



Safeguarding what makes Wisconsin special

# 2017 Annual Report



cleanwiscnsin



# A note from our president

Thank you to all our generous supporters who made our work in 2017 possible.

Despite strong headwinds, our staff was able to accomplish a lot of meaningful change and protect the clean air, water, and special places of Wisconsin.

Clean Wisconsin has science, legal, policy and communications experts deployed on these efforts, ensuring our work has meaningful impact, but the generous support of more than 10,000 people in every county of the state is the backbone of all that we do!

In this report, you'll see a few examples of the program successes your support helps make possible.

Again, thank you for your support of Clean Wisconsin.

*Mark Redsten*



# 2017 success stories



## **A monumental victory for Wisconsin's water.**

In October, a Dane County Circuit Court Judge ruled to nullify 8 high capacity well permits issued by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources after Clean Wisconsin's legal team showed that the permits were issued without considering the negative impacts these wells would have on nearby waterbodies. This legal decision, which upholds DNR's duty to protect Wisconsin's water for the people, came after research by Clean Wisconsin found that the state had allowed high capacity wells to pump one billion gallons of water more than previously allowed, with 80% of those wells in Central Wisconsin, which has seen lake water levels decline over the years.

## **Progress on drinking water protections for Kewaunee County.**

After three years of government inaction to address the drinking water crisis in Northeast Wisconsin, new draft rules to protect private well water have been released, thanks in part to our work with stakeholders, agricultural groups, and local citizens. These new State rules inform farmers on where, when, and how they can spread manure, to help address drinking water contamination. These rules are a great first step to addressing this issue, and the first proactive water reform of the Walker administration. The governor and legislature are expected to take it up in 2018.

## **Forwarding protections from driveway sealants in the Milwaukee area.**

Coal-tar based driveway sealants, which are full of carcinogenic toxins called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, pose significant threats to public health and clean water. With many alternative products already on the market, removing coal-tar sealants from use can significantly help water quality and public health. With our help, seven Milwaukee-area communities, including the City of Milwaukee, passed ordinances banning the use and sale of coal-tar sealants.



# Looking forward to 2018



## Forging ahead for clean, plentiful water.

Early next year, we anticipate new policy that will address some of our major concerns related to water quality, from new administrative rules protecting private wells from contamination due to manure spreading, to a new law giving local governments funding to remove and replace lead pipes in their communities.

We are also excited to mark our 5th year of work in Milwaukee's 30th Street Corridor helping residents manage water where it falls by installing rain gardens and rain barrels.

We will be continuing our work with local governments to enact ordinances banning coal-tar pavement sealants, protecting our water and communities from hazardous toxins found in those products. Our efforts to realize the promise of clean drinking water for all Wisconsinites continue into Southwest Wisconsin, which has seen high levels of bacteria contamination.

And we expect a busy year in the courts as we move through the appeals process in our case protecting groundwater in the Central Sands, and as we defend our state's rare wetlands in a hearing in the spring over a wetland fill in western Wisconsin.

## Defending our air quality, protecting our health.

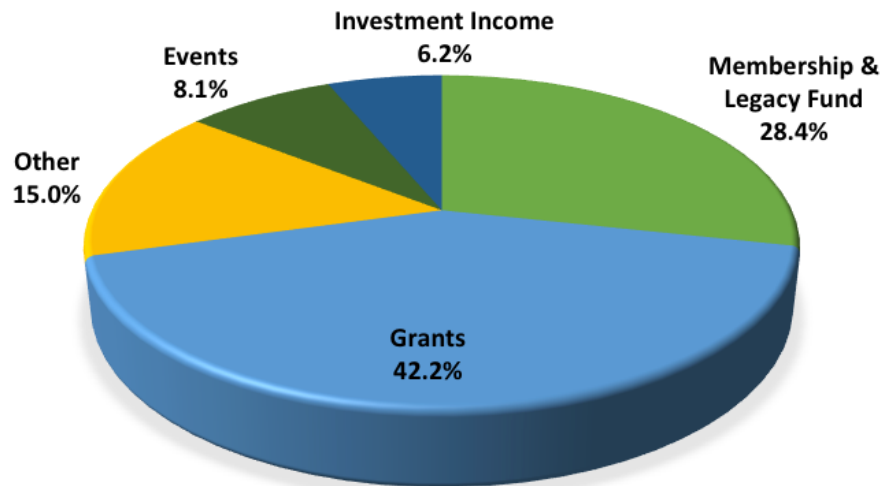
Next year, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release area designations for areas meeting new limits for ozone pollution. These designations are based on years of data collected from air quality monitors across the state. Ozone pollution harms public health, often causing or aggravating the same respiratory issues as smoking. Wisconsin's Lake Michigan coast, especially in the southeastern area of the state, has historically seen high levels of ozone pollution. We will be monitoring EPA's designations to ensure it meets the law and protects public health.

## Collaborating for a cleaner Wisconsin.

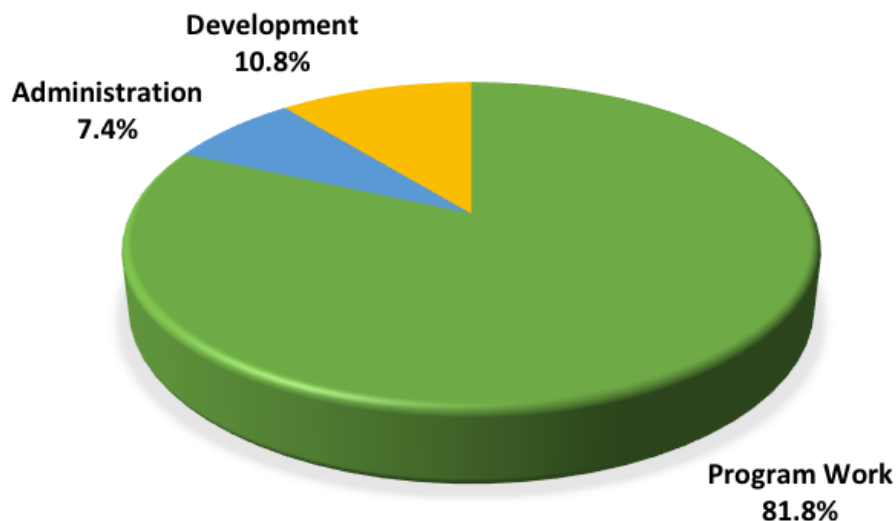
Continuing our legacy of working with allies and non-traditional partners alike, we are strengthening our efforts to prepare Wisconsin for the clean energy future. We're working with local governments like the Dane County Council on Climate Change to reduce carbon emissions, strategizing with utilities to move them into business models that prioritize solar and wind sources, and assisting organizations from Eau Claire to Green Bay to Waukesha to encourage local climate change policy, which we will continue in 2018.

# Fueled by your generosity

**2017 SUPPORT & REVENUE: \$1,421,711**



**2017 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,979,942**



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*Protecting and preserving Wisconsin's  
clean water, clean air, and natural heritage.*

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