

# RIVER WATCHER REPORT 2018

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

As owners of 17 hydropower facilities on 12 rivers in seven states, the Gravity Renewables team spends a lot of time thinking about rivers. We think about how they flow, when they flow, where they flow, what flows in them, and how to balance flows to enhance to multiple uses. Our operators spend their work days on the rivers' banks, logging thousands of hours observing and responding to river flows.

As a 24/7 river user and watcher, Gravity has a unique perspective on the health of local rivers. We also have a responsibility to work with multiple stakeholders to ensure that the potential and pressures on local rivers are balanced. As we reflect on 2018, we wanted to release a nontraditional annual review on how we, as a hydropower owner and operator, are utilizing and enhancing rivers.

*Ted Rose*  
Chief Executive Officer



## SHARED KNOWLEDGE

The more people know about rivers, the better we can work together to protect them. Gravity offers tours to community groups, schools and power users to demonstrate the power of water.

In 2018, Gravity hosted over 500 community members at our hard hat tours that explored hydropower generation and river management.



## SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Gravity installs and maintains infrastructure that enhances river environments and recreational enjoyment.

In 2018, Gravity operated eight fish and eel passage systems, while continuing to test a ninth. We welcomed visitors to use portages, docks, fishing areas, viewing areas, and interpretive areas maintained near our operations. Thousands of boats traveled through locks located adjacent to our Erie Canal plants where we work together with Canal operators to facilitate recreational passage.



## RIVER MANAGEMENT

The waters that pass through Gravity's hydropower facilities flow into the rivers from nearly 10,000 square miles of drainage basins. Most projects are run-of-river, generating only when river flows allow. Our goal is to facilitate steady river flows whenever possible. We do this by managing debris, opening additional gates to minimize high water damage, and scheduling maintenance at low flow times.

In 2018, Gravity removed tons of debris, including plastic waste, diapers, and invasive vegetation from rivers. We also coordinated with dozens of state and local agencies to share river data and re-evaluate river needs.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

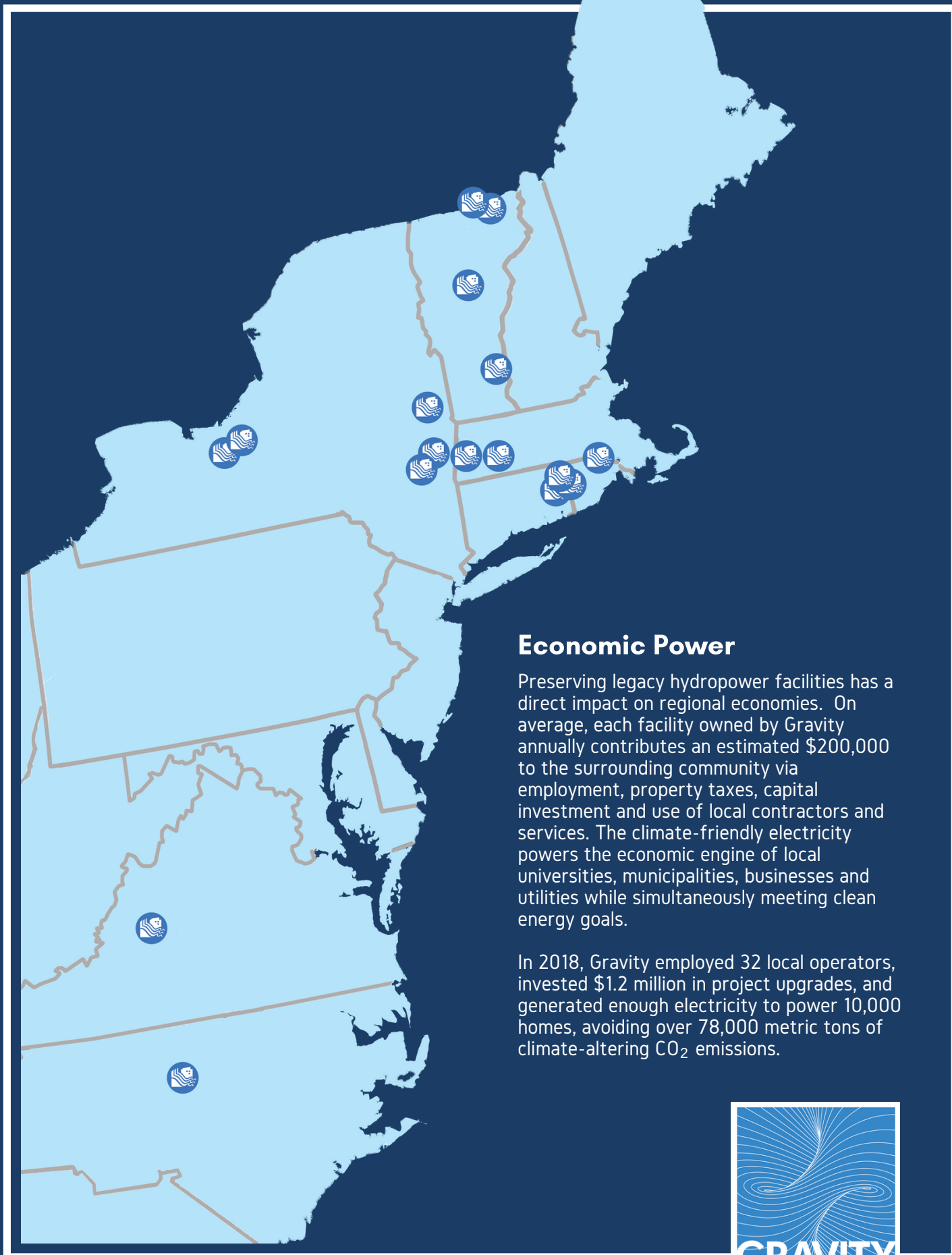
The natural power of water necessitates that safety remain a top priority at all times. Gravity maintains comprehensive emergency action and public safety plans for all of our projects. Safety signage and procedures are designed to keep neighbors, employees, and visitors safe.

In 2018, Gravity held in-person drills and remote reviews of emergency action plans for over half of our projects. Dozens of first responders, neighbors, and other stakeholders participated. In addition, Gravity made site and signage improvements that directly enhanced public safety, including safety fencing, boat barriers, lighting, and walkways at several projects.



[GravityRenewables.com](http://GravityRenewables.com)





## Economic Power

Preserving legacy hydropower facilities has a direct impact on regional economies. On average, each facility owned by Gravity annually contributes an estimated \$200,000 to the surrounding community via employment, property taxes, capital investment and use of local contractors and services. The climate-friendly electricity powers the economic engine of local universities, municipalities, businesses and utilities while simultaneously meeting clean energy goals.

In 2018, Gravity employed 32 local operators, invested \$1.2 million in project upgrades, and generated enough electricity to power 10,000 homes, avoiding over 78,000 metric tons of climate-altering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

