WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

2024 Green Bond Annual Report







On December 16, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency marked the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, passed in 1974 to set federal standards for drinking-water quality.



Environmental Stewardship Program

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March 2025

Cover: Piscataway Bioenergy Facility, Prince George's County, MD



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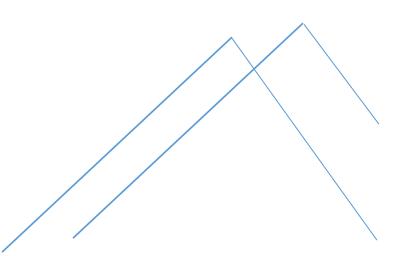
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We're excited to share our 2024 Green Bond Annual Report, which showcases our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our local environment while daily delivering safe, clean and reliable water to our community.

At WSSC Water, environmental sustainability isn't just a goal-it's a driving force behind everything we do. We champion environmental stewardship smartly and costeffectively by leveraging innovative financing tools like green bonds. The result? Through a sound fiscal plan, we ensure all communities thrive by ethically delivering safe, reliable and sustainable water and wastewater services.

T. Eloise Foster WSSC Water Board of Commissioners Chair WSSC Water

As Maryland's largest water/wastewater utility and among the largest in the nation, being good environmental stewards is a core part of everything we do. Through a recently released three-year strategic plan, we are investing in and developing Smart One Water solutions to mitigate key risks to achieve reliable and sustainable infrastructure, environmental health and net zero emissions by 2050.

Using green bond financing for our environmentally beneficial capital projects allows us to protect our local environment in a fiscally responsible manner and continue to meet the clean-water needs of the communities we proudly serve. This 2024 Green Bond Annual Report details our extensive efforts to protect our local resources on behalf of our 1.9 million customers in Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Kishia L. Powell. P.E.

General Manager/CEO WSSC Water



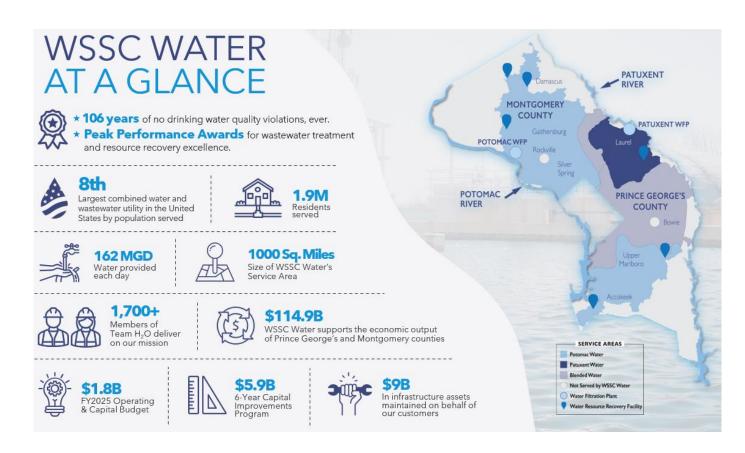
Environmental Stewardship Program Protects Our Resources

Introduction

WSSC Water's mission is to provide safe and reliable water, life's most precious resource, and return clean water to our environment, all in an ethical, sustainable and financially responsible manner.

Guided by that mission, WSSC Water is committed to protecting the natural environment of Prince George's and Montgomery counties as we carry out our mandate to provide sanitary sewer and drinking water services. Our environmental stewardship core value reflects this commitment, which guides and incorporates behavior and decision-making into WSSC Water's investments in green buildings, pollution prevention and control, renewable energy, water quality and climate change adaptation.

WSSC Water has a network of approximately 5,800 miles of water pipeline and more than 5,500 miles of sewer pipeline.



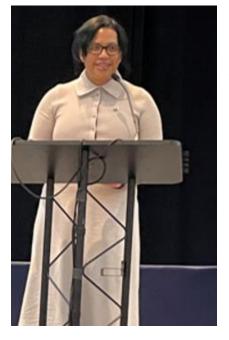
Green Financing Framework

Environmental stewardship guides and incorporates behavior and decision-making into WSSC Water's investments in green buildings, pollution prevention and control, renewable energy, water quality and climate change adaptation.

In line with this commitment, WSSC Water issues green bonds per its Green Financing Framework, a guide to managing "green-bonded" projects. The framework addresses the four components of the Green Bond Principles, as provided by the International Capital Market Association: Use of Proceeds, Evaluation and Selection Process, Management of Proceeds, and Reporting.

To be eligible for green bond proceeds, projects must meet criteria in one or more of the following areas:

- 1. Green buildings/ facilities;
- 2. Pollution prevention and control;
- 3. Renewable energy;
- 4. Water quality and
- 5. Climate change adaptation.



General Manager and CEO Kishia L. Powell attended the Puerto Rico Water & Environment Foundation's Annual Conference in February 2024.

GM Powell provided the keynote address on water sector challenges and how we can reclaim the high ground.

Green Bond Project Activities

WSSC Water identifies candidate projects aimed at making its infrastructure greener. The projects must involve one or more of the following activities:

Green buildings/ facilities

- Install high-efficiency heating, ventilating and air conditioning units;
- Install high-efficiency light-emitting diode (LED) lighting fixtures;
- Use cool roof materials and
- Install high-efficiency water and wastewater processing equipment, pumps, motors, and valves.

Pollution prevention and control

- Lead clean-up and removal;
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas from sewer overflow;
- Construct new sewer and recycled water supply systems;
- Sewer system rehabilitation to prevent overflow in waterways;
- Sewer line blockage assessments and
- Enhanced nutrient removal (nitrogen and phosphorus) and discharge processes to protect waterways.

Renewable energy

• Install new equipment and systems to produce biogas and electricity.

Water quality

- Sewer and water line reconstruction for cleaner drinking water;
- Leak detection technologies;
- Advanced mixing systems;
- Install technologies to reduce chemical use and
- Construct an intake channel to reduce drinking water contamination and treatment.



Climate change adaptation

- Address safety standards, including the Probable Maximum Flood criteria and maximum credible earthquake loadings;
- Install enhanced power reliability equipment at water resource recovery facilities and wastewater pumping stations to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and
- Reduce biosolids production to enhance the health of the Chesapeake Bay and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants.

Projects focused on the activities above are eligible to be funded in whole or in part by allocating the green bond proceeds.

Green Bond Reporting

ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021 Categories

WSSC Water's impact reporting is organized according to the ICMA Green Bond Principles 2021.

- Renewable energy (including production, transmission, appliances, and products);
- Energy efficiency (such as in new and refurbished buildings, energy storage, district heating, smart grids, appliances, and products);
- Pollution prevention and control (including reduction of air emissions, greenhouse gas control, soil remediation, waste prevention, waste reduction, waste recycling and energy/emission-efficient waste to energy);
- Environmentally sustainable management of living natural resources and land use (including environmentally sustainable agriculture; environmentally sustainable animal husbandry; climate-smart farm inputs such as biological crop protection or drip-irrigation; environmentally sustainable fishery and aquaculture; environmentally sustainable forestry, including afforestation or reforestation, and preservation or restoration of natural landscapes);
- Terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation (including the protection of coastal, marine and watershed environments);

- Clean transportation (such as electric, hybrid, public, rail, non-motorized, multi-modal transportation, infrastructure for clean energy vehicles and reduction of harmful emissions);
- Sustainable water and wastewater management (including sustainable infrastructure for clean or drinking water, wastewater treatment, sustainable urban drainage systems, river training and other forms of flooding mitigation);
- Climate change adaptation (including efforts to make infrastructure more resilient to impacts of climate change, as well as information support systems, such as climate observation and early warning systems);
- Circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes (such as the design and introduction of reusable, recyclable and refurbished materials, components and products, circular tools and services); or certified eco-efficient products.
- Green buildings that meet regional, national, or internationally recognized standards or certifications for environmental performance.



Monitoring and Project Reporting

WSSC Water manages all projects it supports, including green bond projects. WSSC Water selected contractors to construct the projects per the project agreement. The management process comprises regular reports by the implementing contractor on project activities, including monthly reviews of project progress. Throughout the implementation phase, WSSC Water's project manager, division manager and finance staff monitor the project's progress, outcomes and impacts to obtain data to evaluate and measure the objectives' effectiveness. Project information is available on WSSC Water's website and includes detailed documents (e.g., Project Description Forms or PDFs). In addition, WSSC Water's Green Bond Program webpage contains summaries and key impact indicators of the green bond projects, along with links to relevant documents containing more detailed project information.

Ensuring Compliance

Projects eligible under the Green Bond Program comply with WSSC Water's environmental statement, procurement policies and other procedures addressing project integrity. Compliance is assessed at the individual project level and through independent reviews of about a quarter of all projects. Project-level reviews by accounting, budget, and procurement ensure adequate controls and management capacity are in place. In addition, WSSC Water's internal auditors or Inspector General may conduct, when necessary, a post-review of a closed project(s).

WSSC Water's Finance Department follows procedures specific to its Green Bond Program. These include selecting and reporting on eligible projects, maintaining the separate green bond bank account, and reviewing portfolio implementation progress to provide updated information for impact reporting purposes.

See <u>www.wsscwater.com/greenbond</u> for more information on WSSC Water's Green Bond Program and Green Financing Framework.

See <u>www.wsscwater.com/fin</u> for finance information on WSSC Water.

See <u>www.wsscwater.com/es2</u> for more information on WSSC Water's Environmental Stewardship Program.

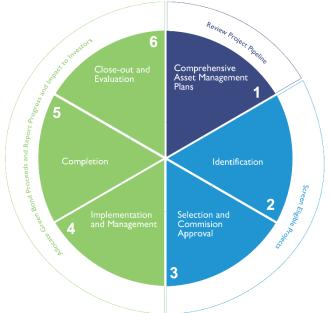


Green Bond Project Implementation

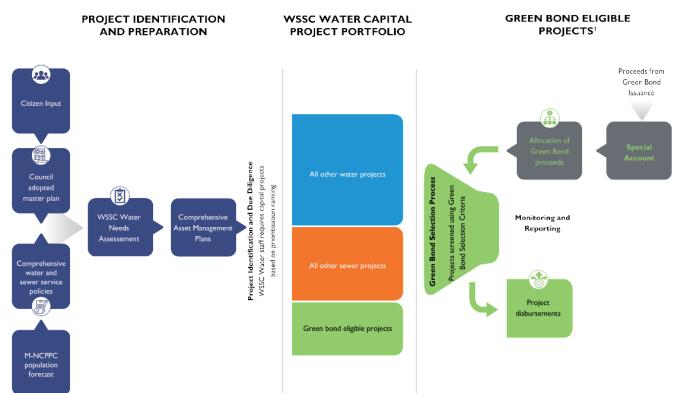
Selecting Projects for Financing

All projects, including green bond projects, undergo a rigorous review and approval process to ensure they meet WSSC Water and stakeholder priorities. The process includes early screening to identify potential environmental impacts and design alternatives to mitigate such impacts. WSSC Water's capital programs are approved by its commissioners - a board representing its member counties.

The lifecycle of a project financed by WSSC Water follows six stages, as shown in the graph, right. WSSC Water-designated green bond projects follow the same stages and undergo three more steps as shown in the outer circle of the graph. Projects that meet the green bond eligibility criteria are identified from the outset.



Earmarking and Allocating Green Bond Proceeds



The green bond selection process includes earmarking and allocating WSSC Water's green bond proceeds to a special account. They are invested following WSSC Water's investment policy until used to support eligible green bond projects. Disbursement requests for eligible projects take place per established policies and procedures. Disbursements are often made over several years, depending on when each project milestone is reached. As disbursements for green bond projects are made, corresponding amounts from the special account are transferred quarterly to the general investment pool.



WSSC Water Results

WSSC Water's commitment to sustainability is reflected in our greenhouse gas reduction program, energy management program, pollution control and prevention, climate change and environmental outreach efforts. Examples include:



The mission of the WSSC Water Energy Management Program is to support environmental stewardship and efficient procurement practices that are strategic priorities. Due to the high cost and environmental impacts of energy demand and consumption, energy management is critical to WSSC Water's performance at the highest service levels in these areas. Wind, solar and hydropower are just a few of the technologies WSSC Water employs for energy efficiency during the water filtration and treatment processes.

- WSSC Water adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 100 percent by 2050.
- Six megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic power are at two water resource recovery facilities and one off-site facility. Standard Solar was awarded a contract to design, build, own, and operate an additional 12 MW wholesale solar site in Western Maryland. WSSC Water will own 100 percent of the carbon offsets from the power generated plus Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) beginning in year four of operation. The project is projected to be completed in late 2025.
- WSSC Water receives 33 percent of its energy from wind power and owns the associated RECs.
- WSSC Water operates three 700-horsepower pump turbines at Rocky Gorge Water Pumping Station. Brighton Dam facility operates two 250horsepower hydro turbine generators with a production capacity of 1.8 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity annually.
- The Piscataway Bioenergy Plant will recover approximately three MW of renewable energy from wastewater biomass, reduce greenhouse gas production by 11,800 tons/year, reduce biosolids output by 50 - 55 percent of current output, reduce lime demand by 4,100 tons/year, maintain permitted nutrient load limits to the

Chesapeake Bay, reduce grease discharge to sewers by five million gallons/year, and produce pathogen-free Class A Biosolids.

Pollution Control and Prevention

The Sewer Basin Reconstruction capital project supports a viable infrastructure and reduces the risk of sanitary sewer overflows or SSOs. In FY 2024, the State of Maryland provided \$5.0 million in grants towards this program to reduce pollution and restore the Chesapeake Bay watersheds.

A major objective for WSSC Water is to reduce PFAS from sources to avert or reduce costly treatment needs in water and wastewater and broader environmental protection. Efforts also include engaging stakeholders on a source reduction policy.

Clean Transportation

WSSC Water's strategy is to replace its fleet with alternative energy vehicles. Nineteen electric vehicles (EVs) have been purchased with another 54 EVs/hybrids over the next two years. This could reduce CO_2 emissions by 140 tons per year.

WSSC Water installed 16 EV charging stations at the Support Center employee parking garage.

Climate Change Adaptation

WSSC Water is dealing with the impacts of extreme weather brought on by the changing climate.

We proactively initiated a multi-year climate change study to ensure we are fully responsive to the threat of climate change to our facilities and infrastructure.

 WSSC Water evaluates upgraded facilities for climate change resiliency consistent with Maryland's adaptation and resiliency objectives.



Source Water Protection: The Patuxent Watershed Protectors program is a community service opportunity for local groups to adopt one of WSSC Water's recreation areas to assist in keeping our two Patuxent River drinking water reservoirs trash free. These reservoirs serve as the drinking water source for one-third of WSSC Water's customers but are also popular outdoor recreation areas. WSSC Water has convened regional outreach and technical and policy committees focused on reducing winter deicing products and their negative impact on our drinking water sources and the environment.

WSSC Water is developing a comprehensive source water protection plan to better protect our water resources by collaborating with over 30 external partners. The plan will focus on prevention/preparedness against contamination, improving source water monitoring, enhancing contaminant inventory, developing mapping tools for watershed analysis, increasing participation in watershed partnerships, engaging salt applicators, engaging agricultural landowners, trending water quality effects and treatment impacts from climate change, and tracking legacy and emerging contaminants.

American Chestnut Foundation: The Maryland Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation has four orchards on WSSC Water property around the Patuxent River. The hundreds of trees in these orchards advance the efforts of The American Chestnut Foundation to restore the American chestnut tree to its former range throughout the Appalachian region.

Community Programming: WSSC Water's staff volunteer to support various non-profit organizations from across our service area communities of Montgomery County and Prince George's County. Over 100 volunteers participated in "Team H2O Gives Back Volunteer Week" in 2024. This included environmental actions for trash clean-up activities to protect our watershed. WSSC Water also regularly hosts informational tables and sessions at regional environmental festivals and summits.



Sixty student interns collaborated to explore innovative technologies that will enhance WSSC Water operations.

Digital Twins = virtual replicas of physical systems; the goal is to create digital twins of all WSSC Water facilities and control them from inside.

Augmented Reality = bridging physical and digital worlds to train employees better, solve problems faster, optimize efficiencies, improve productivity and prepare for the future.

Hydrogen Energy = strategize how to fully transition WSSC Water to hydrogen energy as the primary fuel operations source.

International Work Exchange = establish a program where WSSC Water can collaborate with foreign utility companies to exchange

Green Bond Impact Summary

Issuance In the past year, WSSC Water issued its fifth green bond for \$28 million in funding to support pollution control and prevention, and sustainable water management. Due to WSSC Water receiving the highest credit rating for debt issuance, \$13.0 million of funds allocated to green bond projects are based upon income on short-term investments and premiums received at bond closing. Premiums lower debt service payable over the life of the bond.

Allocation and Disbursements In FY 2024, the projects selected for WSSC Water's green bond project portfolio have a total allocation of \$183.3 million; \$182 million in green bond proceeds were disbursed to support these projects. The \$1.3 million difference reflects investment income obtained on deposited proceeds.

By Project

A CLEAR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA'S WATERS

For 17 consecutive years, NACWA has recognized the Seneca Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) with its Platinum Peak Performance Award.

The award is given to facilities that have consistently achieved PERFECT compliance for five or more years.

The Seneca WRRF team treats more than 26 MGD of wastewater.

As of June 30, 2024, Sustainable Water Management comprised the largest portion of our green bond-eligible
projects portfolio. They comprised approximately 64 percent of all green bond allocations.

		Allocated ¹			
Amounts in \$ Millions	Pollution Prev/ Control	Sustainable Water Mgmt	Total	Disbursed ²	Project Status
Potomac WFP Consent Decree Program	\$65.9	\$0.0	\$65.9	\$55.6	Active
Potomac WFP Pre-Filter Chlorination & Air Scour Improvements	0.0	8.1	8.1	8.5	Completed
Large Diameter Water Pipe & Large Valve Rehabilitation Program	0.0	108.0	108.0	119.2	Active
Total	\$65.9	\$116.1	\$182.0	\$183.3	
Percentage	36%	64%	100%		

Notes:

Amounts may not add up due to rounding.

¹ Allocated amount for eligible projects for which the bond proceeds are disbursing. The allocated amount represents funding as planned per the Financing Framework. Allocations may differ based upon funds deposited at closing. Total allocation is from the first issuance on July 1, 2019.

² Green Bond proceeds allocated to support financing of disbursements to eligible projects. Disbursed amounts represent those funds disbursed and expensed starting from July 1, 2019.

Green Bond Project Impact

WSSC Water commits to reporting on key performance indicators (KPIs) until the full allocation of the proceeds.

Pollution Prevention and Control Projects

At least 50 Percent

Removal of Potomac River intake solids

EQUIVALENT TO

3,000 full garbage trucks of trash a year.

FY 2024 Achievement

Potomac Water Filtration Plant (WFP) Consent Decree Program: The program construction is proceeding on schedule. One of the remaining two projects is the Sediment Basin Filter Backwash Treatment Facility, which is 70% complete in construction. This project separates the solids from the filter backwash before discharging into the Potomac River. The other is the Gravity Thickener Expansion Project, which is 55% complete. This project adds three new gravity thickeners to the plant site for additional solids treatment.

Solids removal has improved from a 2017 baseline of 59.7 percent (revised from prior reporting) to 70.7 percent (revised lower from prior reporting). Solids removal will be updated in early 2025 when the two-year solids removal percentage is calculated.

2

Sustainable Water Management

Reduce

Amount of water used for filter backwash process.

Four Miles

Minimum miles of large diameter water mains replaced per year.

EQUIVALENT TO

EQUIVALENT TO

10,000 gallons of water per year.

Replace the equivalent length of 70 football fields per year.

FY 2024 Achievement

Large Diameter Water Pipe & Large Value Rehabilitation Program: To ensure a reliable water distribution system, WSSC Water completed 9 miles of large-diameter pipe work in FY 2024 for 25.1 miles since FY 2020.

Green Bond-Eligible Projects

Target Results and Allocated and Disbursed Amounts



Pollution Control and Prevention



Sustainable Water Management

Going Digital Improves Grease Disposal

For Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) disposal enforcement, it's out with the old handwritten waste hauler documents and in with the new digitally entered ones.

Saves time

- Submitted within two business days, reduces
- FOG Investigator response time to critical issues

It's green

• Saves 75,000 pieces of paper

Decreases FOG introduced in collection system

• Potentially reduce sanitary sewer overflows

Supports compliance

- Food Service Establishments (FSE) have immediate access to cleaning records, ensuring compliance with FOG Discharge Permit
- New system prompts FSEs to apply early for permit and pairs them with FOG team member to review regulations

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Target Results

			1		Target	UN SDG 17 Goals ³	
No.	Link for More Information	Project Name (Number) and Description	Eligibility Criteria ¹	Project Life (Years)	Pollution Prevention /Control	Sustainable Water Management	Goals
		The Potomac WFP Consent Decree Program (W-73.33) to meet the new discharge limitations identified in the Consent Decree.	Ρ	50	Increase in the percent of river solids removed		Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation Goal 14: Life Below Water Goal 15: Life on Land
2		Large Diameter Water Pipe & Large Valve Rehabilitation Program (W-161.01) rehabilitate or replace large diameter water transmission mains and large system valves that have reached the end of their useful life.	SW	35-100		Miles of large diameter water mains replaced annually	Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

na - Indicator is not applicable for this project. ~ - Indicator is not measured/reported for this project.

¹Column indicates whether the project aims to address: renewable energy (R), energy efficiency (E), pollution prevention/control (P), environmentally sustainable management land use of living natural resources and natural resources (S), terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity conservation (T), clean transportation (C), sustainable water and wastewater management (SW), climate change adaptation (CC), circular economy adapted products, production technologies and processes or certified eco-efficient products (EP), and green buildings (G)

²Target results are expected impacts based on estimates developed at the time of project approval and materializing at the end of the project implementation period (6 years in most cases). Results reported are based on the entire project. Actual impacts may differ from these estimates and do not represent the actual results in a specific year.

³The mapping of eligible projects to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG).



Allocated and Disbursed Amounts

Green Bond Financing

	Allocated \$'s million ¹	WSSC Water Share (%) ²	Disbursed \$'s million ³
No. Project Name (Number) and Description			
1 The Potomac WFP Consent Decree Program (W- 73.33) to meet the new discharge limitations identified in the Consent Decree.	65.9	100%	55.6
2 Potomac WFP Pre-Filter Chlorination & Air Scour Improvements (W-73.22) construction of pre-filter chlorination and filter air scour systems. (COMPLETED OCTOBER 2021)	8.1	100%	8.5
3 Large Diameter Water Pipe & Large Valve Rehabilitation Program (W-161.01) rehabilitate or replace large-diameter water transmission mains and large system valves that have reached the end of their useful life.	108.0	100%	119.2
	182.0		183.3

Total amounts may not add up due to rounding.

¹ The allocated amount is the Green Bond eligible portion of project proceeds and reported in US\$ millions.

² The percentage shows the share of the total financing that WSSC Water provides. This share could be used to apportion total results to WSSC Water when a project is co-financed.

³ The disbursed amount is the amount of all Green Bond proceeds expensed to the project and reported in US\$ millions. This includes investment income less any cost of issuance expenses.





REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Commissioners of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Laurel, Maryland

We have examined management of Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC Water) assertion that the net proceeds of the February 8, 2024, \$28,345,000 Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds of 2024 (Second Series) (Green Bonds), as included in the 2024 Green Bond Annual report, were allocated and disbursed to support projects in accordance with the use of proceeds requirement in the *Green Bond Framework*, as provided by the International Capital Market Association, for the year ended June 30, 2024. WSSC Water's management is responsible for its assertion. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertion. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination was not conducted for the purpose of evaluating the environmental benefits of the eligible projects; the eligible projects' design and outcomes conform with third-party published principles, standards, or frameworks, such as *Green Bond Framework;* and any information included in the WSSC Water's 2024 Green Bond Annual Report. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance other than on management's assertion regarding allocation and disbursement of proceeds.

In our opinion, management's assertion that the net proceeds of the February 8, 2024, \$28,345,000 Consolidated Public Improvement Bonds of 2024 (Second Series) (Green Bonds), as included in the 2024 Green Bond Annual report, were allocated and disbursed to support projects in accordance with the use of proceeds requirement in the *Green Bond Framework*, as provided by the International Capital Market Association, for the year ended June 30, 2024 is fairly stated, in all material respects.

Owings Mills, Maryland February 27, 2025

SB + Company, SfC



October 17, 2024, marked the 10th annual Imagine a Day Without Water.

Each year, WSSC Water raises awareness about the role water plays in our daily lives.

Providing water is dependent upon continued investment in our water and sewer infrastructure.

Team H_2O works to deliver the essential 24/7 to our communities in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.







Environmental Stewardship Program

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WSSC Water is a proud member of Maryland's Green Registry since 2022. This designation demonstrates our holistic and ongoing approach to sustainability in our policies, operational processes, capital projects and project management.

March 2025