreach and organizing teams work every day to make sure members and the public understand what’s at stake for our water as policies are debated and decided upon at the local, state and national levels. What are the key issues? Who is making the decisions? How can people get involved to make a difference, individually and by joining with others? When can a meeting or rally (in-person or virtual), petition signatures, letters, phone calls, texts and emails to public officials help tip the balance in favor of clean water?

In 2020 Clean Water Action continued to document and publicize how outsized special interest political and lobbying expenditures have stymied progress and undermined environmental and health protections. We also published scorecards on lawmakers’ votes, documented candidates’ positions and records, and educated our members about how to bring their clean water concerns to the ballot box.

Clean Water Fund does not advocate for or against the election of any candidate; its programs are strictly nonpartisan and limited to activities appropriate to its 501-c-3 tax status.

Clean Water Action’s 2020 grassroots organizing and mobilization in Michigan exemplified the scope and intensity of staff and volunteer involvement, driven by a fierce passion for our issues:

52
Endorsed
Candidates



1,199,355
Text & Phone Attempts



26
Candidate Meetings/
Town Halls/Webinars



6,079,140
Paid Digital Impressions



38
Endorsed
Candidates Who Won



214,963
Member Emails Sent



128,834
Mail Pieces Sent



See page 7 for additional stats on Clean Water Action’s 2020 campaign outreach.

Environmental Justice Matters. By almost every measure — funding, jobs, health outcomes, access to clean water, exposure to pollution in air, water and food, participation in environmental decisions, and vulnerability to climate change (fire, extreme weather, flooding, drought), access to the economic and environmental benefits of clean energy — communities of color are too often left behind. These conditions worsened under the previous administration’s dangerous polluter-friendly agenda.

Clean Water Action works closely as a partner and ally with community-based organizations and grassroots leaders. We support their campaigns and help ensure that their expertise and experience lead the conversation. We’ve helped secure landmark policies on drinking water access in California, on energy and waste solutions in New England, on toxic exposures around polluting ports, on dangerous facility siting, pipelines and transportation, on disproportionate pollution burdens in New Jersey and more.



Clean Water Action’s Kim Gaddy helped spearhead the successful multi-year campaign to win New Jersey’s landmark Cumulative Impacts bill. In December, she received an Environmental Excellence Award from Gov. Phil Murphy and his administration, recognizing her many years of environmental justice leadership. Gaddy is the organization’s National and New Jersey Environmental Justice Director.

Mobilizing to protect Clean Water during the pandemic:

Keeping a close eye on safety and science, Clean Water Action moved quickly in early spring to suspend its door-to-door canvassing and person-to-person organizing, public meetings, and most in-person office operations to protect staff, volunteers, members and the public. We were able to transition staff to remote work-from-home operations, and to shift from face-to-face to online and on-the-phone outreach, organizing and campaigning. Our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers were well aware of the extraordinarily high stakes for our water in these challenging times, and they delivered. The numbers only tell part of the story, but document the flexibility and resilience which allowed our programs to survive and thrive with support from our members and donors, delivering solid results for our water.



3,500,000+
Phone Calls Placed



1,000,000+
Text Messages Sent



2,500,000+
Emails Sent

BUSINESSES FOR CLEAN WATER

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

Aveda – Supporting Clean Water Fund programs in California, New England and Texas through Earth Month fundraising.

Benevity – Collaborating with Clean Water Fund and Earth Share to support environmental giving and volunteering by businesses and their employees.

Charity Gift Certificates – Support Clean Water Fund by giving gift cards or by converting unused gift cards from stores or restaurants into donations. www.CharityGiftCertificates.org

Clean Choice Energy – Offering clean renewable wind and solar for electricity supply.

Energy Sage – Helping consumers evaluate solar energy options that benefit Clean Water Action. www.EnergySage.com/p/CleanWater

Guacamole Fund* – Supporting Clean Water Fund through concert tabling and other fundraising with touring artists, incl. Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne.

Hairstory – Water-friendly hair care products offering online shoppers opportunities to support Clean Water Fund

Melissa Joy Manning – Sustainable handmade jewelry supporting Clean Water Fund through in-store and online promotions and special events. www.MelissaJoyManning.com

Neighborhood Sun – Community solar solutions for Clean Water Action members in Maryland and New Jersey. <https://ns.solarforall.io/signup.cfm?agent=CWA>

Kendra Scott – Gifts and jewelry with local “give-back” days donating to Clean Water Fund

Seventh Generation – Partnering with Clean Water Action around protecting clean water and the launch of a new personal care products line (purchases benefit Clean Water Action).

Patagonia* – Supporting Clean Water Fund with grants, product donations and matching gifts.

SurveyMonkey Contribute & Survey Monkey Rewards (android and iOS) – Sign up. Take Surveys. Support Clean Water Fund (more than \$923,000 donated). <https://contribute.surveymonkey.com/charity-sign-up/clean-water-fund>

TangoCard – Offering its clients’ employees and customers the opportunity to donate rewards and incentives to Clean Water Fund.

Tempercraft* – Quality durable, reusable stainless bottles and beverage containers supporting Clean Water Fund through product sales and in-kind donations.

Tito’s Handmade Vodka – Partnering with Clean Water Fund to reduce plastic trash and make festivals and events more sustainable.

*One Percent for the Planet Members 

LEGACY GIFTS

Both Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund welcome **gifts by will** or bequest, by **beneficiary designations** on insurance, retirement or investment accounts, or by **donating stocks** or other appreciated assets. Donating to Clean Water Fund from **your IRA** is another option. You have a lasting impact for clean water. Call or e-mail for Clean Water Legacy Gift information. Please let us know of any Clean Water Legacy Gift commitments you’ve already made so we may thank you. Call 202.330.2379 or e-mail legacy@cleanwater.org

WORKPLACE GIVING

Clean Water Fund receives support from thousands who participate **matching gift** and/or payroll deduction **workplace giving** programs. Clean Water Fund is a founding member of Earth Share and is active in its national leadership. Earth Share represents the nation’s leading environmental and conservation nonprofits and partners with businesses for employee engagement and philanthropy. Federal employees support Clean Water Fund (**CFC #10636**) in the **Combined Federal Campaign**. Learn more, development@cleanwater.org



DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

Clean Water Fund receives gifts and grants from Donor Advised Funds affiliated with financial institutions and community foundations. Please contact us for assistance with your gift, development@cleanwater.org



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.

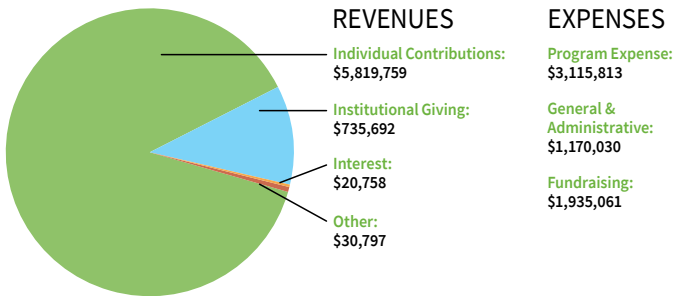
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CLEAN WATER ACTION FY20 FINANCES*



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

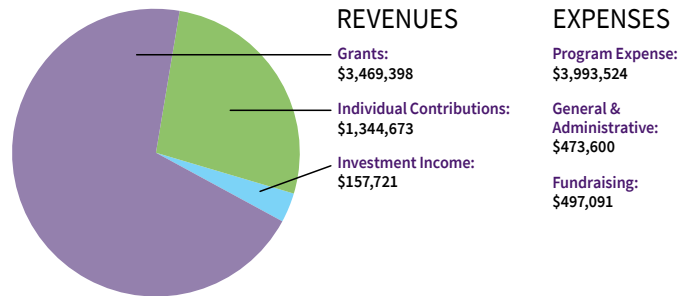
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Clean Water Fund's Board is an independent governing body with six current members, all of whom serve as volunteers.

CLEAN WATER FUND FY20 FINANCES*



You can give confidently, knowing that Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund will be effective and efficient stewards of the financial resources you provide. Clean Water Fund has earned 4 stars from the independent Charity Navigator nonprofit ratings agency (their highest rating). Copies of audited financial statements can be obtained online at www.cleanwateraction.org or www.cleanwaterfund.org or by writing the national offices.

*Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund responded to serious challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. To protect health of our staff, members, volunteers and the public, we suspended direct person-to-person outreach and organizing, and moved staff to remote operations. To mitigate anticipated financial impacts, we trimmed expenses where possible, but many costs allocated to General & Administrative and Fundraising increased during the period. This means 2020 saw significant shifts in the ratios between these expenditures, program expenditures and total revenues. We are hopeful that these expense ratios may improve during 2021-22, as conditions return to normal, and we plan to manage organizational finances accordingly.