

Water and Sewer Rates Update

Moving Meters Forward

Thanks to your participation, almost all homes in our community now have water meters. This allows for consumption-based rates rather than a flat rate for all customers, regardless of how much water they use. Local businesses and industry are also moving forward, installing their own water meters.

For the past year, the quarterly utility bills have shown households and businesses with water meters how much water they've used, based on their meter readings.

The next step is setting equitable billing for everyone, and that's where we need your feedback on the proposed rate structure for residential, multi-family, and industrial/commercial/institutional (ICI) users.

Why Metered Rates Work

Since introducing water meters, we've been investigating industry best practices and successful consumption-based rate structures in other communities. Research outcomes show that proposed rates will help us:

- encourage water conservation
- ensure equitable rates for all users
- reduce peak demand to extend infrastructure lifespans
- ensure financial stability in water/sewer operations.

What We Heard From You

In keeping with feedback from residents at a public open house last October, we also know that our made-for-Castlegar rate structure must:

- Support conservation efforts

We want to hear from you!
Join us to learn more and share your thoughts about proposed consumption-based water and sewer rates.

OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, November 1st 3:00 - 8:00 pm
Castlegar & District Community Complex
2101 6th Avenue
Presentations at 4pm, 5pm, 6pm, 7pm

Can't make it? Be sure to complete our **online feedback form!**

ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM
www.castlegar.ca/waterandsewer

- Help build reserves gradually
- Keep rates equitable, predictable, and transparent.

Proposed Rates

For each utility customer, both water and sewer rates would be determined by the amount of water (number of cubic metres) that flows through the water meter. Based on monthly meter readings, customers would pay flat rates for water and sewer, plus consumption-based rates for both.

would be met only during summer months.

Proposed Multi-Family Water Rates

All multi-family customers would pay a flat rate and a consumption-based rate for all flows. Both rates would be phased in over three years. These new rates would gradually eliminate the difference in the cost of providing service to single-family and multi-family users.

Proposed ICI Water Rates

All metered industrial/commercial/institutional customers (ICI) would pay a flat rate plus a charge for consumption for all flows. Rates would be phased in over three years. These new rates would gradually eliminate the difference in the cost of providing service to residential and ICI customers.

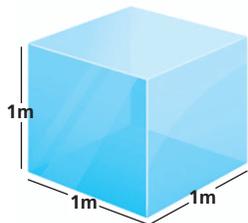
WATER RATES

Proposed Residential Water Rates

All single-family residential customers with meters would pay a flat rate that includes 30 cubic metres per month. Consumption-based rates would be applied only when monthly use exceeds 30 cubic metres. For most customers, this threshold

One Cubic Metre of Water Equals (one of the following):

- 2 hours running a hose
- 10 baths
- 10 washing machine loads
- 100 toilet flushes
- 30 showers
- 4,000 cups of tea



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continued

SEWER RATES

Proposed Residential & Multi-Family Sewer Rates

In winter, water delivered to residential properties generally flows through to the sewer treatment plant. In summer, due to outdoor water use, not all water supplied will reach the sewer treatment plant. Under the proposed sewer rate structure, residential customers would pay a flat rate plus \$0.38 per cubic metre for all sewer use in winter. In summer, charges would be capped at 30 cubic metres, while charges for multi-family users would be capped at 25 cubic metres to account for outdoor water use.

Proposed ICI Sewer Rates

In winter, ICI customers would pay a flat rate plus a consumption-based rate for sewer use. In summer, they would receive a 10-percent consumption discount to recognize their outdoor use. ■



A new report from Canada's Ecofiscal Commission says that water meters, and related consumption-based rates, are the single best way to encourage water conservation and to extend the lifespans of our water and sewer systems.

	Single-Family Residential (with meter)		Multi-Family (per unit with meter)		Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (with meter)	
	NOW	PROPOSED	NOW	PROPOSED	NOW	PROPOSED
Flat Rate	\$419.28	\$360 (per year for 3 years)	\$84	\$192 (year 1) \$228 (year 2) \$276 (year 3)	\$152	\$252 (year 1) \$288 (year 2) \$324 (year 3)
Consumption Rate	Included in flat rate above	\$0.68 per cubic metre over 30 cubic meters (for 3 years)	\$0.38 per cubic metre for all flows	\$0.48 per cubic metre for all flows (for 3 years)	\$0.38 per cubic metre for all flows	\$0.48 per cubic metre for all flows (for 3 years)

	Single-Family Residential (with meter)		Multi-Family (per unit with meter)		Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (with meter)	
	NOW	PROPOSED	NOW	PROPOSED	NOW	PROPOSED
Flat Rate	\$340.92	\$288 (per year for 3 years)	\$84	\$144 (year 1) \$168 (year 2) \$192 (year 3)	\$152	\$288 (year 1) \$366 (year 2) \$384 (year 3)
Consumption Rate	Included in flat rate above	\$0.38 per cubic metre, but capped at 30 cubic meters from May to Sept. (for 3 years)	\$0.38 per cubic metre for all flows	\$0.38 per cubic metre, but capped at 25 cubic meters from May to Sept. (for 3 years)	\$0.38 per cubic metre for all flows	\$0.44 per cubic metre, but with at 10% discount May to Sept. (for 3 years)

Single-Family Residential & ICI		Multi-Family	
Year 1	2017 annual charge + 10%	Year 1	2017 annual charge
Year 2	Year 1 annual charge + 10%	Year 2	2017 annual charge
Year 3	Year 2 annual charge + 10%	Year 3	2017 annual charge

A comparison from our files...

Single-family household with mid-range water use:

2017 Annual Water & Sewer Flat Rate	\$760.20
2018 Proposed Flat & Consumption Rates	\$758.06
Based on the following monthly use in cubic metres Jan (13), Feb (11), Mar (13), Apr (12), May (27), Jun (30), Jul (35), Aug (60), Sept (23), Oct (14), Nov (12), Dec (12)	
Decrease from 2017 to 2018	\$ 2.14

