



# CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL UTILITY

December 2023

## ***UNDERSTANDING THE SEWER PORTION OF YOUR UTILITY BILL***

### **WHAT IS WASTEWATER?**

*Wastewater is any water that has been contaminated by human use.*

- Any water that has been used in your home or business will likely make its way to the sewer where it is classified as wastewater.
- Wastewater typically contains pollutants, although these can vary in severity.
- Wastewater needs to be treated and decontaminated before it can re-join the water supply. This is important both for the environment and public health.

### **WHY IS MY WASTEWATER (SEWER) CHARGE MORE THAN MY WATER CHARGE?**

*The main reason is that water distribution and wastewater collection are two completely different systems that follow different standards for processes.*

- The process to pump, treat, and distribute water follows rigorous state mandates by the DNR and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.
- The process of collecting, processing, and releasing wastewater follows stringent environmental regulations set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- The costs of treating wastewater to meet required EPA regulations are much greater than the cost of treating water.
- To protect the health and safety of our community, Cumberland Municipal Utility follows all state mandates and EPA regulations for our water and wastewater systems.

### **SEWER CHARGES**

*Sewer REC and Usage Fees are collected for the purpose of operating and maintaining the wastewater infrastructure and servicing the debt incurred by the Sewer Utility.*

#### ***RESIDENTIAL EQUIVALENCY CHARGE (REC)***

- A residential equivalency charge shall be charged upon each lot, parcel of land, building or premise served by the sewerage system or otherwise discharging sewage into the system.
- This is a fixed cost to serve each customer no matter how much wastewater is produced.
- The REC Charge covers all the annual budgeted debt service obligation that the sewer facility obtains.
  - Single-family homes are billed one REC Charge.
  - Duplexes and multi-family dwellings are billed one REC Charge for each unit.
  - Commercial & Public Authority users are billed for one REC Charge based on their usage, using a three-year average.

#### ***USAGE CHARGE***

- A sewer use charge shall be charged upon all users of the sewer system based upon the metered water used.
- The sewer usage charge is a set cost per 1000 gallons which supports the construction, operation and maintenance of the wastewater system.

### **UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES**

**CLOSED**

#### **Christmas**

December 25 & December 26, 2023

#### **New Years Day**

January 1, 2024

### **2024 CALENDARS**

**We have free 2024 calendars!**

Please stop by our office to pick one up today!

## HOW TO REDUCE YOUR WASTEWATER CHARGE

1. Install water-efficient appliances.
2. Check the toilets and sinks for leaks to ensure you're not wasting water.
3. Replace your toilet flapper yearly.
4. Replace leaking or outdated toilets.
5. Install low-flow plumbing at home to conserve water. Invest in a low-flow showerhead and low-flow faucets for your bathrooms and kitchen.
6. Take shorter showers. Cutting even a couple of minutes off your showers can conserve water. The less water that goes down the drain during showers, the lower your sewer bill will be.
7. Running water from the faucet is more wasteful than filling the sink. If you need to wash dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Instead, fill the sink with warm, slightly soapy water and use it to do the dishes. That way you're not letting excess water drain away – you're only using as much water as you need to finish the job.
8. Buy Energy Star-rated appliances whenever possible.
9. If you have space to install a rainwater butt, you can use it to gather rainwater, which can be used to water your plants rather than relying on tap water.

## SEWER RATES

| YEAR  | 2024    | 2023    |
|-------|---------|---------|
| USAGE | \$21.83 | \$22.02 |
| REC   | \$23.34 | \$25.20 |

AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS USING 3,000 GALLONS SHOULD SEE A \$2.68 DECREASE IN THEIR MONTHLY SEWER BILL.

## *USDA Rural Development Projects*

The City of Cumberland was approved for USDA Funding for upgrades to the City's gravity sewer system.

### *Upgrades include the following:*

- Lining and replacement of priority sanitary sewer segments throughout the city to reduce inflow and infiltration received at the wastewater treatment plant and investing in the sanitary sewer infrastructure to extend useful life
- Upgrade of aging manholes and addition of chimney seals on all manholes to prevent infiltration
- Lift station upgrades or replacement
- Replacement of force main that can no longer be rehabilitated
- Extending utilities to the new hospital

*The City of Cumberland was approved for the following for the funding of these projects:*

- \$6,124,000 USDA Loan with a 1.375% Interest Rate
- \$2,071,000 USDA Grant
- \$1,000,000 CDBG Grant
- \$500 Connection Fees

*In the upcoming newsletters, we will continue to breakdown and explain the different components of your Cumberland Municipal Utility bill. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your usage or your bill, we would appreciate it if you would call our office directly.*

## CONTACT US

**Cumberland Municipal Utility**

1265 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Cumberland, WI 54829

715-822-2595

[www.cumberlandutilities.com](http://www.cumberlandutilities.com)

