



2023 IMPACT REPORT

UNITY IN DIVERSITY



Movement-wide, we have more than **1,000** staff and **1 million** volunteers and supporters.

311 Waterkeeper groups in **47** countries patrol and protect **2.7 million** square miles of watersheds on six continents.



Waterkeeper Alliance is a top-ranked 501(c)(3) charity, with Top-Rated status from Charity Watch, 4 Stars from Charity Navigator*, and Platinum Status from Candid, formerly known as Guidestar.

Waterkeeper Alliance meets the 20 Standards for Charity Accountability with the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance.

*Rating for fiscal year 2023.



WATERKEEPER MOVEMENT,

I am proud to present the Waterkeeper Alliance 2023 Impact Report.

Over the course of the last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in the United States. We collected and published the myriad CWA victories our Waterkeeper groups have notched over the years and provided the public with a resource on the law’s history, intention, and future. However, what I am most proud of is the fact that we didn’t rest on our laurels. Instead, we got back in the field, in our boots, and in the water, testing over a hundred watersheds across the country for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination. Our resulting first-of-its-kind report on PFAS contamination of U.S. surface waters is a scary example of how much danger our waters face, and serves as a reminder of the importance of our work.

This year we also conducted our first in-person regional summits in quite some time. Waterkeeper groups enthusiastically reunited in Thailand, Michigan, Guatemala, Massachusetts, Idaho, Alabama, and Sweden. Together, they discussed emerging threats and best practices. They learned from the best on-the-ground experts in the world: each other.

Waterkeepers were making impact in communities across the globe. They were in attendance at the 2022 United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP27) and at the United Nations Water Conference. They were in court taking on industrial polluters and negligent governments. They were in chambers of government, planning meetings, and other venues, advocating for better regulatory protections. They were in classrooms teaching the next generation about this work. Each one of them, all over the world, worked tirelessly throughout the year for clean water.

As we review highlights from our last fiscal year and embark on a new one, we want to thank you for your determination to protect our waterways and increase the impact of our global water movement. We are grateful for your support as we continue to advance our shared mission of protecting everyone’s right to clean water. This work is more important than ever, and we could not do it without you.

To clean water,


Marc Yaggi
Chief Executive Officer



MONITORING THE WATER

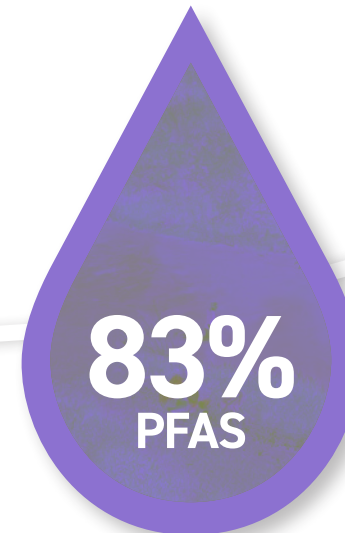
Pollution from manufacturing, industry, mining, energy production, human waste and industrial meat production is destroying the water we need to live. Waterkeeper groups are uniquely positioned to provide the highest-quality data collection and monitoring to inform, engage, and equip communities to protect themselves and their waterways from harmful pollution.



MONITORING THE WATER

PFAS REPORT

Timed with the 50th anniversary of the CWA in October 2022, we released a first-of-its-kind report on PFAS contamination of U.S. surface waters. This report greatly raised the general public's awareness on the dangers of these invisible, unbreakable, and unnatural contaminants, while providing opportunities to pressure Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to act. It was a huge accomplishment for our movement.



83% of U.S. surface waters were found to contain at least one type of these dangerous "forever chemicals" that are widely linked to serious public health and environmental impacts.

A total of 113 local Waterkeepers collected samples from 114 waterways across 34 states and the District of Columbia. Independent analysis indicated a shocking level of contamination, with 94 participating Waterkeeper groups confirming the presence of PFAS in their waterways. Waterways in 29 states and D.C. were found to be contaminated by at least one, but most frequently, many revealed the presence of up to 35 different PFAS compounds.



TRUE ELEMENTS PARTNERSHIP

We announced a partnership with True Elements, a pioneer in water intelligence, to build water quality transparency, data collection, management, and insights that support the public as well as community, regional, and state watershed stakeholders in driving collective action to protect shared water resources. The partnership has the potential to provide Waterkeeper groups access to True Elements' advanced scientific and artificial intelligence capabilities that aggregate, normalize, index, analyze, and forecast water quality data. We will initially collaborate on use cases in the U.S. and learn from those results to expand support to Waterkeeper groups across the globe.

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER

Regional summits, held in key locations across the movement, foster collaboration, skill-sharing, resource sharing, networking, and strategic discussions amongst Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates that have geographic and cultural commonalities while facing similar threats and opportunities in their watersheds. FY22 programming provided training on water quality monitoring, leveraging our partnership with Esri, and advancing our shared commitment to justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI).

CHESAPEAKE REGIONAL SUMMIT

October 23-25, 2022 | Waynesboro, PA

SESSION HIGHLIGHT: Chesapeake Bay TMDL: 2025 and Beyond

Dr. Kandis Boyd, Director of Chesapeake Bay Program, gave an overview of the implications of not meeting the 2025 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) goals, practical ways to accelerate progress, and the 2021-2022 Bay Barometer: An Annual Report on the State of the Program and the Health of the Bay.

ASIA REGIONAL SUMMIT

January 20 – 25, 2023 | Bangkok, Thailand

"[The Asia] Regional Summit is very effective to launch regional movements/ efforts that are crucial to save large River Systems, the very first issue to be addressed in terms of saving any particular river/waterbody."

Sharif Jamil, Buriganga Riverkeeper

GULF AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SUMMIT

April 25 – 28, 2023 | Birmingham, AL

"The regional summit meeting 2023 can be best described as a[n] efficient use of time to institute team building and necessary resources to be a better Waterkeeper, a better team player and emphasized the collective growth and acknowledgement of the hardships we face going forward in 2023.

It has been years since I have felt that welcome and encouragement in a movement. I fly back to Florida more energized and knowledgeable to compliment my community and ecosystem because of my Waterkeeper family."

Codty Pierce, Calusa Waterkeeper

PACIFIC REGIONAL SUMMIT

April 3 – 6, 2023 | Boise, ID

SESSION HIGHLIGHT: Water Quality Monitoring Two Part Series: Community Science & Communicating and Applying Science as a Waterkeeper

Yuba River Waterkeeper shared their expertise and experience on how to engage with volunteers and ensure volunteer collected data is high quality and consistent for advocacy, focused restoration, and research. The session also examined study design and modification including how to think about site selection and how to re-evaluate based on climate and adaptability.

LATIN AMERICA REGIONAL SUMMIT

April 26 – 30, 2023 | Panajachel, Guatemala

"En general, creo que fue un gran reencuentro y siempre se genera una suerte de recarga y dirección que sirve tanto a nuestra región y alianza, como así también, en el alineamiento de los objetivos y proyectos individuales. Muy agradecido de nuestros representantes regionales, Margarita y Patricio, del staff de la Alianza [Waterkeeper] y de quienes lo hicieron zsev agradece, siempre."

[English Translation] "In general, I think it was a great reunion and a kind of recharge and direction is always generated that serves both our region and alliance, as well as the alignment of individual objectives and projects. Very grateful to our regional representatives, Margarita and Patricio, the [Waterkeeper] Alliance staff and those who made it possible. It is, without a doubt, a space of permanent growth and brotherhood. That is always appreciated."

Rodrigo de la O-Maule, Itata Coastkeeper

NORTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL SUMMIT

May 9 – 12, 2023 | Hyannis, MA

SESSION HIGHLIGHT: Aerosolized Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Toxin Sampling

Waterkeeper groups heard about the work of Nantucket Waterkeeper and its parent organization Nantucket Land Council to monitor and capture aerosolized toxins from HABs, the groups' partnerships with off-island labs, and their plans to share these processes with other Waterkeeper groups. Although Aerosol Sampling Devices are still in their early design phases, Nantucket Waterkeeper/Nantucket Land Council hopes to help streamline the sampling process and design a more affordable, reliable, and user-friendly sampler for others to collect aerosol data in their watersheds.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT

June 5 – 9, 2023 | Kangos, Sweden

SESSION HIGHLIGHT: Salmon & Fisheries

Salmon and other native aquatic species are used as indicator species to help assess the health of a waterway, but many native fish species are struggling for survival. In this session, Waterkeepers examined the life history and cycles with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and European Anglers Alliance, with a special focus on the challenges of the Baltic salmon and what is being done to help protect their aquatic habitat.

GREAT LAKES REGIONAL SUMMIT

June 5-8, 2023 | Detroit, MI

SESSION HIGHLIGHT: Persistent Contaminants of Emerging Concern, including PFAS, in Water, Sediment, and Fish in a Great Lakes Urban-Dominant Watershed

This session provided an overview of a five-year study of the Lake Huron to Lake Erie corridor and tributaries by the University of Florida and Wayne State University. The goal was to understand the human and ecological health consequences of environmentally-relevant exposures to PFAS and other contaminants. Surface water, sediment, fish muscle, and serum were analyzed for more than 150 pharmaceutical and personal care products, pesticides, and PFAS to evaluate a non-lethal sampling method and potential human-health implications. The results will inform follow-up studies for laboratory zebrafish as well as human and ecosystem health, water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, remediation and restoration efforts, natural resource management, public education, and community revitalization.

Waterkeeper Alliance advocates for evidence-based climate policy, financial reform, and attainable solutions that protect our water resources.

MEETING THE MOMENT



The climate crisis, fueled by dirty energy, is a global crisis that profoundly impacts water quality, quantity, and security in every part of the world. We rebranded our Clean and Safe Energy campaign to Climate and Safe Energy to reflect an expanded commitment to advocate for evidence-based climate policy, financial reform, and attainable solutions that protect our water resources while building resilience and adaptation, advancing environmental justice for vulnerable communities, and transitioning from dirty fossil fuels to a no-carbon future.

COP27: DELIVERING FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET



We sent a contingent to COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt where we called on governments to avoid including new large hydropower projects in their Nationally Determined Contributions and financiers to avoid funding projects due to the climate and human rights risks associated with hydropower. Dams and hydropower schemes create major loss and damage, including producing significant amounts of methane, biodiversity loss, and community displacement. In a warming world, droughts and flooding make hydropower an unreliable energy choice and an increasing danger to downstream communities. An urgent shift away from false solutions that harm people and ecosystems is essential. *Image source: UNFCCC*

LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT



As change accelerators, our movement proactively engages with the UN, UN-Water, rights-holders, and other stakeholders to strengthen international agreements; share valuable grassroots expertise and scientific knowledge; inform governments of community needs and impacts; and to identify “on the ground” realities of policy decisions. In March, we sent an international delegation to the United Nations in New York City for its first water conference since 1977. Hann Baykeeper (Senegal) Mbacke Seck, Waterkeepers Bahamas Rashema Ingraham, Bocas de Ceniza

Waterkeeper (Colombia) Liliana Guerrero Ramirez, Jordan River Waterkeeper (Israel) Gidon Bromberg, and Hugh Carola of Hackensack Riverkeeper (New Jersey, U.S.) were all on site for this historic conference.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CASE WON



Waterkeeper Alliance and other conservation groups reached a settlement with the Bureau of Land Management that will prevent new oil and gas drilling on 58,000 acres of public lands in Montana and the Dakotas pending a new analysis of its potential harm to groundwater and the climate. We will never meet our climate goals unless we immediately transition to clean and renewable energy and stop extracting fossil fuels from our public lands.

GROSS DAM VICTORY



We partnered with Save the Colorado and other conservation groups to successfully petition the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit to overturn a dismissal of our challenge to a CWA permit that is required for the expansion of the Moffat Collection System and Gross Dam in Colorado. The lawsuit alleged that a “dredge and fill” permit issued for the project by the Army Corps of Engineers was unlawful on several grounds, including violations of the CWA, Endangered Species Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.

BAHAMAS PROCLAMATION



The Bahamas Prime Minister Hon. Philip Davis declared June 8 – June 14, 2023 as “National Ocean Protection Week” in recognition of World Oceans Day and in celebration of The Bahamas 50th anniversary. The proclamation recognized the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF), Waterkeepers Bahamas, Waterkeeper Alliance, and other partners for our respective and collective efforts to protect our oceans, empower Bahamians as environmental stewards, and advocate for strong environmental and climate related policies as well as the restoration of vulnerable coral reefs.

Even as clean energy alternatives are on the horizon, Big Oil is trying to squeeze every drop of oil out of our planet by shifting to plastics for their profit. We’re working with our partners to combat the global epidemic of plastic pollution and the current systems that feed into the crisis.

SETTING LIMITS ON HARMFUL CHEMICALS

In April 2023, we filed a federal lawsuit with a coalition of environmental groups against EPA for failing to set limits on harmful chemicals like cyanide, benzene, mercury, and chlorides in the billions of gallons of wastewater pouring out of U.S. oil refineries, chemical plants, and factories that manufacture fertilizer, plastics, pesticides, and nonferrous metals. The lawsuit challenges EPA’s January 2023 decision not to update outdated and weak water pollution control technology standards for seven key industrial sectors: petroleum refineries, inorganic and organic chemical manufacturers, and factories that manufacture plastics, fertilizer, pesticide, and nonferrous metals.

PROTECTING AGAINST THE PERILS OF PLASTIC

In 2019, we launched the Solutions to Plastic Pollution Webinar Series to help educate Waterkeeper groups, members, supporters, and the general public about the dangers of, and the strategies for, combating the global plastic pollution epidemic. Created in partnership with the Captain Planet Foundation, Environment America, LCV, One more Generation, PIRG, Plastics Pollution Coalition, Recycle Across America, and Surfrider Foundation, the series wrapped in 2023 but remains an evergreen resource that covers a wide range of plastics-related topics.



FEATURED WEBINAR

Monitoring and Advocacy to Protect Waterways from Plastic Pollution

- ▶ Achieving a Global Plastics Treaty to Reduce Plastic Pollution
- ▶ Beyond Bag Bans: Opportunities for Advocacy to Reduce Plastic Pollution
- ▶ Beyond Plastics Grassroots Organizing Training Series
- ▶ The Business of Rethinking Plastic: Serving Food and Beverages Without Plastic
- ▶ Charting a Plastic Path Around the World
- ▶ Fact Check on Plastic Industry’s Chemical Recycling Claims
- ▶ Fighting Plastic Pollution in 2022
- ▶ Freshwater & Plastics: A Community Training and Strategy Session
- ▶ The Future is Durable: The Plastic Pollution Problem & Messaging Solutions for a Sustainable World
- ▶ Global Plastics Treaty: Update on International Negotiations
- ▶ How to Develop Effective Foodware Policy & Programs Focused on Reusables
- ▶ How to Fix Recycling: The Impact
- ▶ Microplastic Pollution: New Research & Impacts on Communities
- ▶ Plastic and Climate Change Collide: Youth Movement Responds
- ▶ Presenting the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act
- ▶ Solutions to Plastic Pollution: Protecting and Advancing Local Bans
- ▶ Solutions to Plastic Pollution: Advancing Solutions Statewide
- ▶ States are Breaking Up with Plastic
- ▶ Storytelling for Building Power
- ▶ Trash Talk: Students Breaking Free from Plastics
- ▶ Trash Talk: Two Truths and a Lie About Plastic

We are committed to using the power of our proven model to remedy environmental injustices and inequities by amplifying the voices of communities lacking political clout and fair representation.

JEDI STATEMENT

Waterkeeper Alliance is a global movement of community-based advocates united for clean and abundant water for all people and the planet.

The Alliance mobilizes citizen science*, legal advocacy, and local action to create global impact and collectively advance a shared mission to protect everyone's right to clean water.

Spanning across six continents, our global movement continuously strives to be an accurate reflection of the communities and waters we collectively work to protect with an array of perspectives, languages, cultures, religions, lived experiences, and legal and political frameworks.

We are committed to using the power of our proven model to remedy environmental injustices and inequities by amplifying the voices of communities lacking political clout and fair representation. This commitment is guided by the following objectives:



1

We will identify and dismantle systems of oppression and privilege to remove barriers and disadvantages throughout Waterkeeper Alliance and the global movement.

2

We will ensure that everyone throughout the Waterkeeper movement is provided equal opportunities to engage, contribute, and thrive.

3

We will recognize, acknowledge, and understand the benefits of diversity throughout the Waterkeeper movement by seeking authentic, respectful partnerships with diverse people, communities, and organizations to meaningfully address the expressed needs and desires of impacted people and communities in all aspects of our work.

4

We will orient the work of Waterkeeper Alliance to celebrate, prioritize, and amplify the voices, values, and needs of the diverse communities we represent, with particular attention to elevating opportunity, access, and support for marginalized groups.

* Citizen science is the practice of public participation and collaboration in scientific research to increase scientific knowledge. Through citizen science, people share and contribute to data monitoring and collection programs. In this context, Waterkeeper Alliance uses the term "citizen" to mean a global citizen of the world versus a national citizen of a country.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE REFORM

In 2021, EPA reported that 74% of slaughterhouses and rendering facilities that discharge pollution directly into rivers and streams are within one mile of under-resourced, low-income, and communities of color. In a major victory for clean water and these impacted communities, EPA announced its intent to publish updated water pollution control standards for slaughterhouses and animal rendering facilities by August 2025. This followed a lawsuit filed by Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project on behalf of Waterkeeper Alliance, Cape Fear River Watch, Rural Empowerment Association for Community Help, Waterkeepers Chesapeake, Animal Legal Defense Fund, Center for Biological Diversity, Environment America, Food & Water Watch, and The Humane Society of the United States. Slaughterhouses have been allowed to discharge pollutants directly into our nation's waterways for far too long. It's a welcome sign to see EPA start addressing this serious problem by adopting more protective water pollution standards.



BOOTS ON THE GROUND, BOATS IN THE WATER

We launched our inaugural Clean Water Advocacy Boot Camp with undergraduate students from Catawba College in North Carolina. The pilot program was developed as part of our Pure Farms Pure Waters campaign, which calls attention to the destructive pollution practices of industrialized meat production, ensures compliance with environmental laws, and advances environmental justice for impacted communities.

Waterkeeper Alliance staff led the students through an experiential learning intensive that students said, "opened their eyes and changed their lives." Time was spent in the classroom learning from and engaging with experts in fields such as science advocacy, environmental law, state and local politics, environmental advocacy filmmaking and photography, and community organizing to speak on industrial hog farming in eastern North Carolina and environmental advocacy more broadly. Going forward, we are working with Catawba College to continue this collaboration to engage additional students as clean water advocates and are exploring the potential of expanding this model into more communities within the Waterkeeper movement.



FLYING OVER CAFO COUNTRY

With the help of South Wings, and accompanied by a half dozen other local representatives, we flew over Duplin County in North Carolina for a bird's eye view of the crisis caused by under regulated concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Cape Fear Riverkeeper (North Carolina, U.S.) Kemp Burdette, Larry Baldwin, and Rick Dove took to the air while Lumber Riverkeeper (North Carolina, U.S.) Jeff Currie provided on-the-ground support. Also in attendance were representatives from Southern Environmental Law Center, Duke Environmental Law and Policy Center, North Carolina Conservation Network, Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, and others. This unique aerial opportunity provided a sobering view of how large these facilities are, as well as how recklessly close they are to water bodies, schools, and vulnerable, frontline communities.



DIVE INTO DEMOCRACY

Our supporters joined us in pressing for the strongest possible environmental regulations in order to protect our waterways and the communities that depend on them. In FY22, over 32,000 participants took over 55,000 actions.

OUR IMPACT

70 letters, **48** formal comments, **2** legal petitions, **1** new administrative appeal, **1** new lawsuit, and **13** successes

4 laws/policies defended, **3** new laws/policies enacted

14 non-U.S. advocacy actions

125 partner organizations meaningfully engaged

55,000+ actions taken by supporters

We urged our supporters to leave comments with EPA to fully restore Section 401 of the CWA in order to ensure states and Tribes have their say in what kind of fossil fuel projects get built in their communities and watersheds.

We petitioned EPA to adopt national numeric nutrient limits to help stem the destructive tide of toxic algal blooms, dead zones, and other dangerous conditions for drinking water and recreation that destroy wildlife, cause billions of dollars in economic losses, and pose a real threat to people's health and wellbeing.

We rang the alarm on Senator Joe Manchin's 'dirty deal' that would have rubber stamped fossil fuel projects, while silencing the voices of the communities facing the compounding threats of pollution and climate change. Thanks to the supportive actions of our supporters, this blatant giveaway to the oil and gas industry did not pass!

We highlighted the harm from PFAS and urged our supporters to tell EPA to set commonsense discharge limits and stop contamination at the source.

We encouraged our supporters to leave comments urging EPA to use the CWA to regulate CAFOs as a way to limit untreated waste discharges into waterways and protect the countless frontline communities near these factory farm facilities.

We urged our supporters to leave comments with EPA demanding the strongest possible methane regulations, as a quick and cost effective way to slow the rate of climate change and protect our irreplaceable waterways.

We directed concerned readers to urge EPA to reestablish CAFOs as a National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative in order to better protect people and the environment from this serious nationwide pollution problem.

On the heels of the tragic East Palestine train derailment disaster, we encouraged our supporters to contact their members of Congress to support swift passage of the bipartisan Railway Safety Act.

We rallied support for urging EPA to expand drinking water protections against PFAS contamination by regulating six unique compounds.

Together with our supporters, we urged EPA to adopt the strongest possible controls on toxic water pollution from coal-fired power plants and require full compliance with the standards within just three years.

We directed our comments to President Biden and insisted he seek out a clean debt ceiling bill that both honors America's debts and leaves the country's environmental and public health protections intact. Later on in May, we urged the Senate to do the same.

We left comments with EPA urging them to protect American air, water, and communities from mercury and other toxic power plant pollutants by finalizing the strongest possible Mercury and Toxic Air Standards.

We urged our supporters to leave a comment with the U.S. Department of Transportation to swiftly finalize the strongest possible pipeline leak prevention, detection, and repair rule.

BRINGING JUSTICE

Puget Soundkeeper (Washington) settled a lawsuit for \$2.5 million with the Port of Everett for discharging water that tested beyond pollution benchmarks.

Snake River Waterkeeper (Idaho) settled a lawsuit against Idaho Power Company, which will see over \$500k devoted to Nez Perce Tribe river restoration projects.

Columbia Riverkeeper (Oregon) secured a \$2 million settlement over the Port of Longview's CWA permit violations.

Waterkeepers Chesapeake (District of Columbia) successfully convinced the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals to invalidate the Conowingo Dam's 50-year Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license.

Spokane Riverkeeper (Washington) resolved a CWA lawsuit against CHS Inc. Primeland in Rockford WA, for excessive stormwater pollution released from the facility.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (California) had their case reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, who refused to hear a challenge to a court-ordered prohibition on offshore fracking in federal waters off the California coast.

Hudson Riverkeeper (New York) filed a lawsuit against recycling company All About Recycling, Inc. for continuous stormwater discharge violations in excess of the CWA.

ShoreRivers — home of Choptank Riverkeeper (Maryland) and other Maryland-based Waterkeepers — reached a settlement with Valley Proteins over pollution violations from their Linkwood poultry rendering plant.

Bayou City Waterkeeper (Texas) filed a lawsuit challenging the White House decision to open 73.3 million acres of the Gulf Of Mexico to oil leasing.

San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper (Texas) brought suit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and temporarily suspended a dredging project.

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper (Louisiana) notched another victory in their long fight to protect the Lost Lake ecosystem when a permit application to build a dam across a waterway connecting Lost Lake to the rest of the Basin was withdrawn by the Army Corps of Engineering.

Mobile Baykeeper (Alabama) sent Alabama Power a Notice of Intent to Sue in response to the company's plans to permanently leave more than 21 million tons of coal ash in unlined storage at Plant Barry on the banks of the Mobile River.

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper (Pennsylvania) reached a settlement with Keystone Protein Company over CWA pollution permit violations that will fund restoration and remediation of affected waters.

Inland Empire Waterkeeper (California) and Orange County Coastkeeper (California) received a substantial legal victory against Corona Clay Company over repeated violations of the CWA.

Upper Missouri Waterkeeper (Montana) successfully challenged the Department of Environmental Quality's renewal of a wastewater pollution permit for the Lazy J South subdivision in Big Sky.

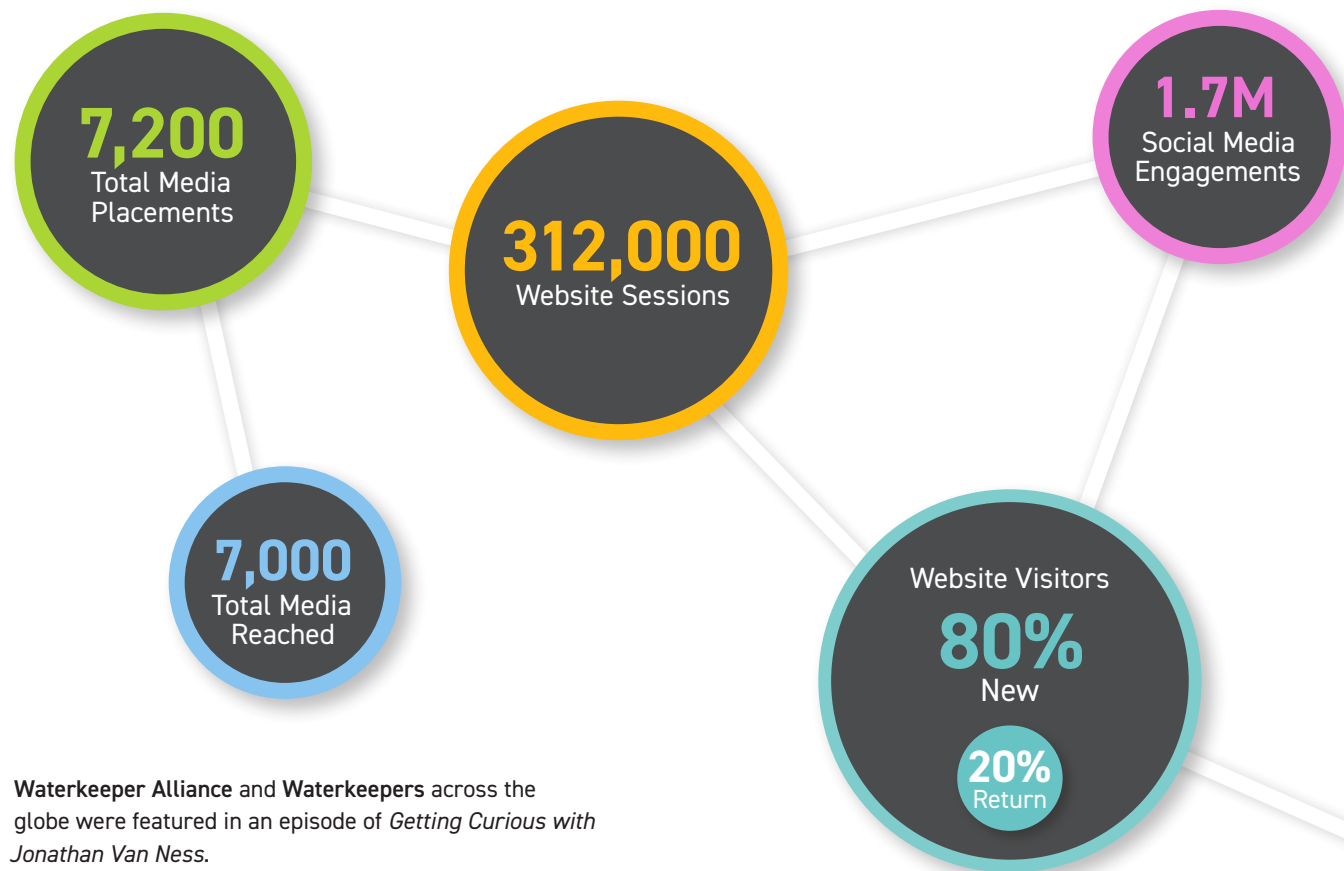
Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper (Missouri) sent notices of intent to sue two utilities in Missouri for CWA violations at wastewater treatment facilities.

Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper (Maryland) filed suit against Fleischmann's Vinegar for violating Clean Water Laws.

Black Warrior Riverkeeper and Tennessee Riverkeeper (Alabama) are suing the Environmental Protection Agency for not updating rules on industries in several decades.

West Virginia Headwaters Waterkeeper (West Virginia) Angie Rosier was part of a successful ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit that found the Mountain Valley Pipeline water quality certification to be deficient.

AMPLIFYING OUR COLLECTIVE VOICES



Waterkeeper Alliance and **Waterkeepers** across the globe were featured in an episode of *Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness*.

Waterkeeper Alliance CEO Marc Yaggi wrote an op-ed in *The Hill* on how the climate crisis is a water crisis.

Waterkeeper Alliance President Gloria Reuben wrote an op-ed in *TRUTHOUT* about the need to shut down factory farms in order to protect clean water and environmental justice.

Colorado Riverkeeper (Utah, U.S.) John Weisheit was featured in *The Los Angeles Times* about the health of the Colorado River.

Potomac Riverkeeper (District of Columbia, U.S.) Dean Naujoks and **Hudson Riverkeeper** (New York, U.S.) Tracy Brown spoke to *Scientific American* for an article about the state of American rivers on the CWA's 50th Anniversary.

Tijuana Waterkeeper (Baja California, Mexico) Margarita Diaz spoke to *Deseret News* about the death of the Colorado River and water impacts to the Tijuana area.

London Waterkeeper spoke to *The Guardian* about the importance of showing the data on sewage spills to the public.

Los Angeles Waterkeeper (California, U.S.) Bruze Reznik was included in a *New York Times* article about California's recent storms.

Three Rivers Waterkeeper (Pennsylvania, U.S.) Heather Hulton Vantassel was interviewed by *DW News* regarding their findings since the East Palestine derailment disaster.

Suncoast Waterkeeper (Florida, U.S.) and **Tampa Bay Waterkeeper** (Florida, U.S.) sent a letter to the editors of *Herald-Tribune* expressing concerns about discharges at Piney Point.

Potomac Riverkeeper (District of Columbia, U.S.) Dean Naujoks published an op-ed in *The Washington Post* about Potomac River protections.

PROTECTING WATERS WORLDWIDE

Wherever they are in the world, our Waterkeeper groups are fighting polluters, testing for emerging contaminants, educating a new generation of water protectors, and working together to leave their watersheds far better than they found them.

Jordan River Waterkeeper (Israel | Jordan | Palestine) welcomed the historic joint agreement signed by Israel and Palestine to protect and rehabilitate the shared Jordan River.

Yarra Riverkeeper (Australia) CEO Karin Traeger ran all 280 kilometers of the river to raise awareness.

Gomti River Waterkeeper (India) Venkatesh Dutta was given the Bhagirath Prayaas Samman (BPS) award in recognition of his work protecting the river and the communities along its banks.

Waterkeeper Alliance delivered a declaration on behalf of a global coalition calling for the United Nations to prioritize the protection of natural water systems as a human right.

Lake George Waterkeeper (New York, U.S.) led an international symposium on the effects of road salt on watershed health that also included several alternatives and innovations in the field.

Qiantang River Waterkeeper (China) held their Better Lancang-Mekong River Youth Policy Essay Writing Competition for students from the six countries along the river to discuss water management and sustainability practices



NEW WATERKEEPERS

Tom Dunlap is the new James Riverkeeper in Virginia.

Phillip Musegaas, formerly of Potomac Riverkeeper Network and Hudson Riverkeeper, is the new San Diego Coastkeeper in California.

Chelsea Hsin-Feng Tu is the new Monterey Waterkeeper in California.

Riley Lewis is the new White Oak Waterkeeper in North Carolina.

Cameron Baxley is the new Apalachicola Riverkeeper in Florida.

Ben Ford is the new Miles-Wye Riverkeeper in Maryland.

Elle Bassett is the new South, West, and Rhode Riverkeeper at Arundel Rivers Federation in Maryland.

HIGHLIGHTING THE MOVEMENT

Each year, we profile a dozen of our Waterkeeper groups from around the world. Though they find themselves in far flung regions, at times, thousands of miles apart, they are unified in our shared mission of clean water for all.



Laura Reinsborough is the Ottawa Riverkeeper in Canada. She is focused on a major water monitoring campaign, re-establishing the American eel to the river, and generally changing people's relationships to the water as a means to changing behavior.



Margarita Diaz is the Tijuana Waterkeeper in Mexico. She regularly combats the threats of sewage, trash, and development as a way to protect some of the only open spaces for a city of two million people.



Damon Mullis is the Ogeechee Riverkeeper in Georgia. After working in the field as a scientist for a few years, Damon was relieved to become a Waterkeeper where his work could have more of an immediate impact protecting resources and water.



Emily Sutton is the Haw Riverkeeper in North Carolina. Emily has blended her experience in environmental education into her current role. Though the river may appear pristine, sadly there are many threats, including PFAS.



Ted Evgeniadis is the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper in Pennsylvania. Ted left a career in finance to fight for his watershed. Some of the many threats facing his area are combined sewer overflow, development, PFAS, and landfills.



Melinda Booth is the Yuba River Waterkeeper in California. Melinda's work has her still digging out from the remnant debris of the 1850's Gold Rush, while managing the simultaneous pressures of tourism, climate change, and wildfire.



John Peach is the Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper in New York. John's been the Riverkeeper since 2018, but his love for the river goes much further back. He is working to keep the river safe from oil spills, over development, PFAS, and lots more.



Pete Topping is the Peconic Baykeeper in New York. He works tirelessly throughout the year to educate and inform the public to protect and defend the wellbeing of this seasonal tourist hotspot.



Gidon Bromberg is the Jordan River Waterkeeper in Israel. His iconic, transboundary waterway is a sacred space for nearly half of humanity, and yet is under major threats from diversions, drought, and conflict. Luckily, Gidon is a diehard optimist.



Rashema Ingraham is the Bimini Coastal Waterkeeper in The Bahamas. Her home islands attract visitors and tourists from all over the world. Increasingly strong hurricanes are also frequent visitors, as are fossil fuel companies looking to drill offshore.



Heather Smith is the Grand Traverse Baykeeper in Michigan. She works with local governments on protective policies, advocates for decisions that protect water, coordinates volunteers, monitors in the field, and acts as a community resource.



Anna D'Apolito is the Lake Atitlán Waterkeeper in Guatemala. Her urgent message of conservation has become necessary as the ecology of Lake Atitlán has experienced dramatic degradation that has impacted the entire local ecosystem.

THE GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE



DIANE WILSON 2023 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE WINNER FOR NORTH AMERICA

Our very own Diane Wilson of San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper in Texas won the renown 2023 Goldman Environmental Prize Winner for North America! Diane was rightly recognized for her phenomenal and historic December 2019 legal win over Formosa Plastics, one of the world's largest petrochemical companies, for their illegal dumping of toxic plastic waste on Texas' Gulf Coast. The \$50 million settlement is the largest award in a citizen suit against an industrial polluter in the history of the U.S. CWA. As a part of the settlement, Formosa Plastics agreed to reach "zero-discharge" of plastic waste from its Point Comfort factory, pay penalties until discharges cease, and fund remediation of affected local wetlands, beaches, and waterways. Diane and her fellow recipients were celebrated at two ceremonies in San Francisco, Calif. and Washington, D.C. in April 2023.

Miami Waterkeeper (Florida, U.S.) Rachel Silverstein has been awarded the Elevate Prize, an annual award and signature program of the Elevate Prize Foundation that recognizes leaders from across the globe for their impact.

Flint Riverkeeper (Georgia, U.S.) received the 2022 Water Trail Hero Award from Georgia River Network for the Flint River Water Trail.

Gomti River Waterkeeper (Uttar Pradesh, India) Venkatesh Dutta was honored with the prestigious Bhagirath Prayas Samman award by the India Rivers Forum for his sustained and outstanding work in the field of river restoration and water conservation.

Kenya Lake Victoria Waterkeeper (Kenya) Leonard Akwany won a Whitley Award, which are given to inspiring conservationists leading local projects to benefit wildlife, landscapes and people.

Coosa Riverkeeper (Alabama, U.S.) Justinn Overton was awarded a 2023 Women Making Waves award by AMD Creative.

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (Georgia, U.S.) was recognized in *Atlanta Magazine's* 2023 list of Atlanta's 500 Most Powerful Leaders.

St. Johns Riverkeeper (Florida, U.S.) was recognized by Folio Weekly as a 2022 Best of Jacksonville Environmental Advocate.

Suwannee Riverkeeper (Georgia, U.S.) won the Rivers Alive Adopt-A-Stream cleanup award for the second year running.

FINANCIALS



REVENUE

Individuals & Events	\$5,955,002	66%
Corporations	\$453,177	5%
Direct Mail	\$687,129	8%
Foundations	\$1,696,174	19%
Other	\$237,367	3%
Total Revenue	\$9,028,849	



EXPENSES

Program	\$6,010,970	81%
Fundraising	\$816,305	11%
Admin	\$593,676	8%
Total Expense	\$7,420,950	
End of Year Net Assets	\$3,870,586	

INCOME	\$9,028,849
PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$6,010,970
FUNDRAISING EXPENSES	\$816,3059
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$593,676
END OF THE YEAR NET ASSETS	\$3,870,586

The numbers above represent unaudited financials and are subject to change upon audit completion. Final numbers will be available at waterkeeper.org.

DONORS

\$1,000,000+

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Foundation for the Carolinas

\$100,000 – \$249,999

Builders Initiative

\$50,000 – \$99,999

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\$5,000 – \$9,999

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