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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 15 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

2021 brought major changes, new progress on clean water, climate and environmental justice

The first year of a new administration committed to reversing its predecessor's extreme anti-environment policies opened up new opportunities for progress on many longstanding Clean Water Action priorities:



WATER: We continued to support organizing and people-based campaigns empowering communities to protect the water we drink from pollution and contamination. We helped pass a huge new infrastructure bill that will provide billions for water infrastructure and getting the lead out of our water systems. We made significant progress reversing the disastrous Trump Dirty Water Rule and advancing policies to prevent destruction and contamination of drinking water sources.

CLIMATE: Clean Water Action helped states, communities and businesses accelerate the transition to clean, renewable energy, reduce pollution from cars and trucks, and reign in dangerous oil and gas industry emissions. These victories advanced climate solutions while protecting vulnerable front line communities. Too many communities remain on the receiving end of too much pollution, and are vulnerable to weather extremes — severe storms, flooding, drought and heat. Clean Water Action helped amplify their voices in the climate debate, pushing to make sure more of the economic benefits of climate solutions are shared by these communities.

WASTE & TOXICS: Clean Water Action continues to lead environmental community efforts on toxic PFAS “forever chemicals,” winning new laws to keep them out of drinking water sources, food packaging and consumer products, and

holding corporate polluters responsible for the harm they cause. Our experts have advanced new strategies for bringing the Clean Water Act to bear on the problem, and our organizers joined with coalition allies, mobilizing consumers and retailers to reject PFAS use in everyday products and packaging. Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund’s award-winning ReThink Disposable program is helping businesses and consumers eliminate costly, wasteful and polluting single-use disposable plastics and winning policies to ban throwaway bags and foamware.

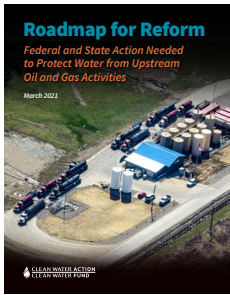
DEMOCRACY: Attempts to overturn the 2020 election and polluters’ record-shattering spending on politics and lobbying illustrate the urgent need for a more inclusive democracy and the voting reforms supported by Clean Water Action. A healthy, thriving democracy in which more people are able to register and vote safely and securely, and to have their votes count, is the best antidote to big corporations’ outsized influence. This remains essential for realizing our long-term goals of fishable, swimmable, drinkable water for all. Making sure people who support clean water are educated, organized and prepared to take action as Clean Water Voters, bringing these concerns to the ballot box in winning numbers, and holding elected officials accountable remained core Clean Water Action strategies.

These accomplishments built momentum for continued progress on key issues in 2022 and beyond:

- Advancing **climate solutions** that create jobs and protect clean water.
- **Access to clean water for all.** As the pandemic demonstrated, households must be protected against residential water shut-offs. Financially struggling people need water bill assistance, and water systems also need support to ensure their rates are affordable.
- Winning tens of billions of dollars in new federal spending on **water infrastructure** that will address long-neglected needs and benefit communities most at risk — including \$15 billion to get the lead out of our drinking water systems.
- Strengthening **pollution prevention** and harnessing under-utilized tools in the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and other laws to get the job done, for PFAS “forever” chemicals and other persistent toxic pollutants.
- Tackling **environmental injustice** — where communities of color face extreme pollution burdens (air, land, water and workplaces), financial hardship and political disenfranchisement.
- Working with businesses and consumers to **stem the tide of single-use disposables**, and the plastic trash which ends up in our water.
- Repealing the previous administration’s disastrous “**Dirty Water Rule**,” and replacing it to make sure all streams, wetlands — including drinking water sources for millions — are protected under the Clean Water Act.

“Clean Water,” as used in this Annual Report, refers informally to programs led by Clean Water Action and/or Clean Water Fund. 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.

WATER POLLUTION & DRINKING WATER



Clean Water Action urged swift action by the incoming Biden administration to reverse its predecessor's reckless rollbacks, and supported its strong commitments, leadership and agency appointments on water, climate and environmental justice. We issued a comprehensive *Roadmap for Reform* report on ways the Biden EPA could deploy Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act tools to strengthen safeguards for our water resources — including the water we drink — against oil and gas industry pollution.



We supported legal challenges, and administrative action by EPA to block and replace the Trump Dirty Water Rule and other polluter giveaways, and celebrated a major court decision throwing out the old Dirty Water Rule. Clean Water Action coordinated environmental community participation in EPA “listening sessions” on developing a new rule, testified in support, and mobilized more than 3,500 comments favoring EPA’s plans to replace the rule.

We helped win passage of the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure law that provides \$43 billion for water Infrastructure upgrades and \$15 billion to replace Lead Service Lines in our drinking water systems. And we supported Biden Administration efforts to target these resources to communities of color as part of its Justice40 Initiative.

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund launched a new **Action Center on Drinking Water and Pollution** to support policy, campaigns and grassroots activism that advance our *Putting Drinking Water First* approach. The center focused initially on strategies to solve inequities in how the Clean Water Act is enforced and policy changes to improve clean water and health protection outcomes for communities of color and lower income neighborhoods.

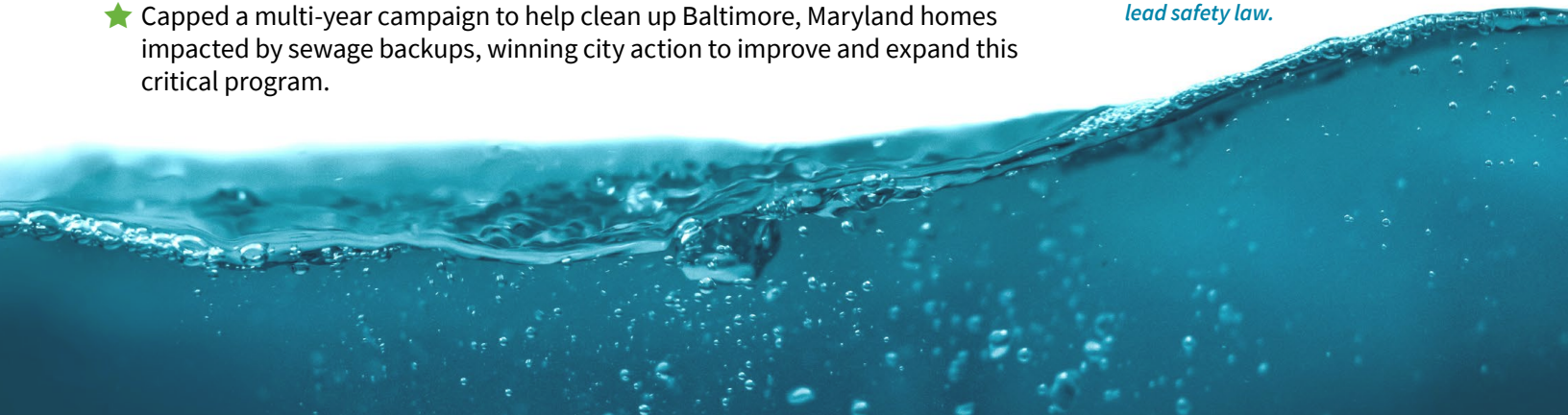
We played key leadership roles strengthening EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (to get lead out of contact with drinking water), coordinated Community Roundtables in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Newark, New Jersey and Malden, Massachusetts, participated in EPA’s National Stakeholder Roundtable, and helped secure \$15 billion for lead service line replacement in Congress’ bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.



Clean Water also:

- ★ Provided expert comments to EPA on Clean Water Act implementation addressing environmental justice, oil and gas pollution, toxic PFAS “forever” chemicals and coal ash pollution, helped shape EPA’s Roadmap for Action on PFAS and had staff quoted in news coverage of the issue. Strong state PFAS pollution limits we helped win made Michigan a national leader on limiting drinking water contamination.
- ★ Got California to document the crisis of unpaid water bills, supported state and federal water shutoff prevention, and won passage of a \$2 billion utility debt package for consumers unable to keep up with energy and water utility payments during the pandemic.
- ★ Won a landmark legal settlement that closed another of California’s worst oil industry waste disposal ponds, in Kern County.
- ★ Helped found *Water for All of Michigan*, organizing to improve water affordability, advance equitable infrastructure financing, and build a coalition of environmental justice groups leading on these issues.
- ★ Capped a multi-year campaign to help clean up Baltimore, Maryland homes impacted by sewage backups, winning city action to improve and expand this critical program.

Lead Leadership: *Clean Water Action’s Anne Hulick with U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (CT) celebrated the inclusion of \$15 billion in funding to replace lead pipes in the bipartisan Infrastructure Act, in November. Earlier, Clean Water Action helped Malden, Massachusetts officials apply for \$3.36 million in federal funds to replace lead service lines there. Progress on lead also included New Jersey bills to address lead paint and replace all lead service lines within 10 years, efforts to mandate statewide blood-lead testing for all Pennsylvania children, and passage of a Pittsburgh lead safety law.*



CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Clean Water Action's programs continued to lead at the intersection of climate, energy, clean water and transportation. The multi-dimensional climate crisis brings huge water impacts. Climate solutions must integrate protections for people's water and health.

Once again, in 2021, Clean Water Action helped environmental and community allies hold the line on destructive pipelines and other dirty energy projects, advance clean energy solutions, and make the benefits of a clean water-clean energy economic transition more available to all.

Clean Water Action helped protect communities and their water from oil and gas pollution, pushing to strengthen federal limits on methane pollution from oil and gas facilities, a major health hazard for nearby residents. We joined with environmental allies to encourage the Biden administration to move quickly to restore the U.S. global leadership role on climate and to repair damage done to climate and clean energy programs under the Trump administration.

Clean Water also:

- ★ Mobilized support for EPA's new initiative to limit methane pollution from oil and gas operations including wells, processing facilities and transmission lines, and pushed for strengthening changes to require more inspections and prohibitions on wasteful, polluting gas "flaring" at oil wells. We pressed for regulations to require meaningful setbacks between oil and gas facilities and nearby homes in California, and supported coalition campaigns for state action on methane in Pennsylvania.
- ★ Won passage of a landmark climate and environmental justice bill in Massachusetts for the second time, overcoming the Governor's initial veto, and persuaded the Boston City Council to adopt tough new emissions targets for the city's largest buildings, through an inclusive process centering climate justice considerations.
- ★ Won overwhelming approval of Rhode Island's Act On Climate 2021 bill, setting net-zero climate emissions goals by 2050 with strong climate equity and just transition provisions.
- ★ Opposed plans for a new gas-fired power plant in Connecticut.
- ★ Won adoption of New Jersey's Advanced Clean Truck rules to accelerate the transition to electric powered trucking, supported additional rules to electrify cargo handling at ports, and helped lead the campaign to increase renewable energy production in New Jersey and stop the permitting of new fossil fuel infrastructure and facilities in the state.
- ★ Coordinated the Oil and Water Don't Mix coalition, fighting to shut down Michigan's dangerous Line 5 pipeline and stop equally dangerous tunnel proposals that would endanger the Great Lakes and indigenous communities.
- ★ Supported the work of indigenous leaders and other activists in Minnesota to block construction of the Line 3 pipeline that would bring dirty Canadian tar sands oil across the state.
- ★ Helped win a permanent fracking ban by the Delaware River Basin Commission.
- ★ Persuaded Virginia lawmakers to pass land use and transportation measures that encourage transit-oriented development and improve walkability and bikeability.



WASTE AND TOXICS PREVENTION

Clean Water Action helped lead campaigns with consumers, environmental and public health allies to prevent pollution and protect health. Together with the SAFER States network and the *Mind the Store Campaign* we mobilized consumers to demand and win toxics prevention commitments from major retail chains. Much of this activity focused on the toxic PFAS “forever” chemicals increasingly detected in drinking water sources and found in blood samples from children and adults tested worldwide. Our organizing and campaigning brought continued progress on federal PFAS chemical research and cleanup funding, and won PFAS bans and phase-outs in several states. Clean Water Action members submitted more than 4,000 comments urging EPA to do more to keep PFAS chemicals out of our water.

Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund expanded our *ReThink Disposable* programs in California, New England and the mid-Atlantic region, working with businesses and local governments to reduce single-use plastics and other wasteful packaging that ends up on our streets and in our water. These educational efforts were complemented by state and local policy campaigns on composting, re-usable bags, disposable foodware and post-consumer recycled content.

Clean Water also:

- ★ Won a ban in Connecticut on PFAS in firefighting foams and food packaging, and pressed for increased PFAS contamination monitoring in groundwater and at high-risk sites.
- ★ Secured passage of a Minnesota bill to ban PFAS in food packaging by January 2024, with funding to identify contamination sources upstream of water treatment plants, to test biosolids for PFAS and to reduce this contamination.
- ★ Won passage of a new law in California that will prohibit the use of PFAS in food packaging in the state.
- ★ Won passage of the nation’s strongest post-consumer recycled content bill in New Jersey, and launched coalition efforts to alert the public and policymakers to the dangers of “chemical recycling,” an industry-backed process that is costly, highly polluting and promotes increased production of disposable plastics.
- ★ Mobilized Clean Water Action members and organized expert speakers for hearings and public forums on PFAS policies before several Massachusetts policy-making bodies, preparing for introduction of comprehensive PFAS legislation. Our staff were featured in high profile PFAS webinars, one hosted by the Boston Globe and a second cosponsored by U.S. Rep. Jim McGovern and State Sen. Jo Comerford.
- ★ Piloted a project to eliminate single-use foodware in Berkeley, California elementary schools, and expanded ReThink Disposable programs to involve dozens of new businesses in Half Moon Bay, Oakland, San Francisco and the City of Alameda.
- ★ Joined with environmental justice partners in Hartford, Connecticut to close the old polluting incinerator there and push for waste management policies that would prevent shifting waste and disposal problems onto other communities.
- ★ Celebrated the signing of Massachusetts’ Children and Firefighters Protection Act in January, the culmination of an eight-year campaign to ban toxic flame retardants in the state.
- ★ Conducted an innovative Safe Cleaning and Disinfecting workshop in partnership with the Resilient Sisterhood Project in Massachusetts.
- ★ Advanced a package of “Polluter Pay” bills in Michigan to hold corporate polluters responsible for cleanup costs.
- ★ Secured commitments from U.S. Steel to close three 1950’s-era coke ovens in Clairton, Pennsylvania by 2023, a decades-long priority for community leaders that will significantly reduce harmful air emissions, though the plant will remain a serious pollution source.
- ★ Built public and official support for an “ask first” straw law (passed in November) and statewide ban on “thin-film” single-use plastic bags in Rhode Island.



DEMOCRACY

Clean Water Action's nonpartisan civic engagement programs operate year-round, every year, demonstrating how 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.

In 2021 Clean Water Action continued to publicize how outsized special interest political and lobbying expenditures stymie progress and undermine environmental and health protections. We 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 Action pushed for voting and democracy reforms to make it easier for more people to register and vote and to have their votes counted.

While carefully rebuilding our person-to-person outreach programs to operate safely through the pandemic, Clean Water Action ramped up our organizing by phone and online. We sent more than 23 million individual emails. Our phone and door-to-door teams directly contacted tens of thousands of our members and recruited involvement from many new households. Our members took nearly 200,000 individual actions, sending letters and emails, calling elected officials and signing petitions. Our targets included U.S. Senators and Representatives, federal and state agencies, state and local officials, and the CEOs of large corporations such as REI and Burger King.

2021 was not without important decisions to be made at the ballot box. Clean Water Action's successes included:

- ★ Rejection of the recall effort targeting California Governor Newsom, by a 2-to-1 margin.
- ★ Re-election of New Jersey Governor Murphy, who immediately issued Executive order No. 274, ordering a 50% reduction in climate pollution from 2006 levels by 2030.
- ★ Defeat of an Austin, Texas ballot initiative which would have increased policing expenditures at the expense of environmental programs, fire and emergency services.
- ★ Election of Boston City Councilor and environmental justice champion Lydia Edwards to the Massachusetts Senate.

Environmental Justice

Clean Water Action expanded and strengthened its programs and organizing in partnership with community leaders on environmental justice, addressing the disproportionate impacts of economic and environmental health harms on communities of color.

Clean Water Action's organizing in California's Central Valley helped local activists weigh in on federal plans, press for tougher state setbacks for oil and gas facilities, and challenge weak air monitoring plans by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Clean Water Fund and our community partners were awarded special grant funding in 2021 to help implement New Jersey's landmark cumulative impact law and lay the groundwork for passing similar policies in additional states.

Clean Water also:

- ★ Coordinated the Anacostia Park Community Collaborative in Washington, DC, supporting neighborhood engagement on the Kenilworth Landfill clean-up, and helping build resilience for Ward 7 and 8 residents in areas vulnerable to flooding and other severe weather events.
- ★ Advocated for expanding energy efficiency programs in Connecticut and Massachusetts to better serve communities of color and low income households.
- ★ Co-chaired a new state Environmental Justice coalition in Maryland with Centro de Apoyo Familiar (CAF).
- ★ Worked with the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition and allies to launch the first-ever Environmental Justice Caucus in the Michigan legislature.
- ★ Launched a soil lead-testing partnership in Pennsylvania in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania and LaSalle University and community partners. (See page 3 for more on lead.)



In February 2021, Clean Water Action's Environmental Justice Organizer, Kim Gaddy, joined New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka and other leaders at a press event in Newark to support the announcement of a trio of environmental actions — including over \$100 million in new transportation investments — to tackle the climate crisis, reduce pollution in communities of color and high-poverty areas, and create new jobs.

BUSINESSES FOR CLEAN WATER

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

Aveda – Local salons support Clean Water Fund programs 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

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.

GiftRocket – Offering e-gift cards with donation option to benefit Clean Water Fund.

Micro Cotton – Sponsored online “Powderroom Pledge” drive to educate consumers and benefit Clean Water Fund.

*One Percent for the Planet Members 

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>

Seventh Generation – Produced a line of personal care products with sales benefiting Clean Water Action.

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.

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



The Delaware River Valley,
now protected from
fracking. (See page 4)



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

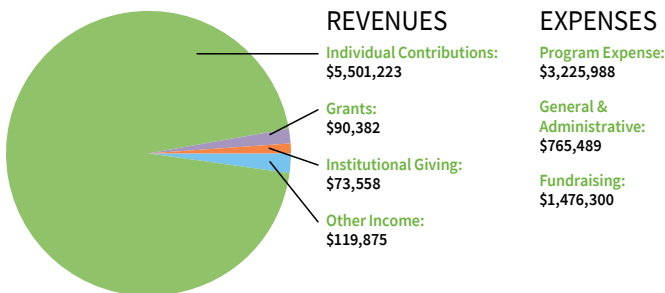
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<i>Treasurer:</i> Lawson Shadburn	<i>Assistant Secretary:</i> Margi Armstrong

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

CLEAN WATER ACTION FY21 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.

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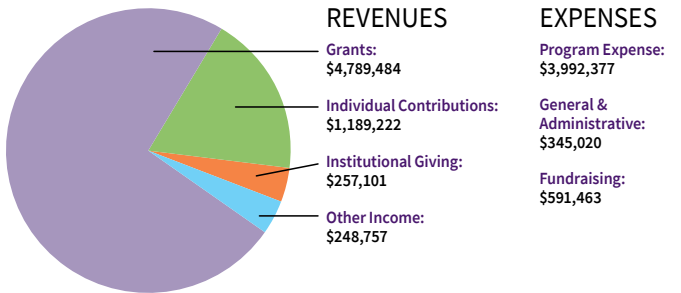
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Michael Hansen Birmingham, AL	Ayako Nagano Berkeley, CA
Erica Holloman Hill East Point, GA	James Rhodes Providence, RI

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CLEAN WATER FUND FY21 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 consistently earns top marks from the independent Charity Navigator nonprofit ratings agency. Copies of audited financial statements can be obtained online at www.cleanwateraction.org or www.cleanwaterfund.org or by writing the national offices.

*2021 financial information is unaudited, pending completion of annual audit of financial statements.