

### focused on the future.

Founded in 1925, Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) is a regional wastewater utility that provides quality services to a population of nearly 500,000 people across a total service area that includes Greenville County and portions of Anderson, Spartanburg, Laurens, and Pickens Counties in the Upstate of South Carolina. ReWa is one of the largest and most respected public utilities not only in South Carolina, but in the nation.

Each day, ReWa cleans more than 42 million gallons of wastewater before safely returning it back to the environment; this equates to approximately 15.3 billion gallons of wastewater treated annually. The work we do is meaningful, purposeful, and intentional.

### Our Mission

Enhancing our community's quality of life by transforming wastewater into renewable resources through responsible and innovative solutions.

### Our Vision

Through the passion of our workforce, ReWa will be a community partner and an industry leader safeguarding our water environment for future generations.

### Core Values

Accountability
Dedication
Integrity & Trust
Professionalism
Safety • Unity

"Everyone in the Upstate is connected by a shared responsibility to preserve and protect the health of our local waterways. How we interact

with the water around us has a profound impact on community health, quality of life, environmental conservation and economic growth. We don't only want clean water, we need it to sustain life. That's why we take pride in the work that we get to do every day, enhancing our community's quality of life by transforming wastewater into renewable resources through responsible and innovative solutions."

Joel H. Jones, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





### CONSERVATION EFFORTS







### **Bandalong Floating Litter Trap™**

The Bandalong Floating Litter Trap is a state-of-the-art trash trapping system and the first of its kind to be installed in South Carolina.

This in-stream device is designed to capture floating litter and debris in our waterways, effectively capturing an average of 30,000 pounds of trash per year.

### Streambank Stabilization and Restoration

Our streambank stabilization and restoration projects help to stabilize sewer infrastructure and enhance streambank habitats. Native plants are then installed to assist in stabilizing the soil and minimizing erosion. These native plants serve as food and shelter for birds and wildlife while also being beneficial for overall water quality.

In 2022, two large streambank projects took place, totaling 3,150 linear feet.

### **Oyster Shell Recycling Program**

In partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and their Oyster Recycling and Enhancement program (SCORE), ReWa accepts oyster shells at their Oyster Shell Recycling drop-off location on Mauldin Rd.

Once collected, recycled shells are transported to the coast of South Carolina to be used in the rehabilitation of oyster reefs. Through this partnership, 1.5 million oyster shells have been recycled back into our coastal waterways.



One adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day, improving water quality in the process.



### We are ensuring value.

WE PROVIDE UP TO in grant funds annually

for qualifying, affordable housing units in both *Greenville County and the* City of Greenville.

### **Payment Assistance Program**

Access to affordable and reliable clean water is essential, so ReWa partnered with the Salvation Army to develop the Help 2 Community (H2C) Payment Assistance Program. In tandem with our community partner, the United Way of Greenville, this program provides temporary financial assistance to those needing help with their wastewater bill.

### Affordable Housing New Account Fee Program

As a community partner, ReWa offers an Affordable Housing New Account Fee Program that provides grant funds to reimburse 50% of ReWa's new account fees for housing identified as "affordable" by either the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority or the Community Development Division of the City of Greenville.

### Six-Month Savings Program

ReWa's Six-Month Savings Program is a cost-savings program for residential customers, in which customers are automatically enrolled each year. During the warmer summer months, there is an increase in outside water use (i.e., irrigation, swimming pools, etc.). However, most outside water use does not enter the sewer system and therefore does not require wastewater treatment. ReWa customers benefit from this program beginning with their May bill (April usage) through their October bill (September usage).



For program details, visit rewaonline.org or call 864-299-4000.

Downtown Greenville's Canvas Tower, featuring Greenville resident and former educator, Pearlie Harris, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Greenville County Schools.



### promoting partnerships.

ReWa is proud to have partnerships throughout the Upstate. These partnerships are mutually beneficial to the community and span conservation, environmental education, sustainability, clean water, greenspace and outdoor activities.

100K

In partnership with Roper Mountain Science Center and through the "Our Water Story" exhibit, we've reached more than 100K students and community members, educating them on the value of clean water and how we all play a role in the water cycle.

\$48K

Our annual golf tournament fundraiser benefitted both the Julie Valentine Center and A Child's Haven.

**65** i

In partnership with Upstate Forever, we have protected 65 acres in Northern Greenville County, preserving that as a greenspace for generations to come.

15

In partnership with Clemson Extension and SC Adopt-A-Stream, 15 area teachers and water educators spent the day on ReWa's campus learning how to monitor water quality in freshwater streams, subsequently becoming certified volunteers in the collection of data that can help protect and restore these bodies of water.

60

Through our ongoing partnership with Conestee Nature Preserve, each year, more than 60 students from area schools are able to participate in the Conestee Summer Camp program where they learn about wildlife and conservation and spend a day in ReWa's Discovery Lab, looking under the microscope and learning all about the world around them.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



"ReWa has consistently shown their commitment to our mission of protecting, preserving, and restoring our hometown river. Their continued support and generosity

allow Friends of The Reedy River (FoRR) to carry out the critical work that we do for the Reedy."

Mary Sillik, PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE DEVELOPER



"During a busy holiday, we experienced a 36-inch water

main break on a heavily traveled corridor, which required an emergency repair. ReWa quickly stepped in to assist and helped us obtain the necessary materials and resources to handle the situation. ReWa's support and partnership helped us ensure a quick restoration of utility services to the surrounding community."

Robert Schmidt, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

### **Roper Mountain**

"Without ReWa, we would not be able to immerse tens

of thousands of students and visitors in our Water Story exhibit at Roper Mountain. ReWa's support enables us to teach about the importance of the wonderful natural resources we have here in the Upstate, the impact of individual choices on our watershed, and the crucial role of the water treatment process."

Michael Weeks, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Conestee Nature Preserve would not be the same place without ReWa. Our long-term

partnership has shaped our trail network and education program and has facilitated some of our most important infrastructure.

"We were fortunate to have ReWa's support and cooperation in creating our popular new mountain biking trail system, with parts of that trail extending onto ReWa's property and we were thrilled to dedicate a pedestrian bridge, the 'ReWa Connector' in 2022, in honor of all ReWa has done for our organization.

"As always, ReWa was our most important partner in providing valuable environmental education opportunities for young students at the Preserve."

### Michael Corley, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Upstate Forever's partnership with ReWa has been enormously beneficial for the Upstate community. Together we have prioritized water quality through watershed improvements and by protecting headwaters. We have collaborated on the Reedy River Water Quality Group and

worked together to safeguard the endangered Bunched Arrowhead plant's rare seepage habitat. Recently, ReWa protected 65 acres of mostly forested land in northern Greenville County through a conservation easement with Upstate Forever, and this easement will protect water quality in the South Tyger River watershed. Upstate Forever looks forward to a lasting partnership with ReWa for years to come."

Erika Hollis, CLEAN WATER DIRECTOR

# forward thinking and innovative.

At ReWa, we are motivated by the endless possibilities that lay in front of us and we lead with these opportunities always at the forefront of our minds; opportunities to conserve,

renew and protect.

10,000+ solar panels

producing approximately 4,500,000 kWh of energy

### **Going Solar**

ReWa has 10,000+ solar panels throughout our Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs), producing approximately 4,500,000 kWh of energy.

At these solar farms, **sheep** are used seasonally in lieu of gas-powered mowing to control vegetation.

850 homes

could be powered with the energy we produce **Methane** 

ReWa generates approximately 4,000,000 kWh of methane (naturally found in wastewater), which heats the digesters in the water treatment process.

Together, the methane and solar energy produced can provide enough energy to power 850\* homes for a year.

\*(U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) average household energy use per year is 10,642 kWh / \$138.65)

\$1.8 million saved

per year through effluent reuse

### **Effluent Reuse**

**3.6 million gallons** of effluent (wastewater that has been treated and renewed) used per year for irrigation purposes at our facilities.

**700 million gallons** of effluent used per year within the water treatment processes at our WRRFs.

This equals a savings of over \$1.8 million per year.

Sheep grazing in solar farm field.



### **Biosolids**

In 2022, ReWa beneficially reused 44,900,400 gallons of biosolids generated at its WRRFs.

Due to this practice, 332,252 lbs. of plant available nitrogen and 866,215 lbs. of phosphorus were reused as a source of crop nutrients rather than being discarded in a landfill.

The biosolids were delivered and spread over more than 3.000 acres of farmland in Greenville County and portions of Anderson, Spartanburg, and Laurens Counties.

This reuse was provided at no monetary cost to the farmers and the nutrients delivered were estimated to be valued at \$1.04 million dollars at 2022 commercial fertilizer costs.

### **Nutrient Planning and Source Control**

Nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus are essential for plant growth. These nutrients are present in stormwater and wastewater, however, when excessive levels of nutrients enter waterways, they can lead to harmful algal blooms.

ReWa is committed to protecting, preserving, and improving water quality in our watersheds and we have made significant investments to equip several Water Resource Recovery Facilities with biological nutrient removal treatment technology.

### **PFAS**

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) are chemical compounds detected in water, soil, river sediments and the air. There is concern that the compounds may negatively impact human health or the environment. CECs do not have current regulatory standards and are not fully understood. They are characterized as emerging while work is ongoing to determine whether they pose a risk, and protective standards are developed if needed.

PFAS are contaminants of emerging concern that are currently being evaluated. These compounds are used in our everyday lives in products ranging from dental floss and makeup to fast food wrappers and non-stick pans. Because they are widely used, the compounds are found in wastewater. Depending on the compound, current treatment methods may not remove them, therefore they can reenter the environment through effluent discharge to rivers and streams.

As contaminants of emerging concern are identified, ReWa proactively engages in understanding their presence, their source, treatment process removal and potential impacts on the environment. We work closely with regulatory agencies and scientists to stay up to date and contribute to the conversation. Our goal is to support the development of sound science to ensure that we continue to provide superior water treatment services to our community.





### **DIG Greenville**

In 2022, ReWa completed its largest-ever wastewater conveyance project, DIG Greenville, also known as The Reedy River Basin Sewer Tunnel.

This underground tunnel project started in 2017 with one primary goal: to increase capacity, subsequently reducing the risk of sewer overflows to the Reedy River caused by major rain events. The result was a **1.3 mile-long tunnel through granite rock**,

100 feet underground that runs from Cleveland Park near the

Greenville Zoo to the KROC Center. Providing capacity for the rapid growth in the area, this project ultimately addressed the county's 100-year sewage needs and will enhance public and environmental health.



### DIG Greenville won three prestigious state & national awards:

Underground
Construction Association

Project of the Year

<\$50 MILLION

American Public Works Association Environmental **Project of the Year** \$25 - \$75 MILLION South Carolina American Public Works Association Environmental **Project of the Year** \$25 - \$75 MILLION

mile-long tunnel

completed with minimal

disruption to the thriving

downtown community

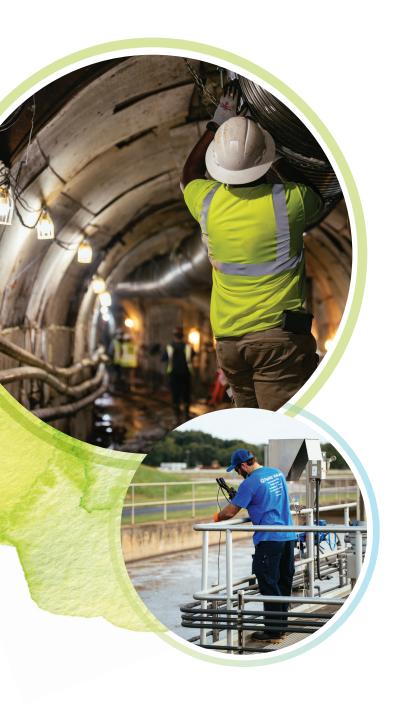
during construction.

### **Wet Weather Program**

ReWa and our regional subdistrict partners will invest tens of millions of dollars over the next 20+ years to update the Upstate's aging sewer system infrastructure. In some areas of the Upstate century-old clay pipes still exist, allowing rainwater to flow in and sewage to flow out during **major rain events** in a process called inflow and infiltration (I&I). In 2022, ReWa and the subdistricts exceeded program targets while eliminating over 3.1 million gallons a day of extraneous flow.

DID YOU KNOW?

**Major rain event** = a two-inch plus rainfall over a 24-hour period



### investing in our community.

9

state-of-the-art

Wastewater Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs) 430

mile network

of sewer lines (if stretched end-to-end) 42

million gallons

of wastewater renewed and safely returned to the environment daily

920

square miles

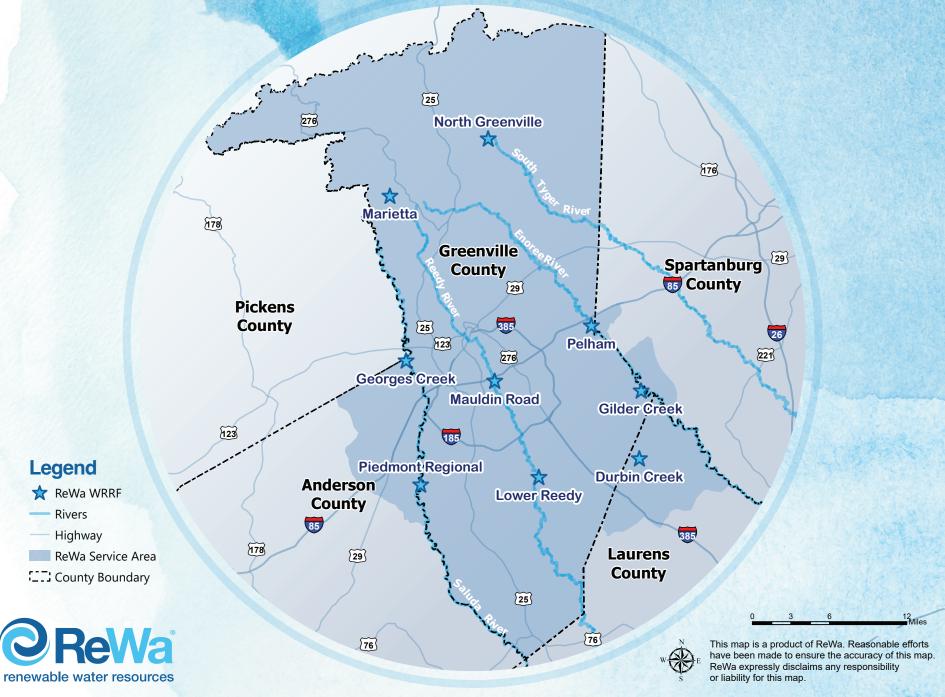
of service area

9,790 active manholes

87

pump stations

### SERVICE AREA







### WATER DISCOVERY LAB





































a voice for the

community.



### **Internships**

Our internship program, Experience ReWa, includes opportunities such as intern culture building activities, cross-training through the "Skill-Flex" program, guided resume building workshops, a professional presentation bootcamp and a final presentation luncheon showcasing the completed projects and overall intern experience.

ReWa proudly hired on 38% of our summer interns to become full time staff.



### **Tours**

21 tour groups with over 350 participants joined us to learn about the water treatment process, and how that impacts the communities we're a part of.

We welcome the opportunity to host campus tours including our treatment facilities, solar fields, and state-of-the-art Water Discovery Lab.



### **On-campus Community Engagement**

58 events were held on ReWa's campuses in 2022, with over 1,000 attendees.

We are proud of our campus and its rich history and welcome our community partners to use our event and meeting spaces year-round.



### demonstrating accountability.

Wastewater treatment is essential and so are our employees.

Greenville's southern, small-town charm, bustling downtown, and evolving business landscape is drawing an unprecedented number of people from all walks of life to the Upstate. While Greenville has become a model for revitalization, we must proactively ensure that our underlying infrastructure is readily prepared for the future growth and expansion of nearly 220,000 more residents over the next decade.

41% of employees

have been with ReWa for more than a decade 56% of employees

have been with ReWa for more than 5 years 9.8 years

is the average employee tenure–nearly twice the national average

### **Apprenticeship Programs**

7 graduates from the Apprenticeship Program

ReWa hosts three different apprenticeship programs for employees:

- Conveyance and Maintenance
- Leadership
- Wastewater Treatment Operations

In 2022, ReWa began to develop an IT Apprenticeship through ECPI University, which will bring a student on staff to learn practical skills while completing their degree.

### **Certification Training**

ReWa offers Biological Wastewater Treatment Certification exam preparation courses to ALL staff and industry professionals throughout the state.

In 2022, ReWa employees reported passing rates anywhere from 25% to 74% ABOVE the national average.

ReWa also offers other job-specific training including: CDL training, driver safety training, role-specific safety and harness training, forklift certification training and systems trainings such as: Workday, Hach WIMS, and Cityworks.

### **Veterans at Work**

11% of ReWa team members are veterans.

### 2022 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



John T. Crawford, Jr. CHAIRMAN



R.L. (Chip) Fogleman, Jr. VICE CHAIRMAN



Timothy A. Brett\* SECRETARY/TREASURER



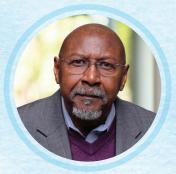
J.D. Martin, Jr.\*



Ray C. Overstreet



Daniel K. Holliday



**Clinton J. Thompson** 



**Emily K. DeRoberts** 



George W. Fletcher



Thomas H. Coker, III



Phyllis J. Henderson



John T. (Tab) Patton



## We are fiscally responsible.

Money matters. Where it comes from, how we distribute it and how we manage it are all pertinent questions as ReWa looks to maintain financial strength while enhancing the quality of life in our community.

Because we do not receive money from taxes, our 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 loans.

ReWa works with third-party industry consulting specialists to identify and implement equitable rate structures for our customers and community. Our rates and fees reflect the cost to build, finance, maintain and operate nine Water Resource Recovery Facilities and more than 400 miles of wastewater pipes.

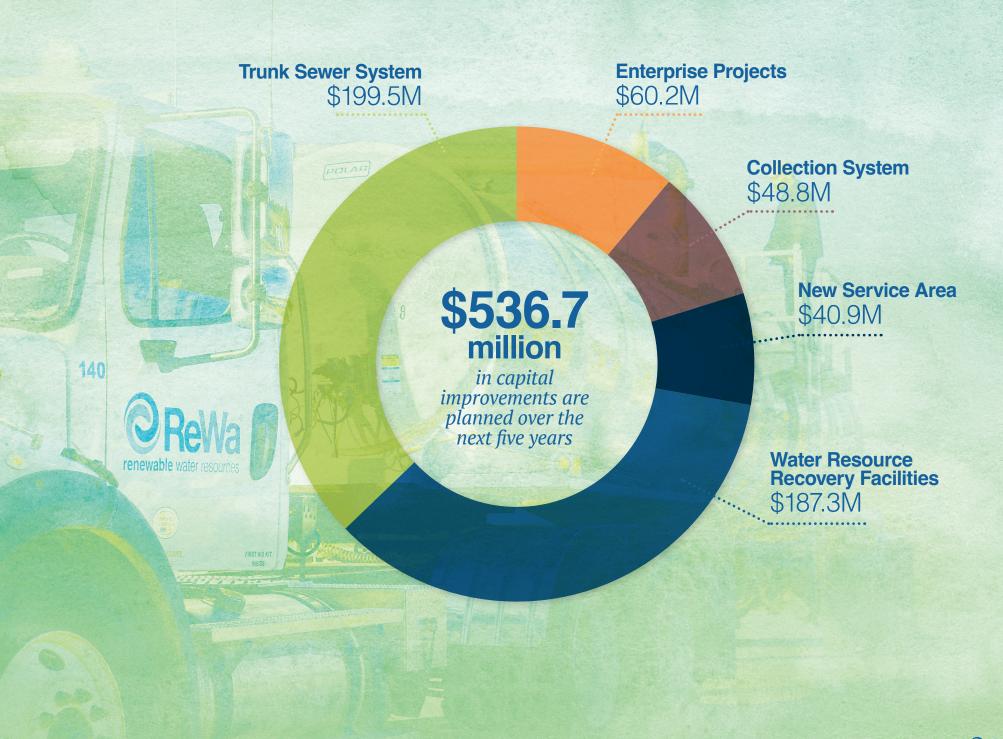
### **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

### \$536.7 million over the next five years

ReWa maintains an ongoing five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that merges our strategic plan with the ongoing objective of maintaining compliance with South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control regulations and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit limitations.

The current CIP includes upgrades to many of our treatment facilities as well as multiple sanitary sewer system replacement and improvement projects.

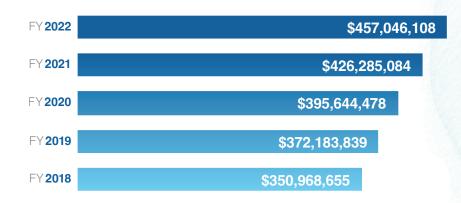
Our operations allow us to renew the region's wastewater and reintroduce clean water back into local lakes, rivers and streams for safe re-use.



### We are financially solid.

### **Net Position**

ReWa's financial position continues to be solid, with an overall increase of \$30.7 million in net position to \$457.0 million as of December 31, 2022.



We pride ourselves on a solid financial standing and sound management practices. Our efforts earned ReWa the following credit ratings:

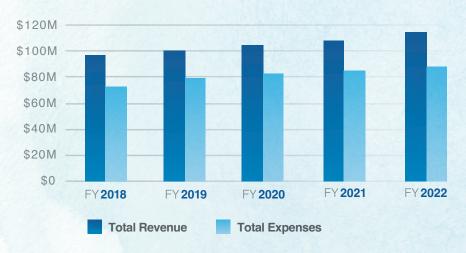
- An Aa1 rating from Moody's Investors Services
- AAA from Standard & Poor's the highest credit rating possible.

### **Capital Assets**

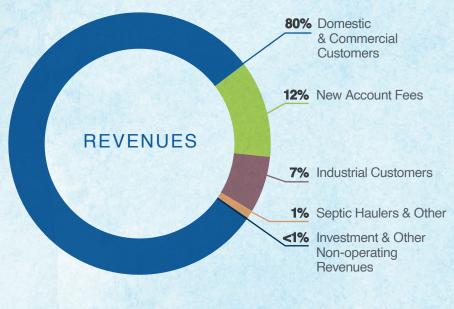
In the year ended December 31, 2022, capital assets being depreciated, net increased \$88.8 million to \$535.1 million, which is attributable to various line rehabilitations and facility enhancements, which were partially offset by annual depreciation. The Agency's \$655.3 million of net capital assets consisted primarily of land, rights-of-way, trunk lines, buildings, operating equipment, Water Resource Recovery Facilities, equipment and vehicles.

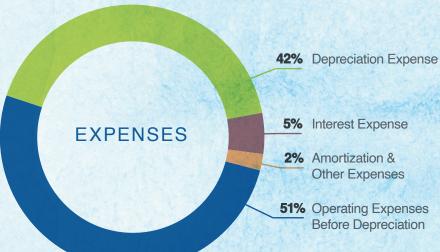
### **Revenues & Expenses**

The Agency's total revenues increased \$6.4 million, or 5.9%, to \$114.8 million in the year ended December 31, 2022, due primarily to customer growth and increases in rates and consumption volumes.



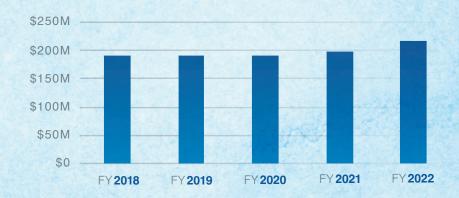
Total expenses in the year ended December 31, 2022 were \$87.6 million. Operating expenses before depreciation increased \$1.1 million or 2.5% from \$43.2 million to \$44.3 million. The increase in operating expenses in fiscal year 2022 is largely attributable to increases in the cost of outside technical services, biosolids management, natural gas, fuel, and chemicals partially offset by decreases in employee related costs, legal fees, and bad debt.





### **Total Debt**

At December 31, 2022, the Agency owed \$217.2 million (excluding premiums) in total long-term debt, an increase of \$18.2 million or 9.1% from \$199.0 million at December 31, 2021.



### **Debt Coverage**





### **Our Award-Winning Annual Report from Last Year**

The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) is prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and consists of audited financial statements, notes, and required supplementary information. This Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) is intended to enhance the understandability of the ACFR and is not regarded as a replacement.

The ACFR is available on our website at rewaonline.org

