



CLEAN WATER ACTION  
CLEAN WATER FUND

# 2016

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



Efforts to protect clean water have suffered lately under a Congressional leadership that seems determined to undermine environmental protection. Due in part to the corrosive influence of polluter money pouring into politics, the fossil fuel industry and other big polluters have long enjoyed a harmful excess of influence in Congress. The 2016 election made this already-challenging situation orders of magnitude worse, bringing into office the most anti-environment Administration in decades (though there were a few bright spots, see story at right).

However, even in a political climate that was already quite hostile to clean water and environmental health protection, Clean Water Action's people-based organizing and campaigns continue to score victories, advancing new protections and blocking some of the worst anti-environment initiatives. Turn the page and you'll see great examples of what we've accomplished, thanks to your help.

We need more of the same — a lot more — to hold onto progress that we've made, in 2017 and beyond. Your role as a Clean Water member and donor is now all the more important and appreciated.

Yours for Clean Water,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Wendelgass".

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

## ELECTIONS MATTER.

*Although so much was overshadowed by the national election results, in every state where Clean Water Action engaged, our members turned out in force to support pro-environment candidates, contributing the winning margin in dozens of close races and in important ballot initiatives in California and Florida.*



*One of those successful clean water candidates was U.S. Rep.*

*Josh Gottheimer who ousted an anti-environment incumbent in New Jersey's 5th District.*

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

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

Clean Water Action's mission and programs are about protecting clean water, now and for future generations. Our successful multi-year campaign to finalize a strong Clean Water Rule in 2015 protecting streams, wetlands and drinking water for one in three Americans demonstrates how Clean Water Action's signature programs of smart, strategic, tenacious grassroots-based organizing and campaigning can deliver powerful results.

That Clean Water Action victory was a critical step toward restoring the nation's historic commitment to fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for all Americans. Throughout 2016, defending that big win — in Congress, in the courts — and now also under the Trump Administration which openly opposed the commonsense rule and campaigned against it — has been and continues to remain a top priority. The 2016 election outcomes mean that the Clean Water Rule and other fundamental protections are now in even greater jeopardy.

Clean Water Action's leadership and grassroots power helped deliver more public support for a strong Clean Water Rule than any previous federal action on clean water — from individuals, businesses, local officials and governments. Clean Water Action moved swiftly to translate the power and momentum behind that win into an effective defense strategy to keep clean water protections strong and effective. The relentless and accelerating pace of polluter-driven attacks on water and health protections mean that slowing or stopping the worst of these assaults — and holding their sponsors accountable — is more often than not Clean Water Action's highest program priority.

Wherever possible Clean Water Action continues to educate and organize to grow the movement of people and organizations committed to protecting clean water and healthy communities. This means mobilizing rapid-response defense campaigns in ways that can also build toward longer term goals and priorities, most often with a focus on Putting Drinking Water First.





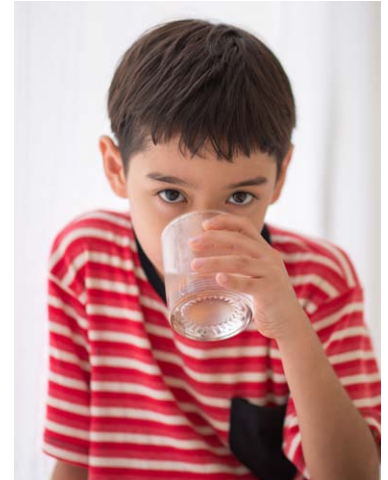
## *Putting Drinking Water First*

Public awareness and concern about drinking water continue to increase, driven in part by media reporting on Flint, Michigan's lead contamination crisis. Flint's problems are the latest in a high profile series of water crises that have devastated communities and demonstrate what can happen when drinking water is not a priority, including Duke Energy's toxic coal-ash spill in North Carolina, Freedom Industries' chemical spill in West Virginia, and toxic algae in Lake Erie, drinking water for Toledo, Ohio.

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.

### *Putting Drinking Water First means making serious investments in clean water to:*

- Protect water sources for fishing, swimming and drinking.
- Repair and upgrade water systems and infrastructure.
- Improve the monitoring, research and science needed to guide smarter water and health protection choices.
- Get lead out of contact with drinking water in communities nationwide.



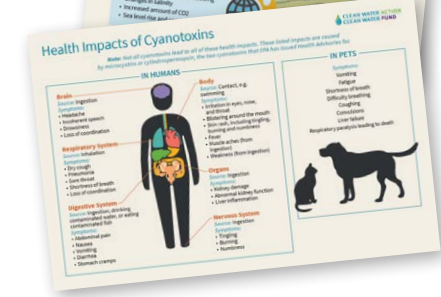
## Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund Campaigns to Put Drinking Water First in 2016:

**Helping consumers and policymakers understand health-threatening drinking water challenges and how to Put Drinking Water First.** Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund published fact sheets, web content and educational infographics on Lead in Drinking Water and Toxic Algal Blooms (Cyanotoxins). ►

## Working with water utilities and water sector leaders to make sure the sources of the water we drink are better protected.

Continued Clean Water’s leadership role within the Sourcewater Protection Collaborative, including presentations with water industry leaders on collaboration to protect drinking water sources from power plant water pollution.

**Developing new water protection campaigns.** Clean Water staff convened a new national collaborative on federal drinking water policy and helped lead planning and communication strategy for new initiatives to defend water policies, improve water infrastructure and reduce nutrient pollution. Clean Water Action spearheaded environmental group efforts to tighten federal protections for drinking water sources, weighing in to support EPA rules on expired and outdated pollution permits under the Clean Water Act.



## *Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund Campaigns to Put Drinking Water First in 2016:*

**Working with businesses that have a direct stake in protecting clean water.** Clean Water Fund launched a new partnership with Heavy Seas Beer to raise funds and awareness among people who love beer. ►



**Providing expertise and leadership for Public Health and Philanthropic initiatives.** Clean Water Fund contributed to a Childhood Lead Poisoning study by the Health Impact Project collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Pew Charitable Trusts, and helped launch a new Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative, working to accelerate removal of the largest source of lead in contact with drinking water.

**Engaging with state and federal agencies to develop and implement new protections.** Clean Water Action was active in development of the U.S. EPA's "Moving Drinking Water Forward Action Plan."

### *Long-term Campaigns to Protect Water and Health:*

- "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.

# Grassroots Highlights

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDE:



Coordinating statewide Groundwater Collaborative of nonprofits helping implement California's landmark sustainable **groundwater** management law and winning new legislation requiring water systems to identify and begin replacing old **lead** service lines in the state. ▶



Organizing volunteer weekend door-to-door outreach campaigns with local activists to educate and support Flint, Michigan residents facing **lead** contaminated water, and supporting campaigns to win state and federal funds to start fixing water and health problems there. ▶



Helping secure state research funding on ways to change farming to protect Minnesota watersheds from **agricultural pollution**, and continuing outreach to build support among urban and suburban consumers in Maryland for sustainable farming methods that protect water.



Settling five more Clean Water Act citizen **enforcement** suits against polluters in Massachusetts, actively monitoring **clean-ups** by the 16 companies that have settled so far, and stepping up efforts to address old **lead** water service lines in Boston area communities.



*Clean Water Action and allies at the Flint Rising Lobby Day, with stacks of hand-written letters to deliver to state representatives.*



# Grassroots Highlights

STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND  
PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDE:



Mobilizing Northern Virginia residents to pressure local and state officials for stronger controls to stop **sewage** overflow pollution in the Potomac River, and expanding outreach on **stormwater** pollution prevention in Prince Georges County, Maryland. ►



Preventing New Jersey from weakening protections for the state's most **ecologically important waters**, and continuing working with Newark community groups to remedy **lead** in public school drinking fountains.



Supporting community groups in Bucks County Pennsylvania demanding solutions to cancer causing PFOA **contamination** from a former Naval facility near there.



Continuing to lead Rhode Island's **Green Infrastructure** Coalition, using demonstration projects to build support for expanded use of nature-based solutions to protect water quality. ►



Expanding Clean Water's Texas water **conservation** outreach and education with new locally staffed programs in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.



*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.



# 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 to sewage plants create pollution problems for communities across the country. EPA banned drilling and fracking **wastewater dumping in public sewage plants**, most of which are not designed to clean up the waste. Clean Water's Pennsylvania organizing to prevent pollution downstream from plants that took the wastes helped secure EPA's ban. ►



◀ Clean Water Action's research uncovered **state enforcement failures** that exposed **underground water reserves** to contamination, prompting closure of hundreds of illegal injection wells in California. Similar findings of negligence by Texas' industry-friendly agencies are fueling new campaigns for reforms to protect communities' water. Clean Water Action also documented how **industry's political contributions** are undermining efforts to secure needed protections.



*Waste Treatment Corporation plant in Warren, PA, which was sued by Clean Water Action for discharging for discharging oil and gas wastewater into the Allegheny River.*

EPA released a draft of its own study of potential links between fracking and **drinking water contamination** which "spun" agency findings to suggest there was no evidence of harm. Clean Water Action's subsequent campaign forced EPA to acknowledge fracking's potential drinking water dangers when the final study was published. ►



# Grassroots Highlights

2016 STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND  
PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDED:

- ☾ Mobilizing Clean Water Action members and the public to support EPA action on **methane pollution** from drilling and fracking on public lands. ▶
- ☾ Defending clean energy and efficiency programs in Connecticut from lawmakers' attempts to raid dedicated **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** funds.
- ☾ Helping defeat industry's anti-solar ballot initiative in Florida that would have harmed consumers and stifled clean **renewable energy development**.
- ☾ Winning comprehensive energy legislation in Massachusetts guaranteeing new offshore **wind energy development**, addressing gas leak problems, and helping lower income renters access state clean energy and efficiency benefits. ▶
- ☾ Pushing for stronger **coal ash** disposal permits in Virginia.





# Grassroots Highlights

2016 STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND  
PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDED:

Supporting organizing that forced cancellation of Kinder Morgan fracked gas **pipeline** across New England and continuing to fight reckless pipeline plans in New Jersey's fragile Highlands region. ►

Defeating permit for proposed terminal in Baltimore, Maryland for dirty and dangerous Bakken crude **oil shipments**.

Securing new **fracking** rules that ban most open **wastewater pits** in Pennsylvania and persuading Governor to propose state **methane pollution** reduction plan.

Getting the Bureau of Land Management to cancel planned **fossil fuel development** leases for 33,000 acres of public lands in Texas.

Helping win increases in Michigan's renewable energy and efficiency requirements, closure of polluting Trenton Channel and River Rouge **coal plants**, and winning a Lansing City resolution to close the controversial **Line 5 pipeline**. ►



*Kinder Morgan pipeline protest.*



*River Rouge power plant.*

*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 2016 overhaul of federal Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA, amended by the Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act) — supported by Clean Water Action’s state and local toxics organizing — could be a modest step in the right direction, if implemented properly. For the first time, the EPA will be required to assess chemical safety based on the needs of the most vulnerable, including workers, pregnant women and people living in over-burdened low income communities of color. But, for now, the marketplace remains awash in chemicals that can cause cancers, birth defects and learning or development disabilities. Products, ingredients and manufacturing practices that pollute are still the norm. This paradigm must change.

As long-term national leaders in the movement to reform policies on chemicals and environmental health, Clean Water Action will continue fighting to make preventing health harm a much higher priority. Solutions include increased public involvement in policy decisions, and mandatory bans or phase-outs of the worst toxics. Through the SAFER states network, Safer Chemicals Healthy Families, Mind the Store and other campaign coalitions, Clean Water Action is organizing at the local, state and national levels. All of these efforts are even more important in the wake of 2016’s TSCA update. The new law’s success will depend heavily on how it is enforced. States must continue to lead the way on preventive action, and citizens must continue to demand progress from government and industry.

Clean Water’s pioneering ReThink Disposable and “producer take back” campaigns are pushing businesses and manufacturers to take greater responsibility. Defending state and federal protections from rollback proposals remains critical. Meanwhile, Clean Water Action is also seeking new phase-out commitments from major retailers on hazardous chemicals in toys, electronics, cleaners, cosmetics and cookware.

# Grassroots Highlights

2016 STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND  
PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDED:



Winning overwhelming support in a statewide ballot initiative vote to uphold California's landmark **ban on single-use disposable** bags, turning back the plastics industry's multi-million dollar campaign, and adding Minneapolis, Minnesota to the list of communities with bag bans. ►



Convening **“zero waste” summit** in Boston to set ambitious new waste reduction and recycling job creation goals.



Adding Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz to the growing list of California communities requiring companies to provide **“take-back” for pharmaceutical drugs**.



Advancing legislation to ban **toxic flame retardants** in Massachusetts and winning Boston fire code updates to allow furniture in public assembly spaces to be flame retardant free. ►



Coordinating the statewide Smart on Pesticides campaign and mobilizing Clean Water Action members to win passage of Maryland's **Pollinator Protection Act**, limiting **pesticide use** to protect ecological health, the first of its type nationwide.





Supporting Baltimore, Maryland activists' successful multi-year campaign to get the Energy Answers **incinerator's** permit revoked.





# Grassroots Highlights


2016 STATE AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS BY CLEAN WATER INCLUDED:

- 

Launching community-based Stay Cool Newark **climate resiliency** campaign in Newark, New Jersey's South Ward, winning PlanSmartNJ's Resource Efficiency Achievement Award.
- 

Persuading Port Authority of New York/New Jersey to pilot new zero emission pollution controls for ships and, with the national Moving Forward Network, securing commitments from EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy for the agency to begin plans to move all U.S. **ports** toward **zero emissions**. ►
- 

Leading consumer campaigns and other organizing to get CVS, headquartered in Rhode Island, to reduce **toxics** in its **consumer and personal care products**.
- 

Continuing to expand **ReThink Disposable** programs in California, New Jersey and New England, and mobilizing 100 volunteers to man zero waste education and action stations at Newark's 4-day Dodge Poetry Festival, with 14,000 attendees.
- 

Achieving major organizing victory following a multi-year community campaign by closing the dirty **Shenango coke works** in Western Pennsylvania.



*Clean Water Action and Healthy Ports rallying for #ZeroEmissionsNow on the steps of Newark City Hall.*





**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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Robert Wendelgass

*Secretary*  
Dianne Akabli

*Treasurer*  
Maxine Lipeles

*Assistant Secretary*  
Kathy Aterno



## 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)

**Beneficial State Bank**, offering the Clean Water Action Visa® card where profits are invested in clean energy, sustainable farming and community benefit, and card purchases support Clean Water Action. [www.CleanWaterCard.org](http://www.CleanWaterCard.org)

**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](http://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](http://www.EnergySage.com/p/CleanWater)

**Guaacamole Fund** supporting Clean Water Fund through tabling opportunities and special fundraising with touring artists Bonnie Raitt and Jackson Browne.\* [www.guaconfund.org](http://www.guaconfund.org)

**Heavy Seas Beer**, celebrating the connection between clean water and great beer, and the Pies & Pints restaurants, serving Heavy Seas Beer and raising money to support Clean Water Fund. [www.HSBeer.com](http://www.HSBeer.com) and [www.piesandpints.net](http://www.piesandpints.net)

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

**Melissa Joy Manning**, sustainably produced jewelry and gifts with Earth Month sales benefiting Clean Water Fund. [www.melissajoymanning.com](http://www.melissajoymanning.com)

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

**Sungevity**, providing rooftop solar installations for Clean Water supporters.

**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](http://www.tangocard.com)

**TemperCraft** stainless, insulated bottles, tumblers and growlers.\*

**We-Care.com**, online shopping apps and sweepstakes supporting Clean Water Action.\*

## 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)



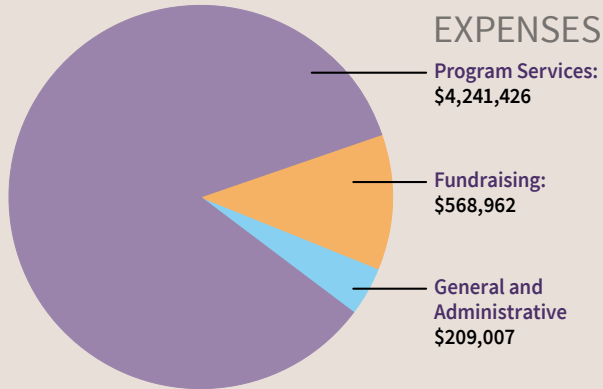
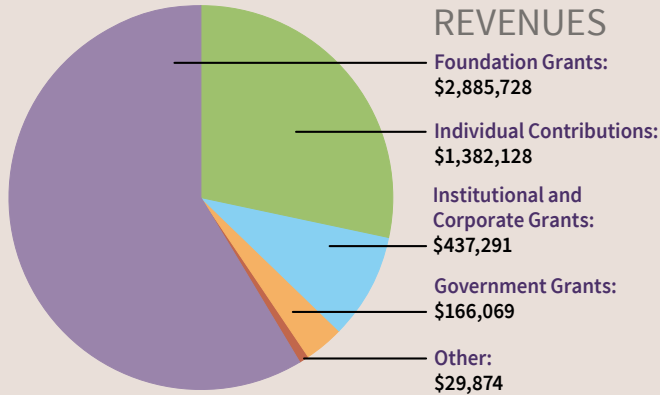
## MATCHING GIFTS

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)

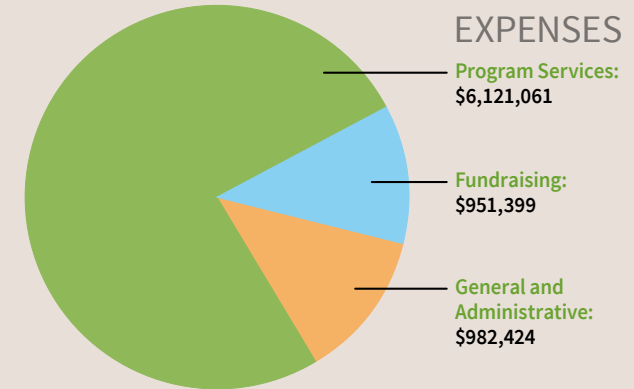
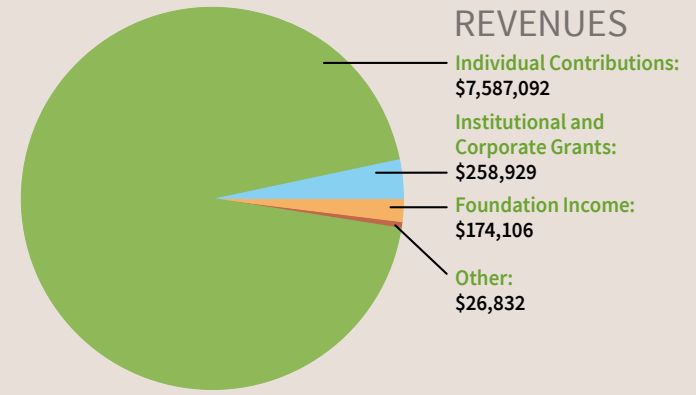


\*One Percent for the Planet Members

## Clean Water Fund FY16 Financial Statement



## Clean Water Action FY16 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)



**CLEAN WATER ACTION**  
**CLEAN WATER FUND**

1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400 | Washington, DC 20005 | 202.895.0420  
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