



2025 Impact Report

Much like the Cambrian Era, when life diversified in response to changing environmental conditions, today's water-intensive industries are adapting under increasing pressure from rising costs, water scarcity, and regulatory complexity. These forces are accelerating transformation, rewarding organizations that can evolve their water operations with speed and resilience.

Over the past year, Cambrian has supported this evolution by advancing industry-agnostic solutions designed to extract value from the water lifecycle. Our work reflects a shift from reactive wastewater management toward systems that proactively strengthen operational continuity and long-term sustainability. Across sites, these solutions are enabling industrial operators to gain control, predictability, and performance from critical water infrastructure.

Our 2025 Impact Report captures the measurable outcomes of that work, alongside broader progress and challenges shaping the water sector. By examining where adaptation is essential, and where constraints remain, we offer visibility into our impact, the state of the industry today, and the forces that will define the future of water stewardship.

Cambrian's 2025 Impact:



491,769,475
gallons of wastewater treated



98,560,920
gallons of water reused



7,436
metric tons of CO2 savings



Cambrian's Innovation Across Industries

Our Water Energy Purchase Agreement (WEPA) model addresses the complexities of wastewater management, finding solutions that help our partners meet their financial targets while future-proofing their water processes processes. Under the WEPA model, we design, build, own, and operate our client's wastewater systems, removing it from their balance sheet, offloading the associated costs, and eliminating operational barriers. Many facilities across industries remain dependent on municipal systems for treatment and compliance. Others are beginning to regain control over cost, capacity, and risk through on-site treatment and reuse through our model.

In 2025, we operated 35+ sites across the globe, including many in communities facing severe levels of water insecurity. In 2026, we look forward to guiding more facilities to sustainable and cost-effective water use practices.

We now operate
35 Sites Globally



Verticals launching in 2026

Pharmaceuticals

Mining (Steel)

Data Infrastructure

Technology: Availability vs. Capacity

With increasing regions of the country facing water scarcity and mounting pressure on freshwater bodies, there has been a notable shift in the perception of water's impact on business' bottom line. What was once a cheap, boundless resource is now a major consideration for cost-basis and production capacity. Additionally, the manufacturing infrastructure of the US is showing its age; the average wet manufacturing plant being over 40 years old¹.

As a result, many plants are reaching a critical junction where they must decide how best to proceed with replacing or upgrading their technology.

In contrast to aging manufacturing systems are the recent advancements in water treatment technology. We have seen progress in the efficiency of processes that were once considered advanced. Previously limited to large municipal systems and industries that mandated such systems, technologies such as UV disinfection and multi-barrier systems are now widely available for facilities who seek independence from public utilities. This shift has allowed more industries to fully treat their effluent in-house, reducing strain on municipal systems and opening the doors to more efficient practices, such as water reuse and energy recovery. However, even with broader technological access, many businesses still lack the capital to make such a robust investment.

While many modern treatment systems can recoup their investment in under 10 years as well as enable a business to control more of its associated costs, it is ultimately their access to up-front capital that defines their ability to future-proof their operations. Our no CapEx required model offers a path forward for facilities looking to keep water operations off balance sheet, with partners only paying for performance / per gallon.

43 Years

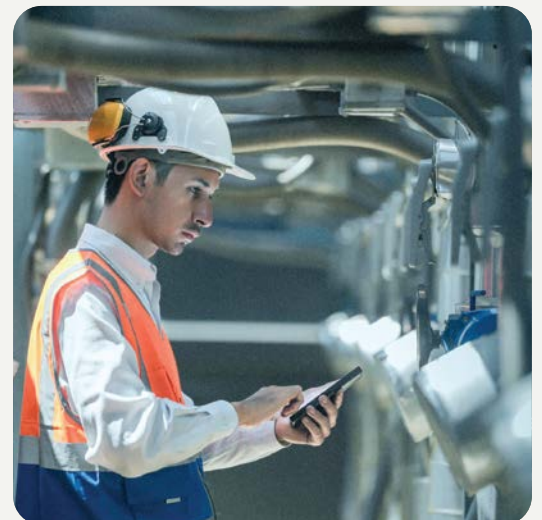
Average age of a wet manufacturing facility in the U.S.¹

>50%

of water providers have or plan to raise rates to offset rising costs²

Compliance Considerations

As industrial treatment systems age, they lag further and further behind current effluent standards. This has the capacity to quickly hurt a facility's bottom line should they suddenly face unexpected hikes to surcharges or water rates. In spite of this, their municipal water providers are no better off financially. Historically low consumer rates and insufficient federal support has widened the funding gap for public utilities, which continues to grow as pressure from population density and water insecurity persist.





Additionally, tightening regulatory requirements have had a significant impact, with over 40% of water providers delaying or cancelling infrastructure projects due to compliance costs, and more than 50% raising rates in the short-term². This reduces their capacity to immediately support industrial growth, with over a quarter expressing their inability to accommodate new industrial customers due to insufficient systems³. Such regulatory pressures will only become more salient for industrial facilities as new regulations continue to roll out in the coming years.

One regulatory issue expected to have broad impacts across industries is the new EPA rollout of rules on PFAS, with initial monitoring beginning in just over a year. While the processes required to filter for PFOA/PFOS are not new, they are also not currently widespread. Estimates show that thousands of water providers will require a significant update to their equipment to monitor and filter PFAS in the next few years. The financial effects of this rollout will pose a major hurdle for a strained public water system that is already facing a \$100B+ funding gap⁵. From there, many municipalities are planning to raise rates for larger customers to help recoup the costs⁶, hurting businesses who rely on the municipality to handle all of their treatment.

26%

Water providers lacking the capacity to take on new industrial clients³

45

US States that faced D1 or higher levels of drought in 2025⁴

\$106.4B

Funding gap for U.S. public water system improvements⁵

Such conflicts between water-intensive businesses and their utilities have led to in-house tertiary purification systems, such as RO, UV, Membrane Filtration, and Activated Carbon, seeing the largest share of growth. These technologies, when implemented correctly, are highly effective tools for industrial facilities looking to combat rising water costs and reduce municipal surcharges, while also enabling further optimizations like water reuse.

However, this growth is only available to facilities with the funds to implement such systems, often keeping those without the funds wholly reliant on their utility provider. This conflict is increasingly leading facilities to answer difficult questions, including:

- Can our current system meet future discharge limits **without major reinvestment?**
- How exposed are we to **rate increases** or **surcharge volatility?**
- Who ultimately carries the **operational and regulatory risk?**

Looking Ahead: Building Resilience in a Changing Water Economy

The trends outlined in this report underscore the urgency for businesses to rethink their approach to water management as more than just a compliance checkbox. Through thoughtful analysis and a collaborative approach with our clients, we are helping them achieve breakthroughs in operational and financial efficiency that compound over time.

Historically, our model has offered a significant cost reductions planned around the lifespan of the system. However, our latest review of our clients' results has shown that in times of rapid change such as today, we can potentially offer savings that start in the first year of the site going live. Take, for example, our recent analysis of one site's cost reductions. While their goal was to find a system that would allow them to remove the operational burden of managing wastewater in the long-term, they found immediate savings that allowed them to make further improvements to their processes.

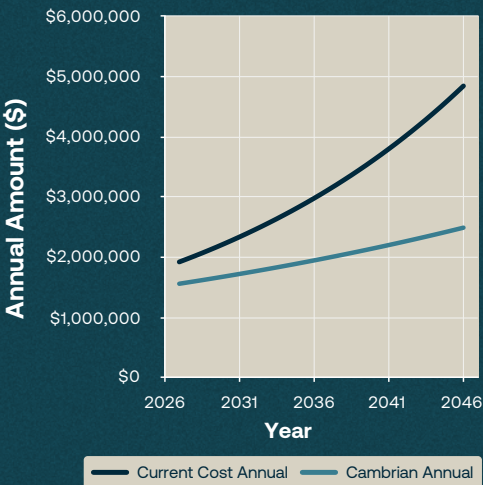
April 2027

Start date for EPA-mandated monitoring of PFAS levels in public water supply

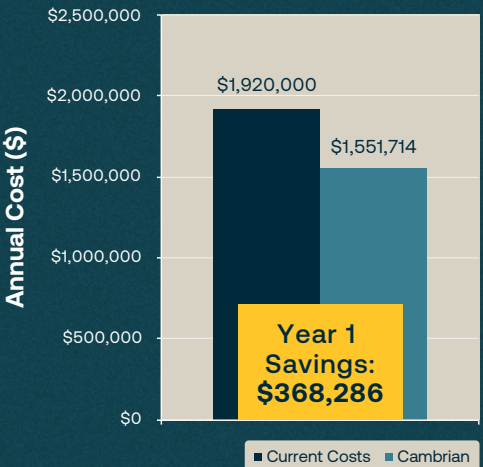
5,000

US water systems that will require major upgrades to meet EPA PFAS guidelines⁶

Annual Current Cost vs Cambrian



Year 1: Current Costs vs. Cambrian



We understand that no two sites are the same. Our modeling is specific to a facility's flow rate and BOD loading. Ranges are subject to change based on data provided by client as well as effluent quality requirements:



Anchored by our core values of **Partnership, Stewardship, and Excellence**, our team is immensely proud of the results they drove in 2025. Cambrian is positioned to help more facilities than ever in 2026 as we build towards a more water-resilient future across industries. We look forward to helping facilities implement smarter water treatment and reuse practices while allowing them to focus on their production and reduce their environmental impact.

To explore how these solutions may apply to your facility and whether our model is the right fit, visit cambrianinnovation.com.

Sources

- ¹ US Manufacturing Renaissance - JLL
- ^{2 3} Black and Veatch 2025 Water Report
- ⁴ US Drought Monitor
- ⁵ The Water Report: Closing The Funding Gap
- ⁶ Bloomberg Intelligence: 2025 Water Risk Global Outlook

