



CLEAN WATER  
FUND



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

# Clean Water Fund | Annual Report 2008

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What if I were to say to you, “Water is everything.”

Even allowing for the fact that I am privileged to lead the nation’s most important water protection organization, when you think about it, I’m sure you would agree.

Clean Water Fund’s programs have grown over the years to encompass a wide range of environmental and health concerns. These issues are important to the individuals and organizations that make up our grassroots base. But, all of our work connects to clean, safe, affordable and available water. This remains the core of our work.

Our issues have never been more important than they are today.

They cut across the entire spectrum of environmental concerns. Pick almost any issue, and there will be an important water component. In many instances, water will be the way that issue has its impact.

Water issues are unifying. They bring diverse people and interests together around our shared stake in clean and safe water. They link “upstream” communities in rural areas or forested watersheds with the urban people who live downstream, and drink the same water. Neither water — nor water pollution — respects political boundaries. When it comes to water, as the saying goes, “We all live downstream.” Water affects everyone, and everyone cares about water — even if we may take water for granted from time to time. Year after year, water issues consistently top public opinion polls as people’s number one environmental concern.

We are entering a period of unprecedented opportunity for water. Even where high-profile policy debates on energy and global warming have captured the spotlight, water issues — and our organization — will play pivotal roles.

Clean Water Fund has always taken a comprehensive approach, pursuing integrated solutions to complex, interrelated problems. For more than 30 years, we have steadily advanced the notion that making progress requires ever-increasing attention to reducing and preventing pollution and other threats to our water, even while necessary and nearer-term clean-up, protection and restoration efforts are undertaken.

This Annual Report provides an introduction to Clean Water Fund’s current program priorities and recent accomplishments. I hope this glimpse of Clean Water Fund’s winning strategy in action will leave you eager to learn more and join with us in meeting today’s Clean Water challenges and opportunities.

Yours for the Environment,



John DeCock  
Executive Vice President

# About Clean Water Fund

## Our Mission

Clean Water Fund's mission is to develop strong grassroots environmental leadership and to bring together diverse constituencies to work cooperatively for changes that improve their lives, focused on health, consumer, environmental and community problems.

Since 1978, Clean Water Fund has helped people campaign successfully for cleaner and safer water, cleaner air, and protection from toxic pollution in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces. Organizations and coalitions formed and assisted by Clean Water Fund have worked together to improve environmental conditions, prevent or clean up health-threatening pollution in hundreds of communities and strengthen policies locally and nationally.

Clean Water Fund's programs build on and complement those of Clean Water Action, a 1.2 million member national organization which has helped develop, pass, strengthen and defend the nation's major water and toxics laws such as the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Superfund and others, including their state-level counterparts.

Clean Water Fund is a national nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. As a research and education organization, Clean Water Fund promotes the public interest on issues relating to water, energy, toxics and environmental health. Clean Water Fund's research, technical assistance, training, outreach and educational programs increase understanding of environmental issues and promote environmentally sound policies.

## Board of Directors

Clean Water Fund is governed by a dedicated volunteer Board of Directors who are elected to three-year terms of service. Clean Water Fund's professional staff members serve as corporate officers and assist the Board of Directors as needed.

### Board of Directors

William Fontenot Baton Rouge, LA	David Hahn-Baker Buffalo, NY	Polly Hoppin Jamaica Plain, MA
Peter Lockwood Washington, DC	Kate Reid Koeze Grand Rapids, MI	Yvette Martinez Los Angeles, CA

### Corporate Officers

President Peter Lockwood	Executive Vice President John DeCock
Secretary Dianne Akabli	Assistant Secretary Kathleen E. Aterno



## Field Offices

Based in Washington, D.C., Clean Water Fund operates locally-staffed environmental programs serving communities in more than 25 states. Through regional programs with 22 offices in 13 states and the District of Columbia, Clean Water Fund supports community-based groups with scientific and technical assistance and training. Clean Water Fund helps local volunteers and their organizations become effective advocates for their concerns and join with others to promote environmental solutions at statewide, regional and national levels. Through Clean Water Fund's regional and national programs, the organization addresses environmental problems and works with local groups in many additional states beyond those with Clean Water Fund offices.

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# Protecting America's Waters

Clean Water Fund's highest priority has been to defend clean and safe water protections at every level. In particular, a series of harmful administrative actions and federal court decisions threaten the nation's rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, and coastal areas, including critical sources of drinking water for more than half of the U.S. population. Restoring those protections and restoring the nation's historic commitment to cleaning up and protecting this country's water resources is at the top of Clean Water Fund's program agenda.

At the same time, Clean Water Fund has continued to serve local communities, environmental and conservation groups, policy makers and the public, as the "go-to" organization on "all things water." Clean Water Fund is a national leader in developing a bold new vision regarding water use, water management and water protection. Clean Water Fund is transitioning that vision from a largely conceptual discussion into a framework for action over the next decade and beyond.

Clean Water Fund helped to expose and oppose a series of federal administrative actions and polluter-friendly court decisions, which would exclude more than half the nation's waters and wetlands from the protections they have historically received under the 1972 Clean Water Act. Clean Water Fund has diligently led efforts to restore the nation's commitment to clean and safe water by reversing these disastrous policies.

Clean Water Fund works directly with affected states and communities to improve protection and conservation of critical waterways and drinking water

sources, at the local and regional levels. Clean Water Fund is:

- » Leading efforts to protect and restore major water bodies including the Great Lakes, the Chesapeake Bay and the Everglades.
- » Bringing Latino residents of California's Central Valley together to combat pollution of their drinking water and promote more sustainable water use.
- » Exposing the dangers to water of fossil-fuel based energy production, from destructive mining practices to mercury-spewing power plants, from New England and Florida to the Great Plains, the Upper Midwest, Texas and the Rockies, and promoting less harmful energy alternatives.

## Improving drinking water protection and treatment

Public water systems, which supply most Americans with drinking water, are an endangered and under-valued resource. Clean Water Fund remains one of the only national organizations with active programs and in-depth policy expertise on drinking water.

The past few years have seen improved safe drinking water policies that were first proposed by Clean Water Fund and allies more than a decade ago. In particular, programs guaranteeing most water consumers the Right-to-Know about contaminants in their tap water and supporting the first attempts at planning comprehensive protection for drinking water sources have revolutionized the field.

Clean Water Fund has also been actively promoting action to protect drinking

water against new and emerging contaminants that are either unregulated or under-regulated. Examples include perchlorate, biological pathogens such as Coliform bacteria, and longstanding contamination problems associated with lead in water systems. Emerging issues of concern where Clean Water Fund is increasingly engaged include underground injection of sewage wastes, underground injection of Carbon Dioxide as a potential global warming strategy, and spiraling costs of providing safe water for consumers who rely on smaller and rural drinking water systems. In many communities, particularly in New England and the Midwest, Clean Water Fund has helped protect local water sources from large-scale "water mining" projects that would bottle public water supplies for private profit.

## A new vision for water use and management in the 21st Century

Clean Water Fund is working with community volunteers, economic development, systems design and public health experts to define, demonstrate and promote a new vision for managing communities' water that promises significant advantages over traditional centralized "big pipe" systems and infrastructure.

The large-scale systems for supplying water and treating wastewater and storm water have dramatically improved public health and formerly polluted waterways over the past century or more. But these older technologies have become increasingly unsustainable, and current trends in population growth, development and projected impacts of climate change exacerbate these systems' inherent flaws. They use and waste too much energy and too much water. They are causing



long-term ecosystem disruption and “dewatering,” even in relatively water-rich regions such as the Northeast.

The solution lies in softer-path, more appropriately scaled technologies that follow an ecological systems approach. Such systems:

- » Involve community members in water, energy and development planning decisions,
- » Make communities more livable by delivering higher returns in water quality, human and ecological health protections than conventional systems.
- » Use, treat, store and reuse water much more efficiently, so that even when applied on a smaller scale, the positive impacts are far from small.

Lower impact development techniques and green infrastructure are designed to restore natural infiltration and evaporation cycles, which will reduce flooding, sewer overflows, and the severity

of droughts. They can also contribute significantly to green business development and job creation. But the maximum benefit comes from the way they integrate water resource considerations into all aspects of planning, building and running communities and the businesses they support.

Clean Water Fund has been central to the diverse collaboration developing this approach and has led the effort to bring this concept before members of Congress, federal and state agencies, utility engineers, managers and investors. There are significant institutional barriers to fundamental changes of this magnitude, but the nature of the solutions makes it possible for even incremental improvements to bring significant near-term benefits, while momentum builds for those larger changes. Clean Water Fund is a national leader in helping to steward these concepts from vision to reality.

## Global Warming and a New Energy Economy

Clean Water Fund has long recognized the need for energy policies that protect water resources, and has operated programs in this area for most of its existence. These concerns are given greater weight in the context of today's global warming debates and momentum that is building for a transition to a clean energy economy.

Global warming has a tremendous impact on water resources, and this concern can be a powerful motivator for curbing global warming and for putting in place smart adaptation strategies. Similarly, the transition to a clean energy economy involves choices that directly affect water quality and quantity. Clean Water Fund's experience at the state, regional and federal levels working on related issues makes it a central player in the energy and global warming debates now underway, including:

- » power plant pollution,
- » greenhouse gas reduction policies,
- » transportation, vehicle fuel efficiency, and sustainable development policy,
- » energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

In addition, Clean Water Fund has played a leading role in some of the most active and effective state, regional and national coalitions on these issues, including:

- » New England Climate Coalition and Zero Mercury Campaign,
- » REAMP Coalition in the Upper Midwest,
- » Coalitions organizing consumer-owned electric cooperatives in Texas to adopt more sustainable energy practices,
- » Projects to educate residential and institutional consumers on reducing energy demand (through conservation and efficiency) and promoting sustainable energy production (through "green" electricity purchases).
- » Coalitions in New England and the Upper Midwest promoting diesel pollution reduction measures at the local and state levels,
- » the national Clear the Air campaign.

Clean Water Fund is now helping to implement state and regional energy and climate policies, which have advanced as a result of our efforts. For example, in Connecticut and other states participating in the nation's first regional "cap and trade" program (the Northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), Clean Water Fund's involvement is central to the success of the states' Climate Action Plans.

Clean Water Fund continues to bring water issues and concerns to bear in energy policy debates around the country. Clean Water Fund has successfully stopped unnecessary new coal power plant development projects in Michigan, South Dakota and Texas. Clean Water Fund is also helping community groups in Florida, Minnesota and New Jersey oppose similar projects being proposed for development and expansion of nuclear power plants and encourage renewable energy alternatives.



## Healthy, Safer Families and Communities

Preventing pollution at its source – before it can harm people’s health or cause environmental damage – is a central aim for all of Clean Water Fund’s programs. Some of the most significant progress has come as a direct result of the leadership role played by Clean Water Fund in the area of toxic and hazardous chemicals. The almost epidemic incidence of certain diseases and other health problems, including cancers, learning and developmental disabilities, asthma and other chronic illnesses, is increasingly linked to toxic chemical exposure. Many of the most vulnerable people – infants, small children and adolescents, pregnant women, residents of minority communities – are disproportionately affected by toxic exposures.

The current regulatory system is inadequate to the task of protecting public health, because it typically fails to take action until environmental and health harm has been well documented. Meanwhile, the toxic chemicals causing the harm are in widespread use, and many of these substances are persistent and can build up in the environment and in our bodies over time. Clean Water Fund is defining and promoting a new approach, which re-orientes policy towards preventing harm, by educating and involving the public in decisions about which chemicals will be allowed into the marketplace, and by banning or phasing out those harmful substances for which safer alternatives exist.

Clean Water Fund’s Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow is a national model for bringing concerned citizens, local volunteers, public health professionals, parents and teachers, faith communities, environmental justice groups, labor

organizations, academic researchers and scientists, businesses and others together with environmentalists to advance such reforms. Already, this diverse coalition has re-shaped the debate in Massachusetts, strengthened policies to protect health and the environment, and led the way for similarly diverse efforts in additional states.

In New England, California and the Upper Midwest, collaborative efforts like this have led the way in phasing out the use of toxic mercury in consumer products. They have also helped to shine the spotlight on dangers of the now-controversial plastic hardener, Bisphenol A (BPA), which has been found in water bottles, children’s toys and other consumer products, and is now banned in the European Union and in Canada, while momentum is building for bans in several states.

Clean Water Fund also plays a leadership role in state and national chemical policy, toxic and environmental health reform coalitions including:

- » Californians for a Healthy & Green Economy (CHANGE)
- » Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut
- » Healthy Legacy (Minnesota)
- » Michigan Network for Children’s Environmental Health
- » SAFER, a network of state-based chemical policy reform coalitions, and Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

Clean Water Fund brings its experience and expertise from these ongoing efforts to new outreach focused on opportunities for advancing solutions at the federal level.



## Making Democracy Work

Clean Water Fund has a longstanding commitment to involving people in decisions affecting their lives, their families, their communities, their health and their environment.

*Polls repeatedly show that people want clean air, clean water and healthy communities.*

People's environmental concerns are often not matched by their actions as citizens and voters. Many Americans are simply unaware of pervasive assaults on their health and welfare. They lack information on the roles they and their representatives may play in causing – or solving – these problems.

Fixing these disconnects, making progress on the most pressing environmental challenges in a polarized political climate, creating meaningful long-term change and advancing Clean Water Fund's mission all come down to this: Making Democracy Work.

All of Clean Water Fund's programs rely on nonpartisan research, training, education, organizing and publicizing to engage people and their communities, and to help environmentally concerned people to become fuller participants in democratic decision-making at every level. Clean Water Fund does this by:

- » Increasing the skills, organization and effectiveness of community leaders, volunteers and organizations with environmental concerns.
- » Building alliances between diverse constituencies.
- » Reaching beyond the staff and members of environmental/conservation groups to involve a broader public.

In New Jersey, Clean Water Fund has launched a leadership initiative project called the Urban Environmental Institute in Newark, with the goal of creating the next generation of environmental advocates. The training provides participants with knowledge of environmental and related public health problems as well as potential solutions, and skills in media communications, community outreach, grassroots organizing and engaging in public decision-making arenas.

Clean Water Fund builds consensus between people and organizations of all types with a shared stake in a clean environment.

Each year, Clean Water Fund educates and engages people one-on-one, person-to-person and communicates timely information about environmental issues and about needs and opportunities for getting involved.



## Financial Statements 2007-2008

### Statements of Activities for the years ended September 30, 2007 and 2008\*

	FY2007	FY2008
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Contributions	\$913,579	\$1,335,357
Grants	\$4,040,557	\$4,486,381
Interest	\$65,149	\$55,728
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,019,285</b>	<b>\$5,877,466</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Program Services	\$4,189,954	\$4,533,195
Fundraising	\$388,872	\$495,102
General & Administrative	\$727,523	\$661,608
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,306,349</b>	<b>\$5,689,905</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(\$287,064)</b>	<b>\$187,561</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$2,492,701</b>	<b>\$2,205,637</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$2,205,637</b>	<b>\$2,393,198</b>

\*The above information is excerpted from Clean Water Fund's audited financial statements. Copies of the complete statements (as well as copies of Clean Water Fund's Annual IRS Form 990 filings) are available on request by contacting Clean Water Fund's National Office in Washington, DC or any of our local offices.

# Acknowledgements

## Thank You for Your Support

Clean Water Fund's programs are made possible through your generous support.

We appreciate the generous, ongoing support of so many individual contributors. By sponsoring and attending Clean Water Fund events, responding to our personal appeals, and giving through workplace campaigns, you are contributing to the health and vitality of our unique community-oriented environmental programs.

Clean Water Fund gratefully acknowledges the support received from charitable foundations in the form of gifts and grants, both for general purposes and for the support of specific projects. Clean Water Fund also accepts contributions from businesses and receives grants from government sources.

Many thanks to the photographers who generously donated the use of their pictures in this report: Luis Argerich, Christian Hatchett, Vos Efx, Jennifer Boyer, Barb Howe, Barack Obama, Tree and J. Hensdill; via Flickr Creative Commons.

## Support Clean Water Fund at Work

Clean Water Fund is a proud member of EarthShare, a federation that represents the nation's most respected environmental and conservation charities in hundreds of workplace giving campaigns across the country. EarthShare's payroll contribution program allows donors to direct their contribution to Clean Water Fund; to any combination of EarthShare's members; or to all of them through one general gift to EarthShare. Contact us to find out more about how you and your workplace can support Clean Water Fund through an EarthShare.

## The Promise of Clean Water: Now and for the Future

The task of assuring abundant, clean, safe and affordable water begins with sound planning. When you make Clean Water Fund part of your estate plans, you are helping to protect and promote clean water for generations to come.

Now is the perfect time to leave a Clean Water Legacy by making Clean Water Fund part of your own long-term plans. It can be as easy as remembering Clean Water Fund in your will or naming Clean Water Fund as a beneficiary of your living trust, life insurance or qualified retirement plan.

If you are interested in supporting Clean Water Fund, please visit our web site at [www.cleanwaterfund.org](http://www.cleanwaterfund.org) or contact us directly at:

### Clean Water Fund

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