

~ YOUR INVESTMENTS AT WORK:

# Healthier Waterways for a Sustainable Community

Alexandria Renew Enterprises Annual Report Fiscal Year 2019



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**Water is life,  
and clean water  
is health.**

~~~~~  
Audrey Hepburn

# We Make Your Used Water Usable.

Clean waterways are essential to our future. Every day, we transform millions of gallons of used water back into usable water to help our community thrive.



**Karen Pallansch**  
CEO

**Bill Dickinson**  
SECRETARY - TREASURER

**James Beall**  
MEMBER

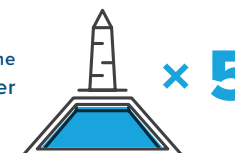
**John Hill**  
CHAIR

**Patricia Turner**  
MEMBER

**Bruce Johnson**  
VICE CHAIRMAN

**MORE THAN 35 MILLION GALLONS** of used water into usable water every day

This is enough water to fill the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool five times over



**SERVING 305,000**  
in Alexandria and parts of Fairfax



**ALMOST \$1 BILLION**  
invested from 1956 – Present



**CLEANING WATER FOR 63 YEARS**



**100+**  
WATER PROFESSIONALS



### Clean waterways support a thriving community.

Recreation, public and environmental health, and our economy all depend on a well-functioning water system. Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew), the partner in our water system that makes your used water usable, is passionately committed to serving Alexandria and parts of Fairfax County with clean water and healthy waterways. Every day, we transform more than 35 million gallons of used water into usable water, and reuse the byproducts of our water cleaning process, supporting a physically and economically healthy city.

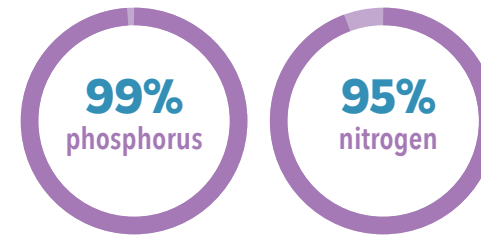
During the past 63 years, our customers have invested almost \$1 billion in water cleaning equipment, facilities, and technology to ensure our team of water professionals cleans our customers' used water to some of the **highest standards in the country.**



Aerial of AlexRenew campus, located in the Carlyle area of Alexandria

# We Clean Your Used Water with Excellence.

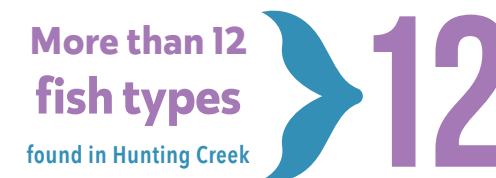
Nitrogen and phosphorus cause algae blooms that rob waterways of oxygen and sunlight essential to aquatic life. Our team eliminates almost all of those pollutants to keep streams and rivers healthy.

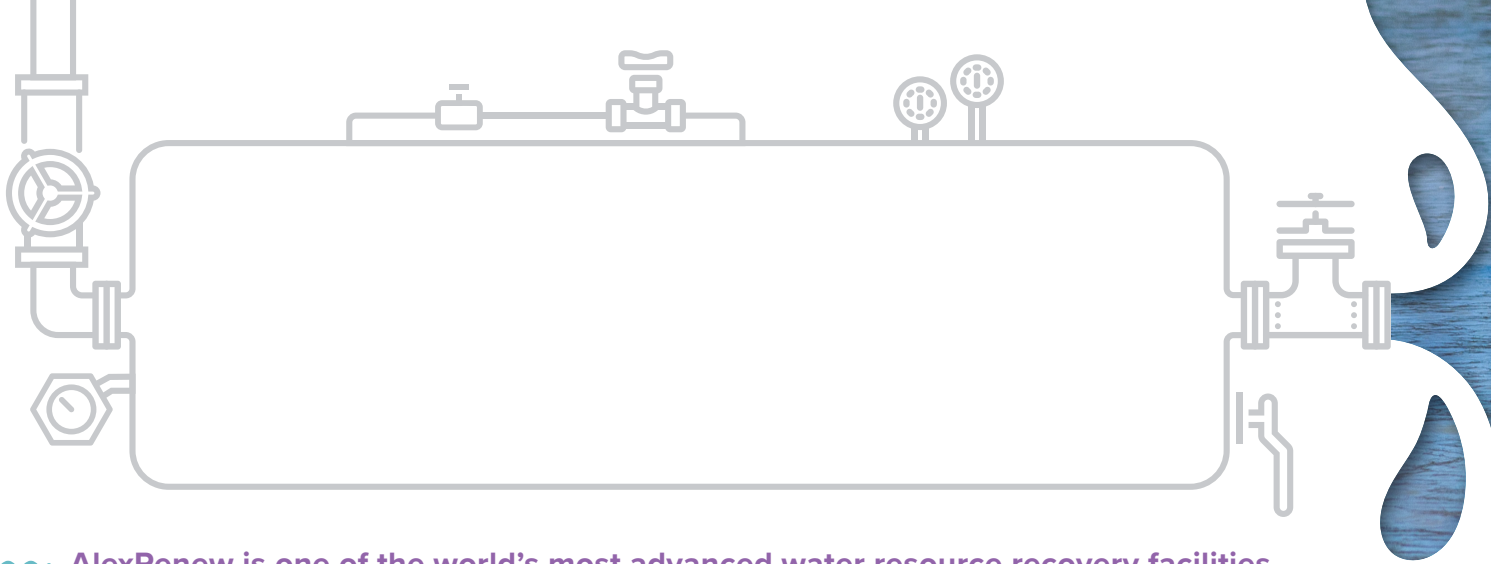


removed from wastewater, preventing these two harmful pollutants from entering our waterways



by AlexRenew's lab to ensure quality process monitoring and compliance with regulations





🌊 **AlexRenew is one of the world's most advanced water resource recovery facilities and foremost clean water experts.**

Your investments and partnership help us clean your used water with excellence. Last year, **we removed 99.5% of phosphorus and 95% of nitrogen from Alexandria's used water.** These pollutants stimulate the growth of excessive amounts of algae in waterways, reducing the oxygen and sunlight needed for seagrasses and other aquatic life to thrive. By removing almost all phosphorus and nitrogen from your used water, AlexRenew plays a critical role in protecting our local waterways.



**Careful Monitoring to Ensure a Return on Your Investment**

Our on-site laboratory team carefully monitors water quality throughout our entire process of making your used water usable. During the past year, they **conducted approximately 24,000 individual analyses**, thoroughly monitoring each step in our used water cleaning process. Our daily rigorous testing ensures compliance with clean water regulations. This is crucial, as the used water we clean is returned to Hunting Creek which flows into the Potomac River – and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.



**Partnering for Positive Environmental Impact**

AlexRenew has collaborated with George Mason University's Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) for five years to sample water and aquatic life in Hunting Creek, where we release our cleaned water back into the Potomac River. They reported a healthy ecosystem with **more than a dozen species of fish and submerged aquatic vegetation carpets, and found more than five times the adult Alewife fish** in Hunting Creek than the previous year.

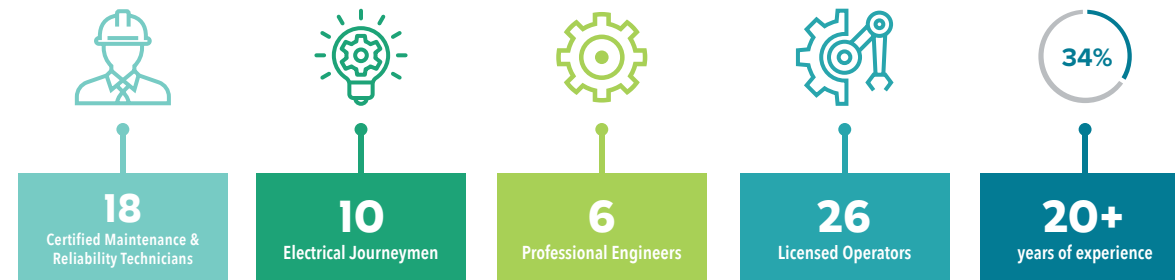
## We Serve You Every Minute of Every Day with Passion and Expertise.

Our team is committed, highly skilled and up-to-date on the latest water transformation techniques and technology. And we're building the workforce of the future through apprenticeships and internships.

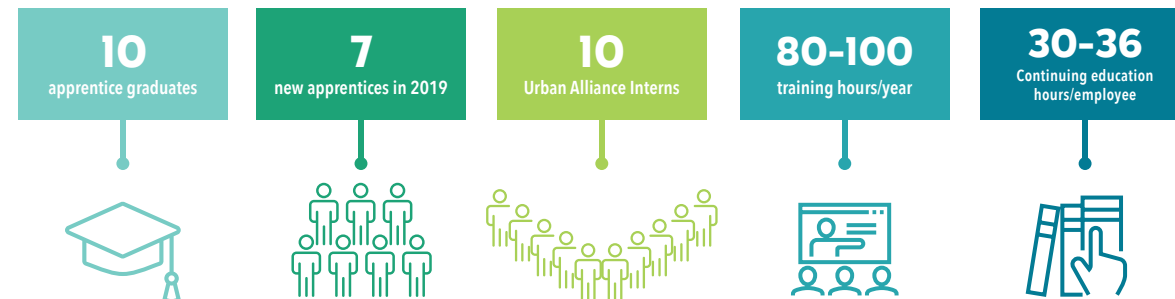
**Our water transformation team holds more than 100 licenses and certifications, and 34% of them have more than 20 years of experience.**

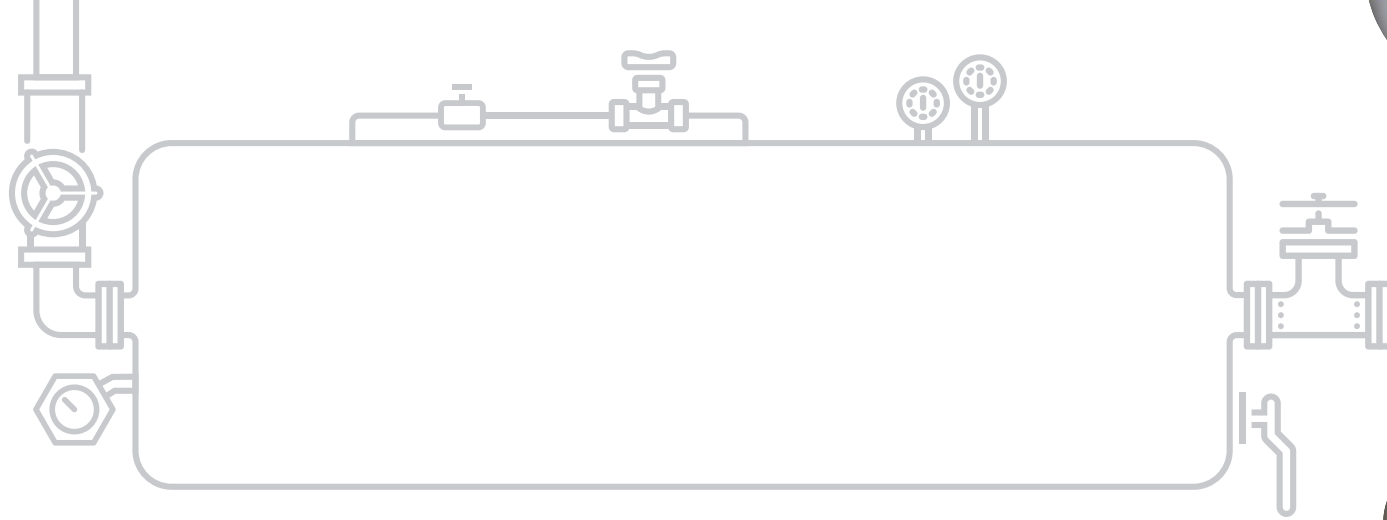
Last year, each of our employees committed to 80 to 100 hours of training, and logged more than 30 hours of continuing education. Our team's commitment to earning and renewing licenses and certifications and attending training is anchored in our dedication to serving our city and water world, and our mission of leading public health protection through effective water resource recovery efforts.

Our licensed and certified water professionals clean your used water so it is usable again:



We are building our water workforce of the future to ensure continuity of water cleaning expertise:



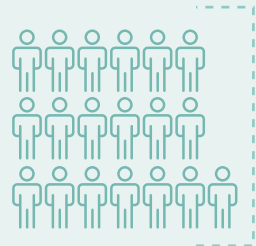


### Developing the Workforce of the Future

**We are creating the water workforce of the future through our apprentice program.** We instituted this comprehensive training program, certified by the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Labor, to provide continuity of water cleaning enthusiasm and proficiency to future generations of AlexRenew customers. Through an effective combination of hands-on training under the direction of an experienced mentor and intensive classroom training, our apprentices learn what it takes to serve a community with clean water.



**Marcus Andrew, Operator in Training,** examines microbes that clean used water



Since the start of this program,  
**19 APPRENTICES**  
 have graduated to become  
**wastewater plant operators,  
 electricians, and mechanics.**

Earlier this year,  
**we hired seven**  
 new apprentices.



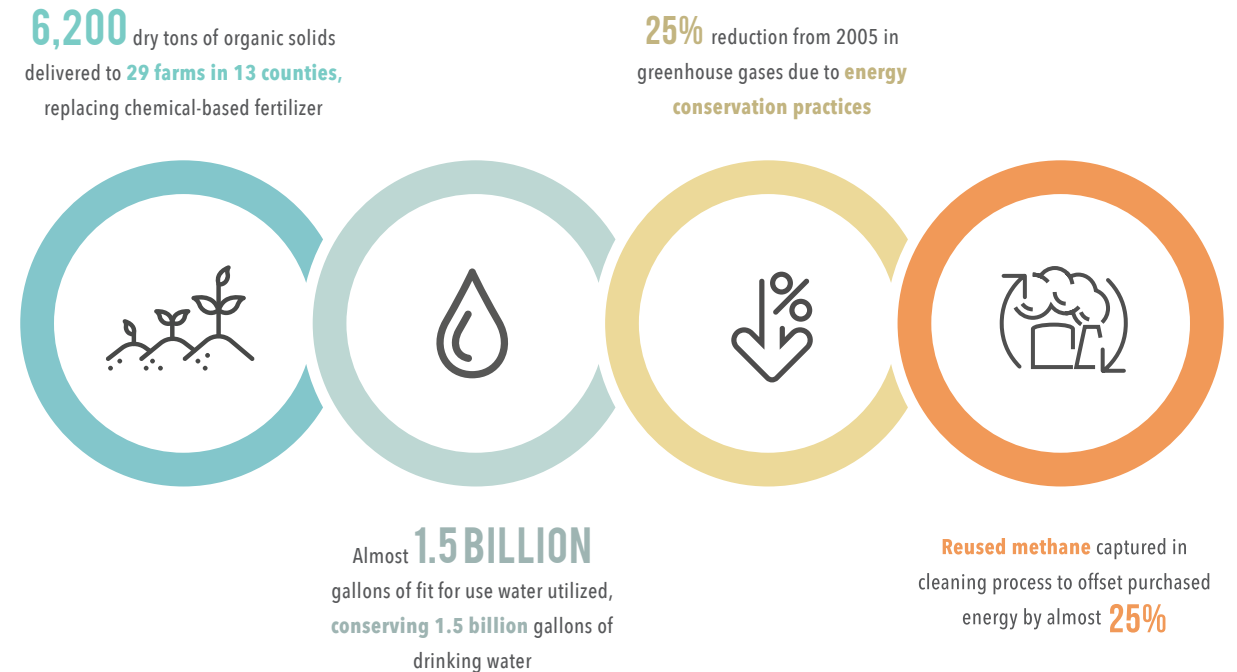
We also host two high school interns annually through our partnership with Urban Alliance Foundation, an organization that trains youth from under-resourced areas for work and self-sufficiency.

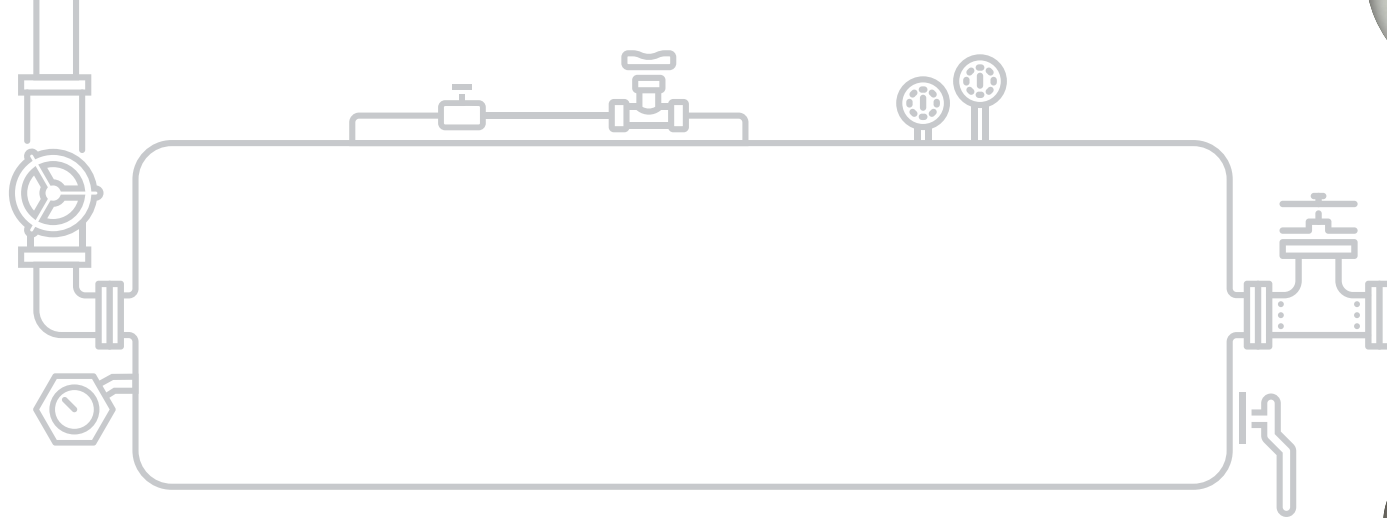
Most of our interns we have hosted are pursuing STEM careers.



## We Reuse the Resources You Send to Us in Your Used Water.

Nothing goes to waste. Our processes creates a bio-based fertilizer, methane gas to use in our operations, and cleaned water for non-drinking uses. That helps reduce greenhouse gases for a healthier community and world.





🌊 **Your wastewater is a resource that is too good to waste. We reuse what you send us in your used water, and we also reuse the resources generated from our water cleaning process. This creates a sustainable operation that saves energy and reduces greenhouse gases.**

***BioRenew - Our solids reuse product***

During our water cleaning process, we separate solids from the wastewater. We pasteurize these solids to eliminate germs and deliver this nutrient-rich organic product to farmers to use as fertilizer. Last year, AlexRenew distributed BioRenew to 29 farms in 13 counties, recycling more than 240 tons of nitrogen back into the soil. By providing more than 6,200 dry tons of BioRenew to farmers in our region, we eliminated their need to use an equivalent amount of chemical-based fertilizers to enrich their fields.

***eRenew - Our methane gas reuse product***

We capture and reuse more than 95 percent of the methane gas produced as our digesters – which act like giant stomachs – break down the solids that are separated from wastewater. Last year, we offset purchased energy by almost 25 percent, using eRenew gas to heat our water cleaning plant.



**Our BluRenew water is used in a fish tank in our Environmental Center lobby**

***BluRenew - Our fit for use water product***

Clean water is an essential and limited resource, and we must find ways to reuse it. Our BluRenew fit for use water is clean, odorless and highly treated through a process regulated by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Using BluRenew conserves precious drinking water resources because it is a replacement product for non-drinking water uses. For instance, we used almost 1.5 billion gallons of BluRenew last year for flushing, cleaning equipment, irrigation, heating and cooling, and in educational water features.

# We are Creating a Sustainable Water Future for You.

By 2025, RiverRenew will create a tunnel system to capture sewage mixed with rainwater for treatment. The project will prevent sewage from polluting the Potomac River, other waterways, and the Chesapeake Bay.

AlexRenew made significant progress this past year in advancing RiverRenew, the program to build a tunnel system to fix Alexandria's combined sewer system. This progress, largely through achieving key permitting and design milestones, is essential to meeting the July 2025 deadline established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2017. Behind the success of major milestones is RiverRenew's engagement with the Alexandria community and partnerships with the City of Alexandria, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and local environmental and educational entities.





Community input has been vital in understanding the ways to mitigate impacts to residents. AlexRenew worked with the City of Alexandria to select and launch the 13-member RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) in February 2019. This citizen group represents Alexandria neighborhoods, businesses, and environmental groups, and provides diverse perspectives, key in reaching and representing the Alexandria community. The SAG has been providing valuable feedback on designs for the RiverRenew program and has been essential in garnering support for permitting this year.

**RiverRenew also participated in 20 community events and presented at over 40 community meetings.**

The feedback from this outreach was critical to incorporating community amenities into the overall design for RiverRenew, including stream restoration over new sewer infrastructure along Hooffs Run, and a publicly-accessible promenade on top of tunnel infrastructure adjacent to Oronoco Bay Park.

**RiverRenew is currently expected to cost between \$370-\$555 million.** Recognizing the need to lessen the financial impact of RiverRenew on our customers, AlexRenew and the City of Alexandria have been working together to obtain federal and state assistance. In February, the General Assembly announced it is allocating a \$25 million grant toward the total cost of the project to help offset RiverRenew costs.



**Caitlin Feehan, RiverRenew Program Manager, speaks to attendees at a RiverRenew community Listening Session**

Partnerships with educational and environmental groups have provided a deeper understanding of the local waterways that will benefit from the RiverRenew tunnel system. Beginning this year, George Mason University (GMU) and the Potomac Riverkeeper are collecting water quality sampling data from the Potomac River, Hooffs Run, and Hunting Creek. This work helps us understand the health of these waterways prior to RiverRenew implementation.

# When Our Neighbors Talk About Ensuring a Sustainable Community, We Listen.

Some of our best ideas come from you. Residents' input led to a multipurpose field being built on top of wastewater tanks and is changing RiverRenew's design.

Sports field

Public art

stream restoration

Promenade

(write your own idea!)

LEED Platinum building

Use native plants



When we were upgrading our Four Mile Run Pump Station, we listened to ideas from our neighbors in Arlandria and created an educational fence around the pump station that teaches visitors about how we clean water. When we were planning to build large wastewater tanks on our campus, our neighbors told us they needed more recreational space, and we built Limerick Street field, a multipurpose field managed by the City Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities, on top of those tanks.

We are also listening to you as we plan the RiverRenew program. We have adapted the design for RiverRenew to address the feedback we received from our neighbors during the past year. The Waterfront Tunnel will run under the Potomac River, with mining for this tunnel conducted from the AlexRenew campus. For the Hooffs Run Tunnel, we will upsize and replace our existing Commonwealth Interceptor, to minimize the impact on potential archeological resources, and reduce the amount of digging, traffic, and disruption to the Carlyle community. Our diversion facility for Outfall 001 in Oronoco Bay will be built at Robinson Terminal North, the location of least impact, and one that will not require closing the Union Street during construction.



Alexandria soccer players on Limerick Street Field

# We Partner with the Community to Further Serve You.

We value our connections with residents, whether we see you at community events, at tours of our water-cleaning operation or other meetings on our campus.



**50**

community partners



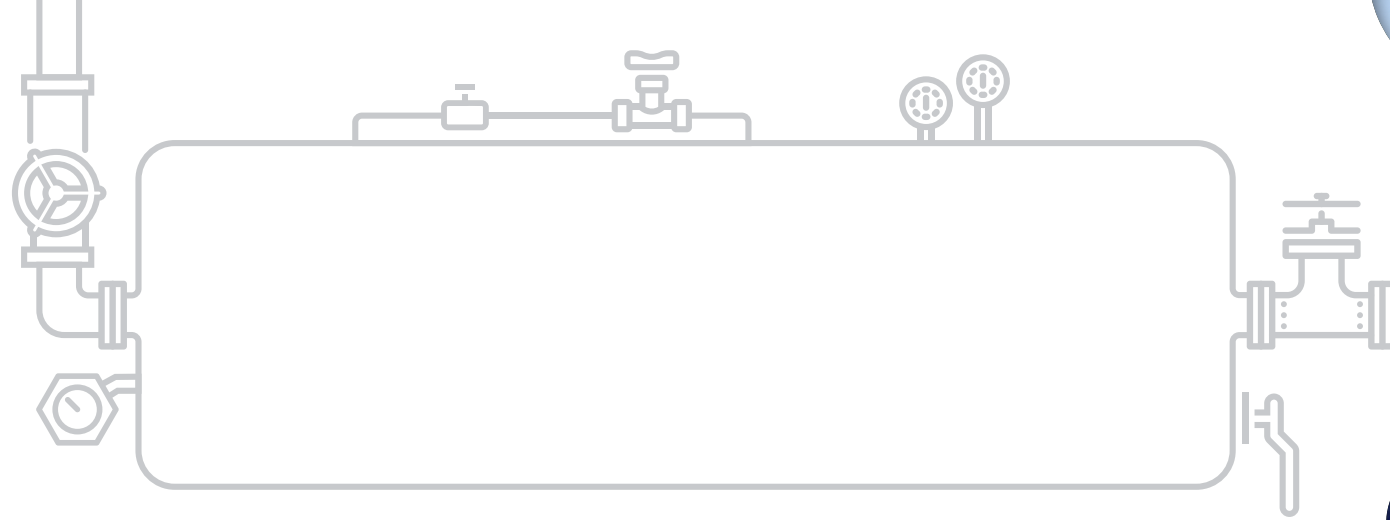
**70+**

tours of our campus



**5,000+**

visitors using our community meeting rooms



~ The AlexRenew team further expresses its devotion to caring for our community's water by inspiring personal connections with local waterways through outreach, events, and partnerships with other energetic and involved local organizations.

Last year, we worked with more than 50 local partners to help citizens of all ages understand the value of clean water by organizing and participating in approximately 75 local events, including Water Discovery Day and Alexandria's Annual Earth Day Celebration.



We led more than 70 tours of our water-cleaning campus to groups of students and neighbors who wanted to better understand how we clean water and how they can be supporters of water.



Almost 5,000 people attended meetings on the sixth floor of our Environmental Center, where we offer use of a suite of meeting rooms to community organizations at low or no cost.



The AlexRenew tent at Earth Day; water partners Virginia American Water and the City of Alexandria had tents next to ours



**One Water Alexandria**

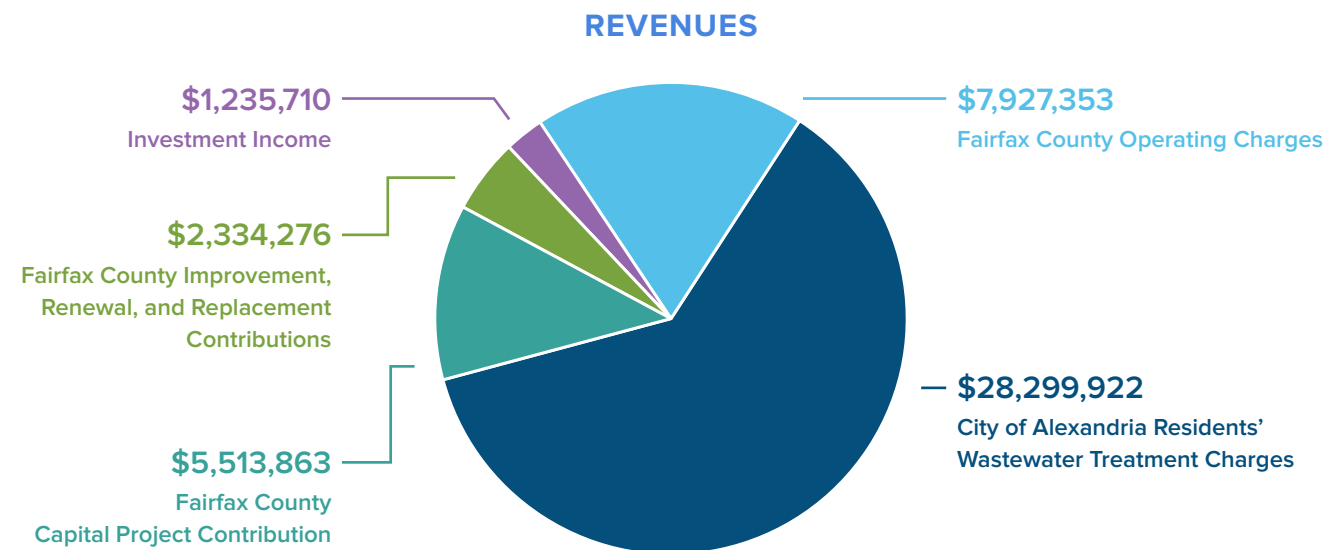
AlexRenew works closely with our water system partners, Virginia American Water and the City of Alexandria, to achieve shared goals of improving water quality in local waterways, protecting public health, and promoting economic growth in our community. We also created a One Water Alexandria outreach partnership to help our customers understand each of our roles within the water system that serves our community.

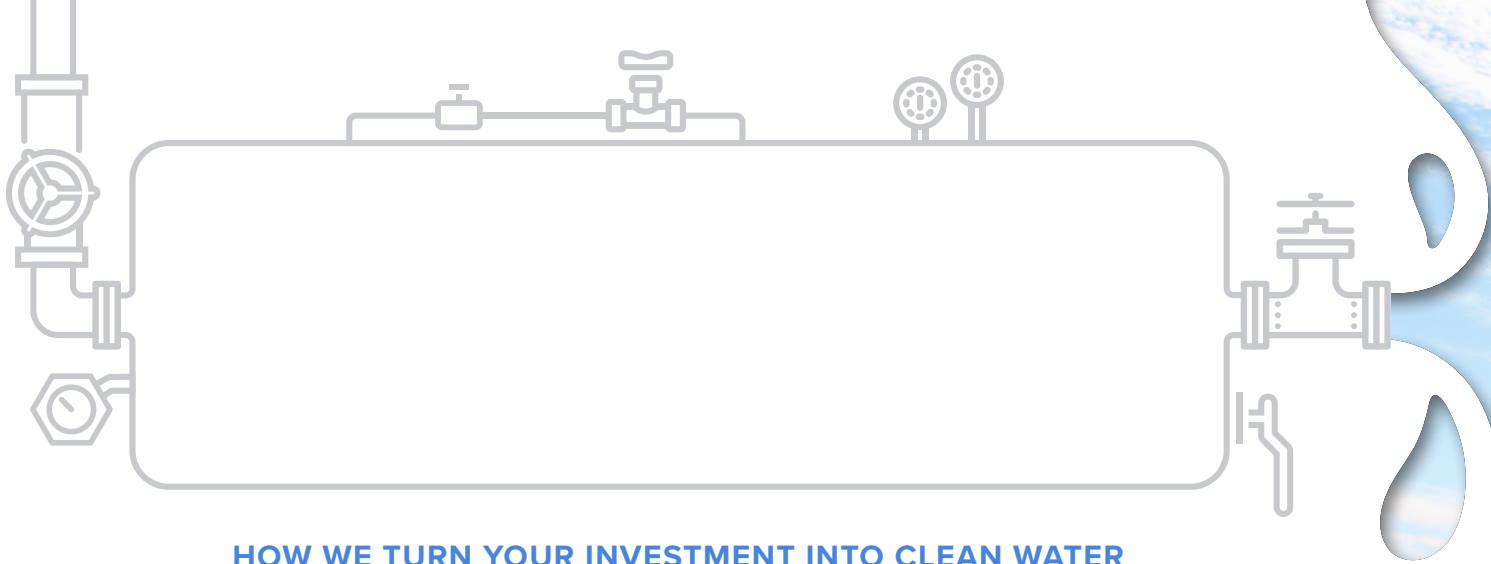


# We Carefully Steward Your Clean Water Investments

We use your investment in AlexRenew to make our community stronger and we're dedicated to spending your money wisely.

We manage our financial resources to create an efficient and resilient organization that contributes to the health of the economy.





## HOW WE TURN YOUR INVESTMENT INTO CLEAN WATER



**\$2,559,436**

**Improvement, Renewal and Replacement**  
Repairing and replacing critical equipment and infrastructure so we can continue to clean water effectively and efficiently.



**\$998,838**

**Arlington Sewage Disposal**  
Supporting the operations and maintenance associated with the City of Alexandria's allocated wastewater treatment in the Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant for a small portion of Alexandria.



**\$4,307,918**

**Operational Excellence**  
Costs for energy, chemicals, and other resources needed to transform our water.



**\$1,134,662**

**Public Engagement and Trust**  
Customer service and education functions to share the benefits of clean water in our community.



**\$1,737,120**

**Watershed Stewardship**  
Specialized, expert services to support AlexRenew's core function of cleaning water.



**\$9,083,517**

**Adaptive Culture**  
Providing best-in-class water professionals for effective and safe operations.



**\$798,532**

**Effective Financial Stewardship**  
Maintaining our infrastructure and technology to most efficiently and effectively clean dirty water.



George Mason University Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center (PEREC) staff conduct water testing in Hunting Creek, where we release our cleaned water.



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