



City of
Louisville

COLORADO • SINCE 1878

Utility Rate Increases

Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Rates

The City Council recently approved rate increases for water, wastewater, and stormwater utility service. The new rates are needed primarily to fund a major reconstruction of the City's wastewater treatment plant to comply with new and stricter Federal and State regulations, but also to ensure the City can properly maintain these utility systems, meet all clean water regulations, and provide a sufficient supply of clean water for all Louisville residents and businesses. If you have questions about the rate increases, please contact Kurt Kowar at 303.335.4601 or KurtK@LouisvilleCO.gov.



What Does This Mean for My Utility Bill?

Beginning in May you will see the first increase in your utility bill, followed by projected increases in the following years. The table below reflects the anticipated impact for a residential customer who has an average bill. The impact on your bill may be more or less depending on how much water you use.

Projected Changes to Monthly Utility Bill for a Typical Residential Customer*						
Service	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Water	\$12.32	\$16.31	\$18.10	\$20.10	\$20.10	\$20.10
Wastewater	\$20.69	\$22.00	\$26.40	\$27.45	\$27.45	\$27.54
Stormwater	\$4.23	\$4.23	\$4.74	\$4.78	\$4.78	\$4.78
Combined Bill	\$37.24	\$42.54	\$49.24	\$52.33	\$52.33	\$52.42
\$ Increase		\$5.30	\$6.70	\$3.09	\$0.0	\$0.09
% Increase		14.2%	15.7%	6.3%	0%	0.2%

This list does not include monthly charges for refuse, recycling, and compost which varies by home based on the sizes of your containers.

What is the Basis for These Increases?

Utility Rate Study

To understand the City's future utility system needs and how best to pay for them, City staff, a consultant with special expertise in this area, and a volunteer Task Force appointed by the City Council completed a Utility Rate Study. This study looked at:

- The City's master plans for the water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. These plans list the utility system components that need repairs or replacement and what it would cost to properly maintain and operate the system.
- What costs different users impose on the utility system (depending on the volume of water and timing--peak period or off-peak--of that use, and the wastewater they create)
- How much money is needed to repair or replace system components and to sustain utility operations
- How to equitably distribute these costs to system users
- How to ensure rates and fees are understandable to customers

Study Results

The Utility Rate Study recommends a **multi-year plan for rate increases** to provide the revenue needed to ensure a safe and reliable utility system that meets current State and Federal regulatory requirements.

Although these increases are significant, Louisville's water rates remain comparable to surrounding communities.



Specific System Improvements

City staff continually work to make sure the City's utility systems stay in compliance with all State and Federal clean water regulations. To remain in compliance with regulations that will be effective in 2018, the City must upgrade the City's wastewater treatment plant. The existing 20-year-old facility will not meet regulations for ammonia limits or nitrogen and phosphorus levels.

As a part of this upgrade the facility's daily capacity will actually be reduced and more sophisticated treatment processes will be installed. The existing capacity was constructed at a time when Louisville anticipated larger population growth. However, the latest population estimates indicate the reduced capacity will be sufficient to meet the City's expected growth over the next 20 years. Reducing the facility capacity will also reduce the cost of this project compared with maintaining the existing system capacity.

Average Winter Consumption A New Basis for Sewer Rates

Beginning in May of 2015 the City will start a new rate system for wastewater (sewer) charges for residential customers. Currently, the City charges each utility account a flat fee of \$20.69 per month for wastewater. Beginning in May, that flat fee will be replaced with the following:

1. Usage charge. This charge will be based on your "average winter consumption" (AWC) of water during the months of December, January, and February. This usage charge is intended to make your bill more accurately reflect the volume of wastewater for your house (and not the water you may use on your lawn and garden).
2. Billing charge - A charge to cover billing and other customer service costs.
3. Readiness to serve charge (per dwelling unit). This charge recovers a portion of the cost of maintaining sewer facilities on standby, even if your account is temporarily inactive.



Convenient Ways to Receive and to Pay Your Utility Bill

There are many different ways you can receive and pay your utility bill. Check out the City's web site (www.LouisvilleCO.gov) for detailed information or contact the billing department at 303.335.4501. You can . . .

Receive your bill:

- *By mail*
- *By email* - This email bill will include information on your usage and the amount due, but it will eliminate excess paper and envelopes for you as well as reduce postage, printing, and labor costs.

Pay your bill:

- *By mail*
- *By phone* - 303.666.6565
- *By electronic funds transfer* - This program allows you to pay your City utility bill directly from your bank account or with a credit/debit card each month on your normal due date without ever having to write a check.

**Utility Rate Update
City of Louisville
749 Main Street
Louisville CO 80027**

**PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
LOUISVILLE CO
PERMIT No. 15**

**ECR WSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER
LOUISVILLE CO 80027**