

Water and Wastewater Services in the City of Cambridge

The City of Cambridge delivers water and sewage services for Cambridge residents and the Region of Waterloo is responsible for the treatment of water and sewage. Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro issues bills and collects fees on behalf of the City.

Addressing the New Provincial Water Regulations

The City of Cambridge, along with all other Ontario municipalities that are responsible for the provision of drinking water, is required to meet the requirements set out in the Financial Plans Regulations O.Reg.453/07. The regulation requires financial plans for municipal drinking water systems projected for each fiscal year for a minimum of 6 years. While the regulations are directed at ensuring that water systems are sustainable into the future, the City took a proactive approach and included a similar process for the City's wastewater systems.

Sustaining Cambridge's Water/Wastewater Infrastructure

Every day Cambridge residents and businesses benefit from the environmental, public health, social and economic benefits that clean safe water provide. One of the most critical challenges facing Cambridge and the vast majority of Ontario municipalities is to sustain water and wastewater infrastructure to ensure that residents and businesses continue to enjoy these benefits in the future.

While the City has been regularly investing in the water and wastewater infrastructure, the current level of spending it is not enough to ensure the delivery of sustainable services in the future. In fact, the City of Cambridge has an estimated infrastructure backlog of \$71.8 million in water and wastewater service that needs to be addressed to ensure future sustainability.

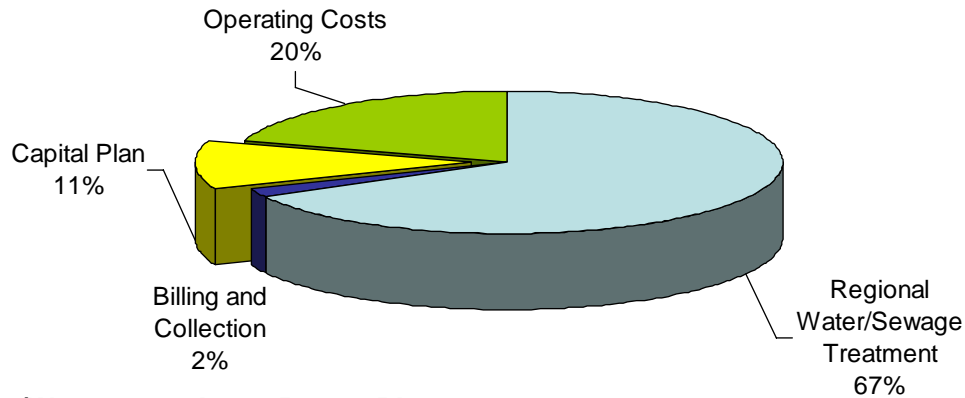
Faced with the challenges of an aging infrastructure and new water regulations, on December 7, 2009, the Cambridge City Council approved a comprehensive long range plan. This plan addresses the strategic challenges that lie ahead in ensuring the sustainability of the infrastructure and ensuring that services are provided a cost Cambridge residents and businesses can afford and at a level of service our customers have come to expect.

Currently, over two-thirds of the water and wastewater budget goes to the Region of Waterloo for the treatment and supply of services. The plan also incorporates the Region's forecast requirements into the City of Cambridge's long range plan.

To help address the infrastructure backlog, an 'Infrastructure Renewal Surcharge' will appear on your water/sewer bill. This surcharge is dependant upon water meter size and for the average homeowner, you'll invest an additional \$0.79 per month to ensure the system's sustainability.

Meter Size	Infrastructure Renewal Charge
19 mm (Residential)	\$0.79
25 mm	\$1.35
37 mm	\$2.61
50 mm	\$4.20
75 mm	\$9.27
100 mm	\$16.63
150 mm	\$36.99
200 mm	\$63.37
250 mm	\$100.36

Money Breakdown – Where Does it Go?



Water/Wastewater Long Range Plan

The Council approved water and wastewater long range plan includes:

- An aggressive system wide leak survey and remediation program which will reduce the system water losses
- A funding plan that addresses the backlog of water/wastewater infrastructure that needs to be repaired or replaced
- A financial plan to ensure that the water/wastewater operations are financially sound

How Will This Affect My Water/Wastewater Bill?

In selecting an appropriate rate structure to fund the long range plan, City Council carefully considered the following objectives:

1. Sustainability – the rate structure must generate sufficient revenues to recover operating and capital costs.
2. Revenue Stability – the rate structure and financial plan should provide for a steady and predictable stream of revenues such that the City is capable of meeting its current financial requirements.
3. Fairness and Equity – consumers must be charged in proportion to their costs.
4. Affordability – the rate structure must take into account the customer's ability to pay for services.
5. Conservation – the rate structure should encourage the efficient use of water.
6. Economic Development – the rate structure should support the ability to retain existing business and attract new businesses to the community.
7. Practical and Simple to Understand – the rate structure should be easy to understand.

The water and wastewater rate structure adopted by City Council incorporates all of the above noted objectives.

2010 Monthly Water & Sewer Rates

Provincial legislation dictates that all costs of operating water and sewer systems must come from users. To accomplish this, a rate structure with both fixed service charges and variable consumption rates is in place. Water and sewer consumption charges are based on the volume of water recorded on your meter during the billing period – so you can benefit by conserving water. The fixed service charges are the basic costs to provide the service regardless of volume and are based on the size of the water meter.

The following tables summarize the water and wastewater rates, effective February 2010.

Volumetric Rates per m³

Water Consumption	\$	1.2588	m ³
Wastewater Service Rate	\$	1.2658	m ³

Water/Sewer Fixed Charge Per Month

Connection Size	Water	Wastewater
19 mm or less	\$ 5.76	\$ 5.20
25 mm	\$ 14.40	\$ 12.99
37 mm	\$ 28.80	\$ 25.99
50 mm	\$ 46.07	\$ 41.58
75 mm	\$ 100.79	\$ 90.95
100 mm	\$ 172.78	\$ 155.92
150 mm	\$ 359.96	\$ 324.83
200 mm	\$ 460.75	\$ 415.78
250 mm	\$ 662.33	\$ 597.69

All volumes uses prior to February will be prorated using 2009 & 2010 rates.

Residential Example

For example, a Residential customer that consumes 20 m³ per month would pay:

<u>Volumetric Rates</u>	
• Water	20 m ³ x \$1.2588 = \$25.18
• Wastewater	20 m ³ x \$1.2658 = <u>\$25.32</u>
Total Volumetric Cost	\$50.59
<u>Fixed Monthly Rates</u>	
• Water	\$ 5.99
• Wastewater	<u>\$ 5.58</u>
Total Volumetric Monthly Cost	\$11.57
Total Residential Monthly Bill	\$62.07

This is equivalent to a 7.3% increase over 2009.