



*Now is the perfect time
to take care of the
people and causes
you care about most.*

Your Clean Water Guide to Gifts-by-Will

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Getting Started

If you don't already have a will... now is also the perfect time to take care of that essential task — it may be far easier than you think. Our water resources are precious. The Clean Water Gift you arrange now, through your will, will make a lasting difference.

You can start by considering two basic questions:

1. Which Clean Water organization will you support?

2. What type of gift-by-will makes sense for you?

(see next page)

Clean Water Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which supports research, education, outreach and action; contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. *A majority of Clean Water Gifts-by-Will are planned and paid to Clean Water Fund, and this is our default recommendation to our supporters.*

Clean Water Action is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit which supports legislative lobbying and grassroots campaigns; contributions are not tax-deductible.

Nearly everyone can benefit from having a will, including people of very modest means. For many people, tax deductibility for gifts you make through your will may not matter. However, the planning professional who helps you with your will can help you determine whether or not tax deductibility may be important for you, in your particular situation. Both Clean Water Fund and Clean Water Action welcome Clean Water Gifts by will.

If you are uncertain about whether tax deductibility will matter, or if your advisor recommends it, giving to Clean Water Fund (which can have big tax advantages in some situations), you may do so with confidence. Your gift will make a difference!

If tax deductibility is not a factor in your situation, you may choose to direct some or all of your bequest to Clean Water Action, to help the fight for strong clean water laws and their enforcement.

TIP: Be sure your will is precise in describing the organization(s) you want to receive gifts. This can simplify your will's execution and make sure your charities will benefit more quickly from your gifts. Here's how the organizations can be named in your will:

Clean Water Fund

1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
tax I.D. #52-1043444

Clean Water Action

1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
tax I.D. #23-7128611

Many people find they are able to prepare a legal will quickly, and with minimal expense. One helpful tool, available at FreeWill.com walks you through the process with simple online forms that don't have to be finished all at once. They include prompts for building in gifts to your favorite nonprofits. The resulting document can serve as your legal will, once it is signed and notarized. Or you can use it to help organize your thoughts before sharing them with a trusted professional advisor.

If you believe your situation is more complicated or find that your financial assets are sizeable, we encourage you seek assistance from qualified counsel, such as a lawyer with estate planning expertise, to help you prepare or modify your written will to include Clean Water Gifts. The unique characteristics of your financial and estate planning circumstances will determine whether tax deductibility should be a consideration for bequests in your will. Your advisor can also help you determine which type of bequest will best fulfill your Clean Water Gift intentions and craft the appropriate written instructions for that part of your will.



What Type of Gift?

You have three main options for making a Clean Water Gift in your will. You could choose one that makes the most sense for you, or decide to use some combination of them:

Specific Bequest: Your written will designates a specific percentage, a specific dollar amount, or the specific property/asset you want to donate. *Using percentages instead of specific dollar amounts can reduce the need to update your Clean Water Gift plans* as the value of your estate changes (if, for example, there are increases in the value of your investments or of your home after your will is finalized).

Residual Bequest: Your will instructs that once all taxes, legal/accounting costs and other personal or charitable bequests are paid, the amount that is left (the “residue”) goes to the organization(s) you specify.

Contingent Bequest: Your will can specify certain conditions that will initiate or add to a Clean Water Gift. This can help you deal with different kinds of personal “what if” scenarios. For example, if your will includes a bequest to a family member who is no longer living at the time of your own death, your *contingent bequest* could make sure that some or all of that amount then becomes a Gift for Clean Water Fund.

Sample Bequest Language

Example: Specific Bequest — Percentage

“I hereby give and bequeath to Clean Water Fund, a non-profit District of Columbia corporation whose principal office is located at 1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, tax I.D. #52-1043444, % of my estate to be used for its general purposes.”

Example: Specific Bequest — Dollar Amount

“I hereby give and bequeath to Clean Water Fund, a non-profit District of Columbia corporation whose principal office is located at 1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, tax I.D. #52-1043444, the sum of \$ to be used for its general purposes.”

Example: Specific Bequest — Designated Asset

“I hereby give and bequeath to Clean Water Fund, a non-profit District of Columbia corporation whose principal office is located at 1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, tax I.D. #52-1043444, to be used for its general purposes.”

[fill in written description of investment, insurance, bank account, real property or other assets]

Example: Residual Bequest

“I hereby give and bequeath to Clean Water Fund, a non-profit District of Columbia corporation whose principal office is located at 1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005, tax I.D. #52-1043444, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, after providing for the other specific provisions of this Will, to be used for its general purposes.”

[It is possible to substitute “% of the rest” for “all of the rest.”]

For more information:

Please let us know about your plans to make a Clean Water Gift in your will and/or by beneficiary designation so that we may thank you.

For additional information or assistance with making a gift in your will, donations of stocks or other appreciated assets, gifts that can pay you life income, or other high-impact giving options: legacy@cleanwater.org or 202.330.2379.

Don't forget — Beneficiary Designations

Whether you have a will or not, there are simple forms you can request from any financial institution that allow you to give precise gift instructions (for individuals or for nonprofit causes like Clean Water) that must be followed.

You should complete and return a **Beneficiary Designation Form** for every bank account (checking, savings, money market), investment or retirement account, annuity plan or life insurance policy. These are sometimes also called Transfer on Death forms.

Most beneficiary designations can be configured similar to gifts by will: specified dollar amounts, percentages (a good option for many), or specific assets (e.g., shares of stock).



1444 Eye Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005

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www.cleanwaterfund.org • www.cleanwateraction.org • www.cleanwater.org

When we protect clean water we protect us all.