



Backgrounder: Save the Water™ (STW)
For More Information, Please Email:
info@savethewater.org

Backgrounder: Save the Water™ (STW) *Contamination-free, healthy water for all*

Our Mission: Clear Goals, Clear Water

Save the Water™ (STW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to researching, identifying and removing harmful contaminants in water, while raising public awareness of their health impacts. Founded in 1999, the organization was born when founder Frank Ramos discovered that whales and dolphins in the Hudson River were developing cancer linked to toxic chemicals. That moment ignited a lifelong mission: to protect the world's most precious resource before it's too late. As of 2025, STW remains the only U.S. nonprofit solely focused on contaminants of emerging concern (CECs). Its work combines scientific research, cutting-edge technology and community education to move closer to one bold vision: contamination-free, healthy water for all.

Why Water Matters: The Ripple Effect of Contamination

Think you know what's in your water? Think again! More than 350,000 chemicals make their way into the products we use every day, from packaging and clothing to medicines and fertilizers, yet fewer than 100 are regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Many of these chemicals are known as "contaminants of emerging concern" (CECs). They include things like pesticides, medicines, plastics and hormone-disrupting chemicals. One big group in the news lately is PFAS, often called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down in the environment or in our bodies: once they're there, they stay there. Forever.

The impacts of these contaminants are devastating. Studies have shown endocrine disruption in Florida alligators, cancers in dolphins, and toxic runoff threatening millions of Floridians' drinking water. These findings are not just environmental issues, they are public health emergencies. Left unchecked, CECs can disrupt hormones, impair immune systems and increase cancer risk in both humans and wildlife. This is a toxic ripple effect we can't afford to ignore.

The Everglades: In Hot Water

The Florida Everglades is one of the most famous wetlands in the world, and it provides drinking water for more than 8 million people. But this Floridian jewel is in critical danger as it faces mounting threats: agricultural runoff containing pesticides, invasive species disrupting habitats and catastrophic water discharges that spread pollution to coastal fishing grounds. With Florida's population increasing by more than 1,200 new residents per day, the pressure on this water system continues to grow.



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To protect the Everglades and the people who depend on it, STW has proposed a Comprehensive Water Quality Study. This long-term initiative includes establishing a state-of-the-art laboratory to monitor contaminants and safeguard both public health and the ecosystem. The goal is simple but urgent: ensure clean water today and for future generations.

Innovation in Action: Turning the Tide

Science is the driving current of STW. The organization is developing and testing four proprietary water treatment technologies — eFloc™, eNox™, FloNox™ and AOT™ — designed to remove more than 99% of dangerous pollutants. These scalable, mobile solutions can transform contaminated water into safe drinking water anywhere in the world.

STW is also building one of the most comprehensive CEC databases in existence, documenting thousands of contaminants and their health effects. This data will empower researchers, communities and policymakers with the facts they need to act and advocate for lasting change.

Meet the Water Warriors: Volunteers Making a Splash

The tide that carries STW is its volunteers, or as the organization calls them, Water Warriors. More than 100 professional volunteers from across five continents lend their time and expertise in research, publishing, marketing, education, business operations and development. For students and young professionals, volunteering with STW is more than a service opportunity; it is a chance to build a network of passionate advocates and gain real-world experience while protecting the planet. Water Warriors are building careers and communities at the same time.

What's Next: The Next Wave

Looking ahead, STW is pursuing official accreditation for its laboratory, a milestone that will unlock commercial service contracts worth more than \$10 million annually. Unlike for-profit labs, every dollar generated will be reinvested into research, water treatment projects and humanitarian initiatives worldwide.

Everyone has a role to play in this effort. Whether through donations, partnerships or volunteering as a Water Warrior, supporters can help ensure a future where safe, clean water is not a privilege but a right for all.

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