



Legislation Text

File #: CB 118416, Version: 1

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE _____
COUNCIL BILL _____

AN ORDINANCE relating to wastewater services of Seattle Public Utilities; and amending subsections 21.28.040.B and 21.76.040.A of the Seattle Municipal Code to adjust the wastewater volume rate and adjust credits to low-income wastewater customers.

WHEREAS, Seattle City Council Resolution 31534, passed on August 11, 2014, adopted a six-year Strategic Business Plan for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) which guides utility investments, service levels, and rate paths through 2020; and

WHEREAS the Strategic Business Plan included increases in the capital and operating requirements of the Drainage and Wastewater Fund in response to federal and State regulatory requirements, as well as environmental and infrastructure concerns, with a resulting increase in revenue requirements; and

WHEREAS, SPU has identified wastewater infrastructure needs requiring additional capital funding; and

WHEREAS, SPU has completed a rate study showing that existing wastewater volume rates will not provide sufficient revenues to pay debt service and the costs of providing wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, credits for qualified low-income customers not billed directly by SPU for water or wastewater services are based on typical residential bills, and credits for such customers need to be revised to reflect changes in the wastewater volume rate; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subsection 21.28.040.B of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last amended by Ordinance 124051, is amended as follows:

21.28.040 Wastewater volume charge((:))

B. The wastewater volume rate shall be the sum of the treatment rate and the system rate, as follows:

1. Treatment rate. The "treatment rate" shall be the rate required to pay the wastewater share of "treatment cost" which is the cost of wastewater treatment, interception and disposal services and any associated costs required to meet Drainage and Wastewater Fund financial policies. The treatment rate shall be the amount obtained when (a) the projected wastewater treatment cost is divided by (b) the projected billed wastewater consumption, each for the next calendar year, and the result is multiplied by 116.9 percent to cover the costs of taxes and low-income rate assistance. The projected treatment cost shall be the treatment cost anticipated for the upcoming calendar year, which may include an adjustment to reflect the difference, whether positive or negative, between the total expected treatment cost for the current year and the total wastewater volume charge revenues attributable to the treatment rate expected for the current year. The treatment rate is designed to pass through cost changes driven by King County and may be adjusted by ordinance at any time in response to such charges.

2. System rate. The "system rate" shall be the rate required to pay the cost of carrying and discharging all wastewater and any wastewater-funded share of stormwater into the City sewerage system, as presently maintained and operated and as may be added to, improved, and extended.

3. The wastewater volume rate per CCF shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

	Effective Jan. 1, 2012	Effective Jan. 1, 2013	Effective Jan. 1, 2014	Effective Jan. 1, 2015	Effective Jan. 1, 2016	Effective Jan. 1, 2017	Effective Jan. 1, 2018
Treatment Rate	\$6.94	\$7.69	\$7.69	\$7.69	\$7.69	\$7.69	\$7.69
System Rate	\$3.74	\$3.96	\$4.06	\$4.15	\$4.58	\$4.59	\$4.74
Wastewater Volume Rate	\$10.68	\$11.65	\$11.75))	\$11.84	\$12.27	\$12.28	\$12.43

Section 2. Subsection 21.76.040.A of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last amended by Ordinance 124660, is amended as follows:

21.76.040 ((Low Income Rate Credits.))Low-income rate credits

A. Drainage, ((W))wastewater, and ((W))water. Persons qualified by the Human Services Department as eligible recipients of low-income utility credits provided for in Section 21.76.010 (eligible recipients) shall be granted low-income billing credits in the following amounts:

1. Wastewater. Eligible recipients billed directly by Seattle Public Utilities for wastewater services and residing in single-family dwellings shall receive a credit equal to 0.5 times the total current wastewater volume charge. Eligible recipients not billed directly by Seattle Public Utilities for wastewater services shall receive the following credits based on dwelling type:

Effective Date	Single-family and duplex	Multifamily dwelling
(January 1, 2012	\$27.77 per month	\$19.22 per month
January 1, 2013	\$25.05 per month	\$17.48 per month
January 1, 2014	\$25.26 per month	\$17.63 per month))
January 1, 2015	\$25.46 per month	\$17.76 per month
January 1, 2016	\$26.38 per month	\$18.41 per month
January 1, 2017	\$26.40 per month	\$18.42 per month
January 1, 2018	\$26.72 per month	\$18.65 per month

At the time of a change to the wastewater volume rate described in ((SMC))Section 21.28.040 <[* * *](http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?d=CODE&s1=21.28.040.snum.&Sect5=CODE1&Sect6=HITOFF&l=20&p=1&u=%2F%7Epublic%2Fcode1.htm&r=1&f=L3%3B1%3B21.28.040.SNUM.>, the Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall calculate new credits based on dwelling type for eligible recipients not billed directly by Seattle Public Utilities. The credit for Single-family and duplex customers shall be 0.5 times the wastewater volume rate multiplied by 4.3 CCF, which is typical single-family residential sewer billed consumption. The credit for Multifamily dwelling customers shall be 0.5 times the wastewater volume rate multiplied by 3.0 CCF, which is typical multifamily sewer billed consumption.</p></div>
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Section 3. The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be separate and severable. If a court of competent jurisdiction, all appeals having been exhausted or all appeal periods having run, finds any provision

of this ordinance to be invalid or unenforceable as to any person or circumstance, then such provision or provisions shall be null and severed from the rest of this ordinance with respect to the particular person or circumstance. The offending provision with respect to all other persons and all other circumstances, as well as all other provisions of this ordinance, shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days from and after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 2015.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2015.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)