

ESSENTIAL

HERE FOR YOU.

Carlos Santiago | Collections



ReWa
renewable water resources



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE ESSENTIAL?

We are all **connected**

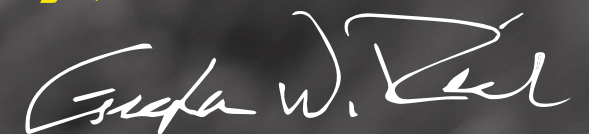
The decisions we make impact the lives of those around us. As individual citizens and as an organization, we have a responsibility to each other and to our community.

This responsibility stretches beyond our service area and our waterways. The work we do impacts community health, environmental preservation and economic growth both state and nation-wide.

This year, the breadth and depth of what we do in our community has never felt more significant. And when it seemed the world came to a halt, I'm proud to say ReWa kept going because our essential service is directly tied to the health and safety of our community. We provide peace of mind that when you rinse, flush or pour, the discarded water is handled safely and renewed responsibly.

Protecting the quality of life. It's our responsibility, our duty and our purpose.

It's **essentially,** ReWa.



Graham W. Rich, PE, BCEE
Chief Executive Officer

ESSENTIAL FINANCIALS

If you live within our service area, you may have seen the ReWa logo on your water bill. It takes a lot of hard work to responsibly purify wastewater from **more than 144,000 homes, businesses and industries**. And our ratepayers play a huge part in keeping our area's water clean and the quality of life in our community strong.

Because we don't receive any money from state or federal taxes, ReWa's operating expenses and Capital Improvement Program are funded from a combination of new account fees, user fees (the amount you see on your water bill), cash reserves, revenue bond debt and state revolving loan funds.

We work with third-party industry consulting specialists to identify and implement equitable rate structures for our customers and community and also to meet the evolving needs of our organization to ensure we continue providing our trusted superior service.

ReWa's wastewater rates and fees reflect, in part, the cost to build, finance, maintain, and operate our nine water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) and our approximately **400-mile pipe system**.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 5-YEAR

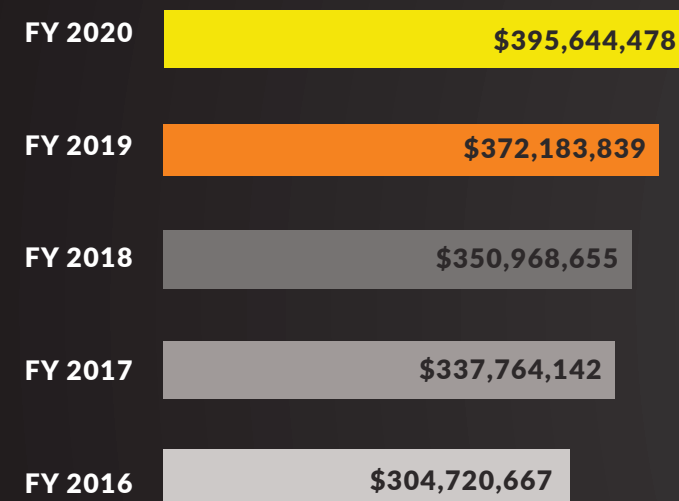


Our operations allow us to renew the region's wastewater and reintroduce pure water back into local lakes, rivers and streams for safe re-use.

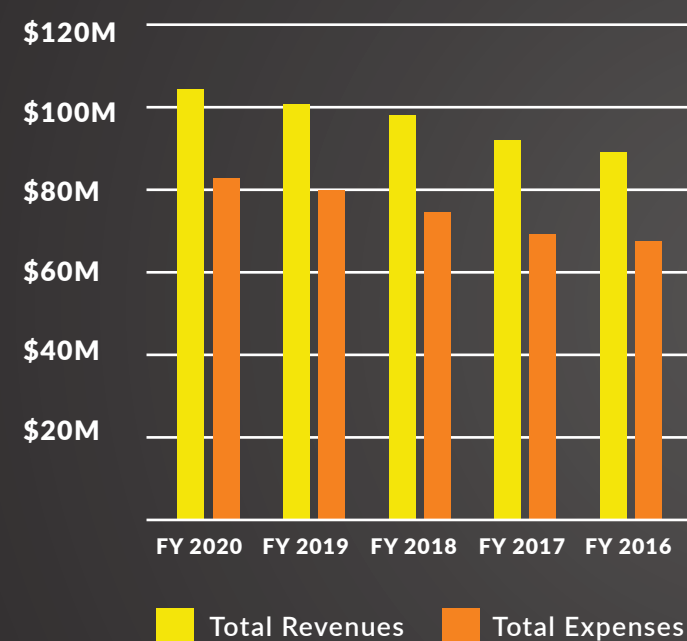
ESSENTIAL EXPLANATIONS

Despite the many challenges of 2020, ReWa's financial position continued to be strong, with an increase of \$23.4 million in **net position** to \$395.6 million as of December 31, 2020.

NET POSITION



TOTAL REVENUES & EXPENSES

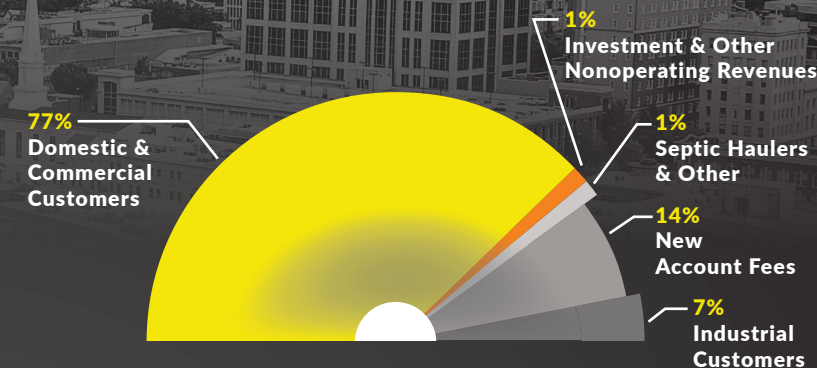


Maintaining our bond ratings results in lower interest rates on debt. We pride ourselves on a strong financial standing and sound management practices. Our efforts earned ReWa the following credit ratings:

- An Aa1 rating from Moody's Investors Services
- AAA from Standard & Poor's - the highest credit rating possible.

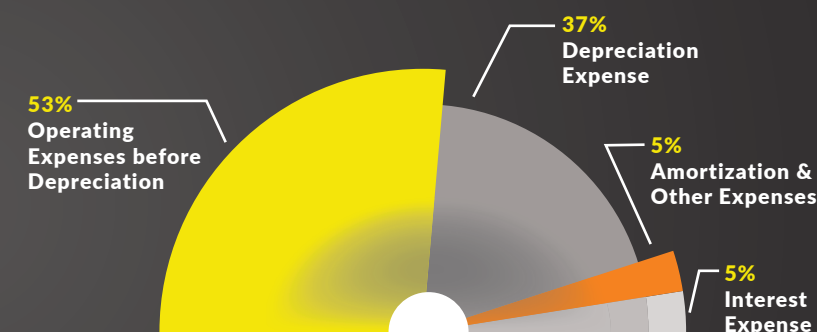
During 2020, ReWa issued Series 2020C and Series 2020D Sewer System Refunding Revenue Bonds in order to refinance higher **rate debt**, which resulted in cash flow savings totaling approximately \$2.9 million.

REVENUES



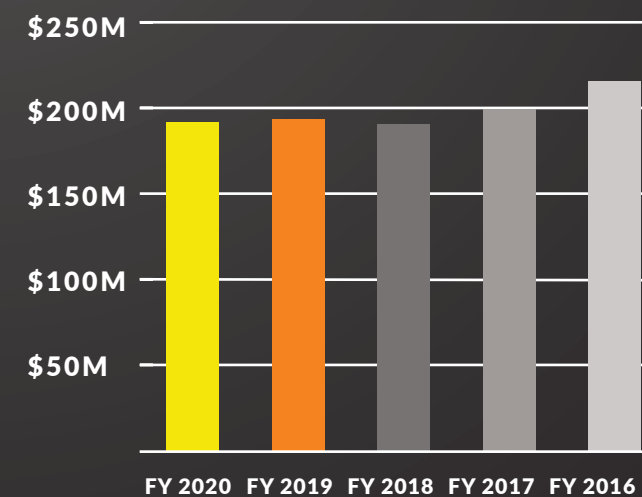
Total revenues increased by \$3.7 million to \$104.7 million in 2020. While we experienced a decrease in industrial and commercial revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic and new account fee revenue increased primarily due to the ongoing economic growth and development in our service area.

EXPENSES

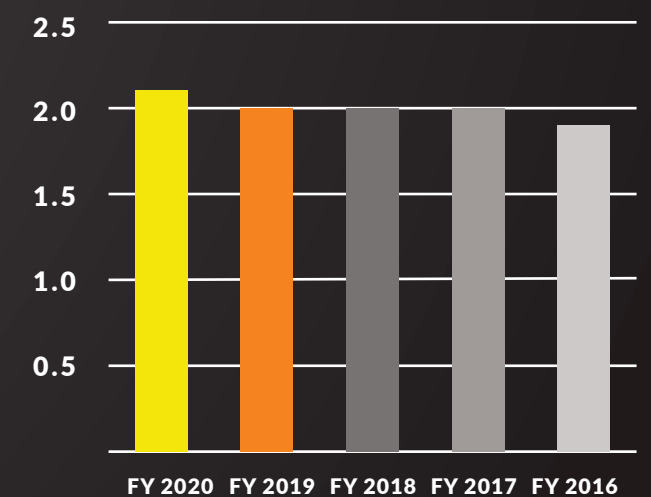


Total expenses increased \$2.9 million to \$83.1 million in 2020. The increase is primarily attributable to increases in depreciation, employee-related costs, contracted services and legal expenses.

TOTAL DEBT



DEBT COVERAGE



ESSENTIAL STRATEGIES

Our role in the community doesn't just stop at wastewater treatment and waterway preservation. Since 2010, **Greenville County has grown at a rate of 14%, and The Greenville County Comprehensive Plan projects the area to have an additional 222,000 residents and 108,000 jobs by 2040.**

ReWa plays a role in supporting these new neighbors, industries and local businesses. **We partner with Greenville County and developers to ensure sewer capacity aligns with projected area growth.** Recently, Anderson County partnered with ReWa in a united effort to plan, build and develop an intentional strategy for sustained area growth. This partnership provides ratepayers better service through improved operational efficiencies.

The Upstate Roundtable Plan also complements the recommendations of the Greenville County Comprehensive Plan by looking at the region as a whole. The plan outlines how area leaders plan to address wastewater infrastructure growth for the next 20 years.

DIG Greenville completed a major milestone – the digging or “excavation” of the 1.2 mile-long tunnel under Downtown Greenville. Now, we’ve begun installing the 7-foot diameter wastewater pipe.



The final phase of the DIG Greenville project, restoring the construction sites back to their original greenspaces, is set to be complete in 2021.



451 truckloads of excavated rock



7228 feet of pipe installed



2838 cubic yards of concrete poured



5101 feet of geotechnical borings
=36x Poinsett Hotels



“Now is the time to
understand more,
so that we may fear less.



After a year of so many uncertainties, the words of the great scientist Marie Curie ring true. Understanding more is exactly what we set out to do.

You'd be surprised what can be learned from wastewater.



ESSENTIAL INNOVATION

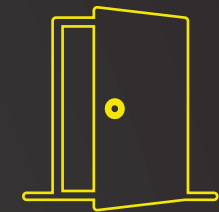
We're leading the way as one of the first utilities to practice wastewater-based epidemiology (WBE), the practice of **using wastewater to determine the consumption of or exposure to chemicals/pathogens in a population.**

Fueled by the natural curiosity and innovation of our workforce, we've been proactive in exploring this new field and partnered with Clemson University to research how the COVID-19 virus (SARS-CO-V-2) presents itself in wastewater.

Because of this research, ReWa was selected to join a network of 100 wastewater treatment utilities across the United States to partner with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Center for Disease Control to test wastewater for the presence of the COVID-19 virus.



The samples collected from this network of wastewater utilities covered 36 million people nationwide or about **10% of our country's population.**



The data collected from our facilities served as a leading indicator for local re-emergence of the COVID-19 virus and assisted in guiding **federal reopening and mitigation strategies.**

ReWa Biosolids Program

We've innovated ways to recycle a byproduct of the wastewater treatment process to create "biosolids," a natural and environmentally-sound fertilizer, for local farmers in Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, and Spartanburg counties. Over the past three years, we've applied biosolids to **12,376 acres** in these counties. In 2020, more than **6,390 dry tons** of ReWa biosolids nourished local fields and pastures to keep them healthy and thriving.



12,376 acres in the Upstate
6,390 dry tons applied



ESSENTIAL LEADERSHIP

Wastewater treatment is an essential service. That statement has carried more weight this year than ever before. And, in one of our history's most challenging years yet, we've remained nimble and dedicated public servants.

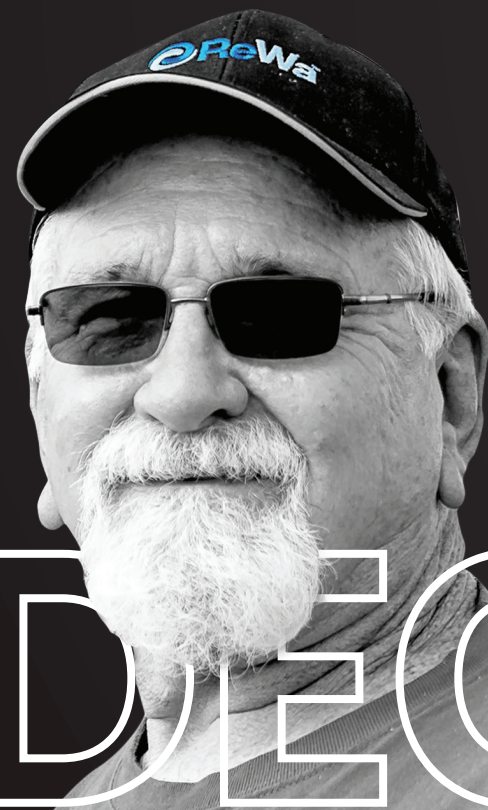
Our workforce is made up of more than 175 employees ranging from wastewater operators to environmental biologists. ReWa employees are curious to discover and eager to innovate. We can see the impact of our work in the beauty of area waterways and the quality of life in our community.

For us, this work goes beyond essential. It's meaningful. Purposeful. And that's exactly why:

53%

of employees have
been with ReWa over a

DECADE.



John Barry, Gilder Creek WRRF

“This year has proven that service leadership is essentially Team ReWa. - John T. Crawford, Jr.
ReWa Board Chair



From left to right: George Fletcher, Daniel K. Holliday, Ray C. Overstreet, Emily K. DeRoberts, John T. Crawford, Jr., Clint Thompson, Chip Fogelman, Timothy A. Brett, J.D. Martin

ESSENTIAL PARTNERS

We work, live and serve in this community. Our coordinated and strategic partnerships reflect the values of our organization and the passion of our workforce. Together, we can protect our environment, elevate our community and inspire our future.

\$35K

Our annual Golf Tournament fundraiser supported two local non-profits, Rebuild Upstate and Meals on Wheels.

\$12.7M

The wastewater improvements we provided will help Unity Park in its mission to revitalize an area of Downtown Greenville with greenspace, river views and affordable housing.

100K 

We've collaborated with Roper Mountain Science Center on developing water quality programming that will reach more than 100K students and community members.

85 

Through ReWa's partnership with Conestee Nature Preserve, more than 85 students from six different area schools were supported to participate in the Conestee Summer Camping Program.

40 

Every child deserves a happy holiday and ReWa's employees were able to partner with the Salvation Army of Greenville's Angel Tree Program to provide holiday gifts to area families in need.

22 

Students participated in the Momentum Bike Clubs (MBC) Summer Internship program where ReWa partnered to advocate for water quality and community investment through environmental preservation.



ESSENTIAL ASSISTANCE

The challenges that riddled 2020 will not just vanish in 2021. Everyone deserves affordable and readily available access to clean water, and we recognize the insurmountable struggles for many in our community this year.

We're committed to offering help to those who need support. The Salvation Army has partnered with us to establish a Help to Community (H2C) affordability program. This program, in tandem with our United Way of Greenville partnership, provides temporary financial assistance to those needing help with their wastewater and water bills.



Affordable Housing New Account Fee Program

For housing identified as “affordable” by either the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority or the Community Development Division of the City of Greenville, we implemented an Affordable Housing New Account Fee Program that uses grant dollars to reimburse 50% of ReWa’s current New Account Fee. For 2020, we authorized grant funds for 100 qualifying affordable housing units in both Greenville County and the City of Greenville.

ESSENTIALLY, ReWa.



This year devastated our world with unthinkable tragedies. But in the months when it seemed like everything was falling apart, the essential businesses in our community came together.

It was challenging, frightening and many times exhausting. But the dedication of our workforce never wavered. Our purpose has never been so clear: to support our community, renew our waterways and preserve our quality of life.

There's a reason why renewable is in the very name of our organization. It takes creativity and curiosity to restore the old and the used. And that's what makes up our business.

Our workforce of more than 175 innovative minds works daily to renew the very thing no one wants to talk about into fresh, clean water. The same water that brings life and beauty to our area. With this thought in mind, **we embrace the future with renewed hope.**



To support an enhanced and desirable quality of life, we're renewing our original campus facilities to provide additional space for learning, research and environmental work.



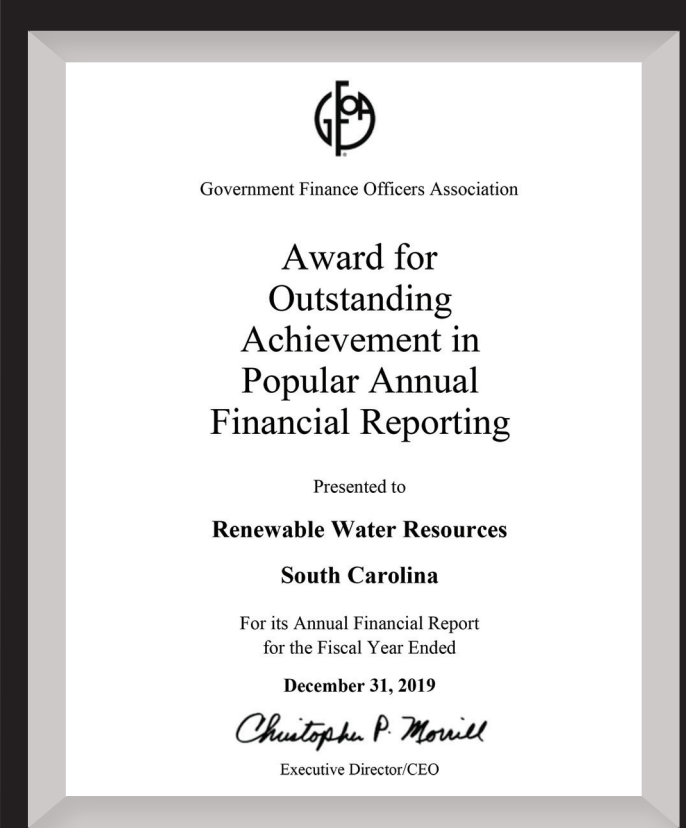
To more efficiently and effectively provide for community needs and responsible growth, we're supporting Greenville County and MetroConnects to renew our sewer system and encourage smart economic development.



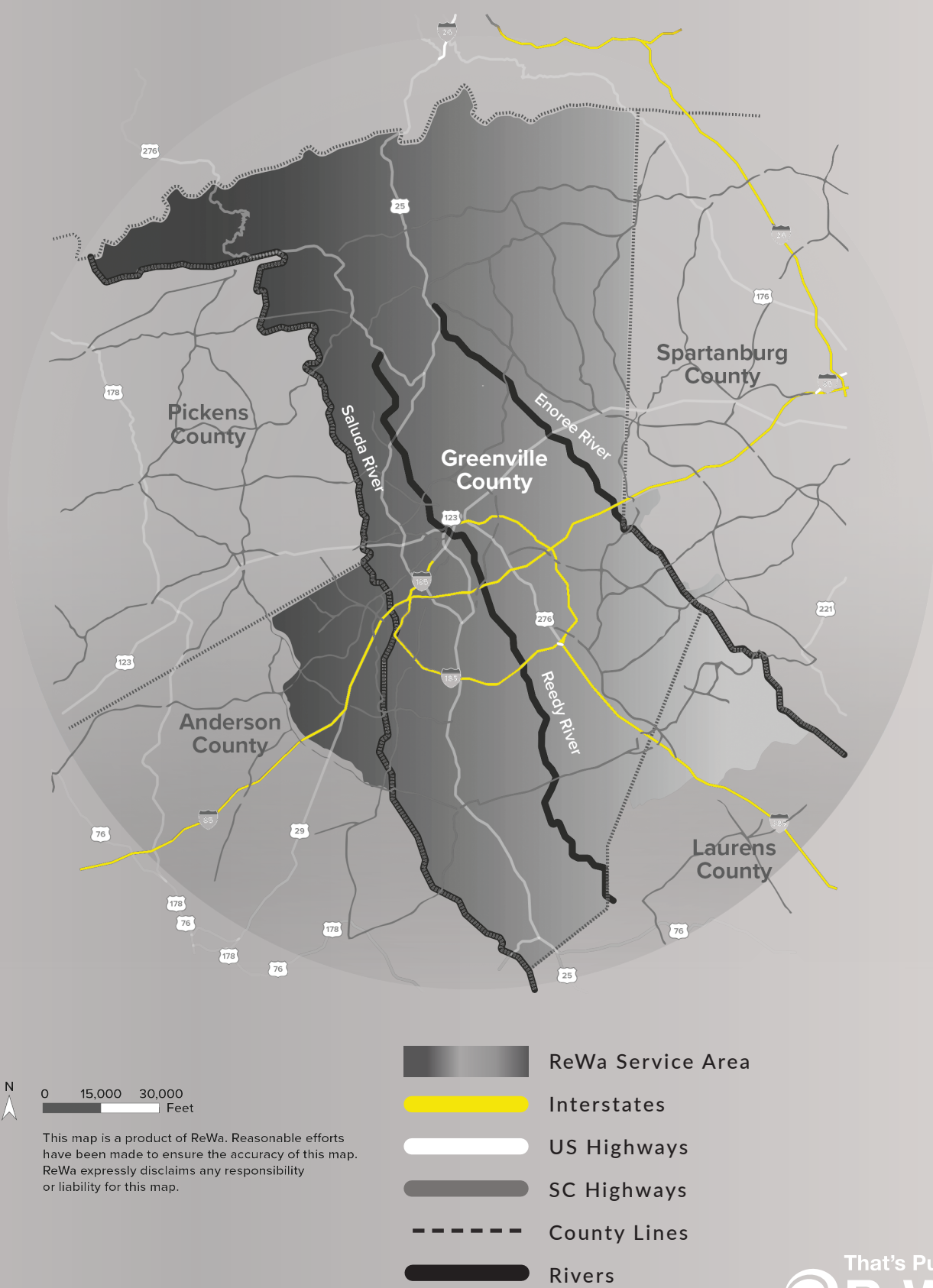
To ensure a renewed focus on equity and affordability, we've committed \$175,000 toward our affordability programs and re-evaluated our rate structures.

Our Award-Winning Annual Report from 2019

This Popular Annual Financial Report is intended to enhance the understandability of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and is not regarded as a replacement. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and consists of audited financial statements, notes, and required supplementary information. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available on our website - www.rewaonline.org.



OUR SERVICE AREA



That's Purely
ReWa[®]
renewable water resources

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