

## Rate adjustments will fund continued reinvestments in water and sewer infrastructure

Sewer, stormwater and water utility rates approved by City Council and the Sewer and Water Advisory Board for 2017 will provide necessary funding to complete various improvements underway and planned.

Major upgrades at the city's three drinking water plants will keep the city on the cutting edge of water-related technological improvements and also serve future water demands. Columbus already has a multi-barrier treatment process, and improvements underway the past few years will provide additional treatment processes to even more effectively remove a variety of contaminants. These upgrades will also better treat any aesthetic taste and odor issues that occur in the source water supply. These newer technologies include ion exchange (shown under construction at the Dublin Road Water Plant in photo), ozone, and biologically active filtration. The addition of ultraviolet treatment is currently under design. A total of \$470 million is being invested in water treatment facilities to comply with new EPA regulations and to ensure adequate water supplies for a still-growing central Ohio region. An additional \$160 million was previously spent on a nine-billion-gallon-capacity upground reservoir near the Scioto River in Delaware County to store water for the Dublin Road Water Plant. The Division of Water also continues to replace or rehabilitate aging water lines in the water distribution system.



Replacement and rehabilitation of aging sewer lines and stormwater improvements continue in various neighborhoods. The Blueprint Columbus initiative, an Ohio-EPA-approved alternative to the 2005 Wet Weather Management Plan to comply with a state consent order requiring sanitary sewer overflow reduction, is underway. Implementation will continue over the next 20 years in areas where heavy rain overwhelms the sanitary sewer system; learn more at [columbus.gov/blueprint](http://columbus.gov/blueprint). The Division of Sewerage and Drainage previously upgraded treatment facilities at the city's two wastewater treatment plants, and continue to replace and rehabilitate aging sewer lines in the collection system. Stormwater capital improvement projects also continue in neighborhoods in need of stormwater drainage improvements.

To finance all of the improvements, rate increases approved effective January 1st are: a 3% increase for water, 3% for sewer, and a 1% increase for Columbus stormwater customers. The overall average increase for Columbus customers is 2.9%, or about \$7.76 per quarter for typical water consumption. Suburban (outside Columbus) customers will see average increases of about \$8.82 quarterly for water and sewer. The average increase for approved low income customers is \$6.50 a quarter. Differences in bills will vary based on actual water consumption. Despite the modest increases, Columbus' water and sewer rates remain some of the lowest in the region. Columbus' tap water - meeting or exceeding all state and federal drinking water standards - is a great value at less than a penny a gallon.

The sewer and water discount for qualifying low income customers will continue. Customers who qualify for other programs such as heating assistance and food stamps may be eligible. An application is included on the reverse side. Customers 60 or older who qualify for the low income discount may also be eligible for a senior discount. For more information, please call Customer Service at 614-645-8276 or visit [columbus.gov/utilities](http://columbus.gov/utilities), where water conservation tips are also available.



Please follow us on Facebook (Columbus Public Utilities) and Twitter (@CDPU)

Please note: if you are age 60 or older and qualify for the Low Income Discount Program, you may also qualify for a Senior Citizen Discount. For questions regarding the discount programs or your bill, please contact Customer Service Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at 311, 645-3111, 645-8276 or visit [www.columbus.gov/utilities/](http://www.columbus.gov/utilities/).

## 2017 LOW INCOME WATER/SEWER DISCOUNT APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Street/Road Apartment #

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ (with area code)

Number of people in household: \_\_\_\_\_

Account number (from water bill): \_\_\_\_\_

To be eligible for the low income discount program, applicants must have an active City of Columbus water or sewer account for their residence in their name (or spouse's name) AND must meet at least one of the following requirements:

1. You must be currently enrolled in a qualifying low income program and provide current letter of participation from one of the following programs (must be dated and include name):

- Food Stamp Benefits
- Ohio Medicaid
- Low Income Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Home Energy Assistance (HEAP)
- Ohio Works First
- Public Housing Benefits - OR -

2. You must meet the Federal Poverty Level with your household income, which is defined as the total gross income of all household members over the age of 18. You must provide current proof of household income with the following for all household members over 18 (must be dated and include name):

- Income Tax Return
- W-2 Forms
- Benefit Letter from Social Security
- Pension Award Statement

Documents submitted with this application will NOT be returned. Send *copies only* to:  
Columbus Department of Public Utilities  
Customer Service Center  
910 Dublin Road  
Columbus OH 43215

The information associated with this application has been examined by me, and is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct and complete.

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by signature (if different from applicant): \_\_\_\_\_