



Department Description

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) protects surface water quality, promotes public health and safety, and sustains economic development. The department is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater generated within the City of Columbus and 25 suburban communities, as well as those unincorporated areas of Franklin County. DPU provides safe and reliable drinking water within the City of Columbus and 22 suburban communities.

The Department of Public Utilities manages stormwater within the city to mitigate flooding and water quality impacts, educates the public on watershed stewardship and water conservation, and regulates industrial water pollution discharged to sewers. In addition, DPU supports fire suppression activities with reliable fire hydrants, provides and maintains more than 57,000 street lights, and offers dependable electrical power at a competitive price.

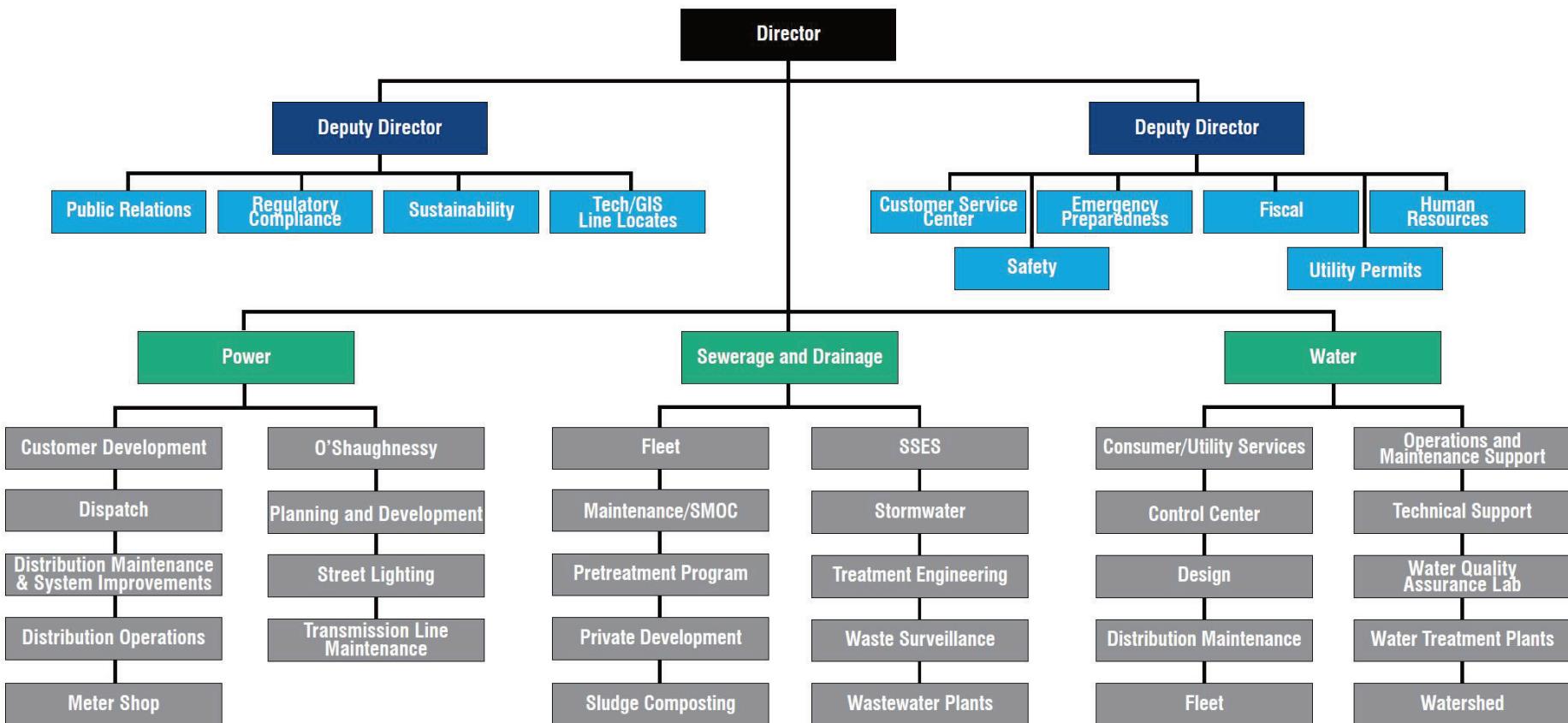
The department is comprised of the Director's Office and four divisions. The **Director's Office** provides overall direction for the department. Fiscal, human resources, public information, technology, regulatory compliance, emergency preparedness, and customer service are all coordinated by this office. The **Division of Water** oversees the treatment and distribution of drinking water through three water treatment plants. The division is responsible for infrastructure maintenance and improvements, water source protection programs, and water quality monitoring. The **Division of Power** is a full-service, publicly owned electrical utility that delivers power to industry and residential customers through its own distribution system. The division also serves the community by providing the city's street light system. The **Division of Sanitary Sewerage and Drainage** manages wastewater collection and treatment at two treatment plants. The **Division of Stormwater** oversees stormwater collection systems.

Department Mission

To enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working, and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient, and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.

Budget Summary				
Fund	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Proposed
Water Operating Fund	186,838,315	188,248,402	216,186,025	224,590,447
Electricity Operating Fund	84,858,441	80,791,302	97,059,900	96,168,879
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund	267,036,256	269,112,308	311,849,171	320,236,603
Storm Sewer Operating Fund	40,569,381	43,311,465	45,835,291	45,534,274
Department Total	\$ 579,302,393	\$ 581,463,477	\$ 670,930,387	\$ 686,530,203

Public Utilities



Strategic Priorities for 2021

Neighborhoods



Implement Blueprint Columbus in neighborhoods to eliminate the source of sanitary sewer overflows and basement backups.

Install advanced meters for power and water customers in 2021, allowing customers to detect leaks sooner for the department and customers, help customers to monitor consumption levels, and allow for future monthly billing.

Public Health



Design and construct projects that enhance security and provide redundancy, throughout our treatment, storage, and distribution systems in order to ensure a secure and safe drinking water supply.

Provide reliable back-up power sources to continue to provide water service in the event of a major power grid system outage.

Birth to Five and Education



Present the Children's Water Festival educational initiative with instruction about the importance of water and insight into future careers in the water industry.

Diversity and Inclusion



Provide a greater voice for employees from all divisions and support offices, and continue to create opportunities for professional growth.

Emphasize our TEAM environment where: Together Everyone Achieves More.

Develop a workplace and atmosphere where diversity is welcomed and accepted, and in which the employees resemble and represent the great diversity of the Columbus community.

Economic Development and Affordable Housing



Continue capital improvements at all three drinking water plants, two wastewater treatment plants, and the associated water distribution and wastewater collection systems.

Monitor future needs to determine when to begin designing a fourth water treatment plant, for which land has already been acquired.

Strategic Priorities for 2021 (cont.)

Sustainable Columbus



Support the GreenSpot program and its 20,700 members in 2021 to inspire, educate, and recognize residents, businesses, community groups, and neighborhoods for committing to the conservation and protection of natural resources.

Participate in the Sustainable Columbus Climate Commitments Working Group, and help develop and implement the City's Climate Action Plan and Renewable Energy Procurement Plan.

Encourage recycling and reuse at DPU facilities, and host internal e-waste events to promote the safe disposal of difficult to recycle waste streams.

2021 BUDGET NOTES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will recommend to Columbus City Council increases to water of two percent, storm rates of one percent, and sanitary sewer rates of three percent, respectively for 2021. In addition:

- The 2021 Director's Office \$34.4 million budget is one percent higher than the 2020 budget.
- Increases include costs for Work Asset Management (WAM) implementation and purchases for consumable COVID-19 supplies.
- The 2021 budget provides \$22.2 million in personnel funding for 239 full-time and 8 part-time positions.

WATER

The division's 2021 budget is 4.1 percent higher than in 2020. The division continues to focus on the implementation of its capital improvement program which increases the safety and capacity of the drinking water system. Debt service payments represent 47.8 percent of the water division's \$211.1 million budget. In addition:

- The 2021 budget includes \$43.7 million for personnel, providing funding for 468 full-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, distribution, maintenance, supply, and safety in order to provide the Columbus metropolitan area with clean and reliable drinking water.
- The 2021 budget includes almost \$1.35 million to cover the cost of the enhanced meter reading program.
- The 2021 budget includes additional funding for chemicals due to the increase in cost as well as the increase in water usage.

POWER

The division's largest expense in the 2021 budget is for the purchase of generated electric power for resale. The budget includes \$54.4 million for this expense, or just over 57.8 percent of the total budget.

- The 2021 budget includes \$11.7 million for personnel for 110 full-time and 4 part-time positions.
- Included in the 2021 budget are resources to provide maintenance and energy to over 57,000 city streetlights.

SANITARY SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The division's 2021 budget is 2.8 percent higher than the 2020 budget. A significant portion of this budget is comprised of funds for debt service payments, reflecting the division's extensive capital improvement program. Debt service costs associated with maintaining and improving the city's wastewater system comprise over 61 percent of the division's operating budget of \$305.3 million. In addition:

Utilities

- The 2021 budget includes \$44.5 million for personnel, providing funding for 472 full-time and 6 part-time positions. These employees are responsible for the administration, maintenance, safety, and operation of the city's wastewater treatment plants, a compost facility, and approximately 4,500 miles of sewer lines.
- Funding of \$1.9 million is included for the Project Dry Basement program. This program provides backflow prevention devices for single and two-family homes in Columbus that have experienced sewer backups during wet weather or blockages.
- Services are projected to be \$57.1 million and provide for various professional service contracts including, equipment rental, specialty maintenance services, organic waste processing, and biosolid removal.

STORMWATER

As with the other divisions of this department, a significant portion of the operating budget for the Stormwater Division is devoted to debt service payments. In 2021, debt service payments amount to \$14.6 million. In addition:

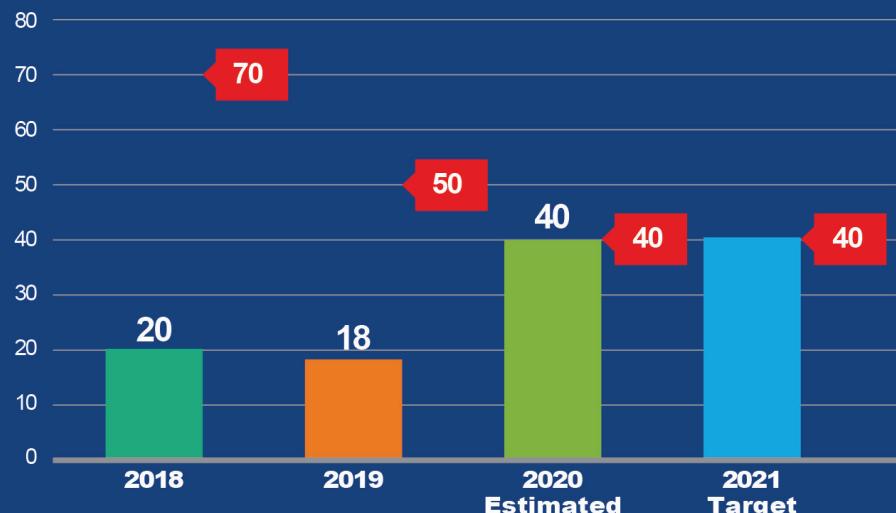
- The budget includes funding for 26 full-time and 2 part-time positions.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Water Quality

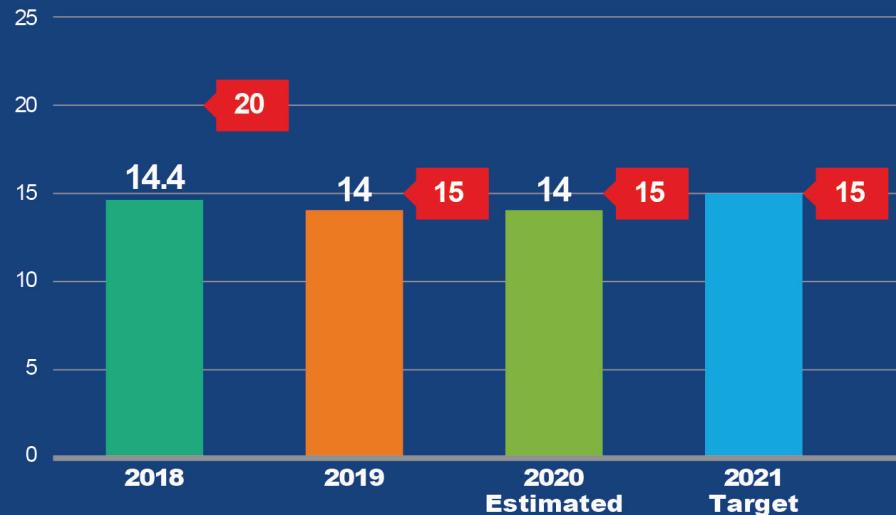
Number of water quality complaints per month



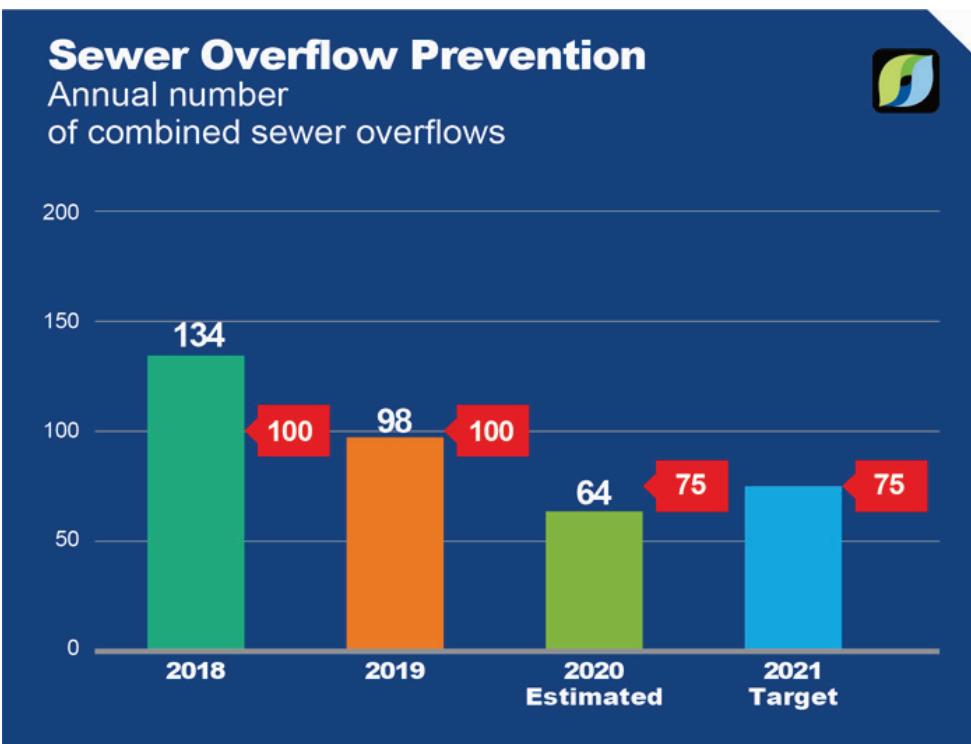
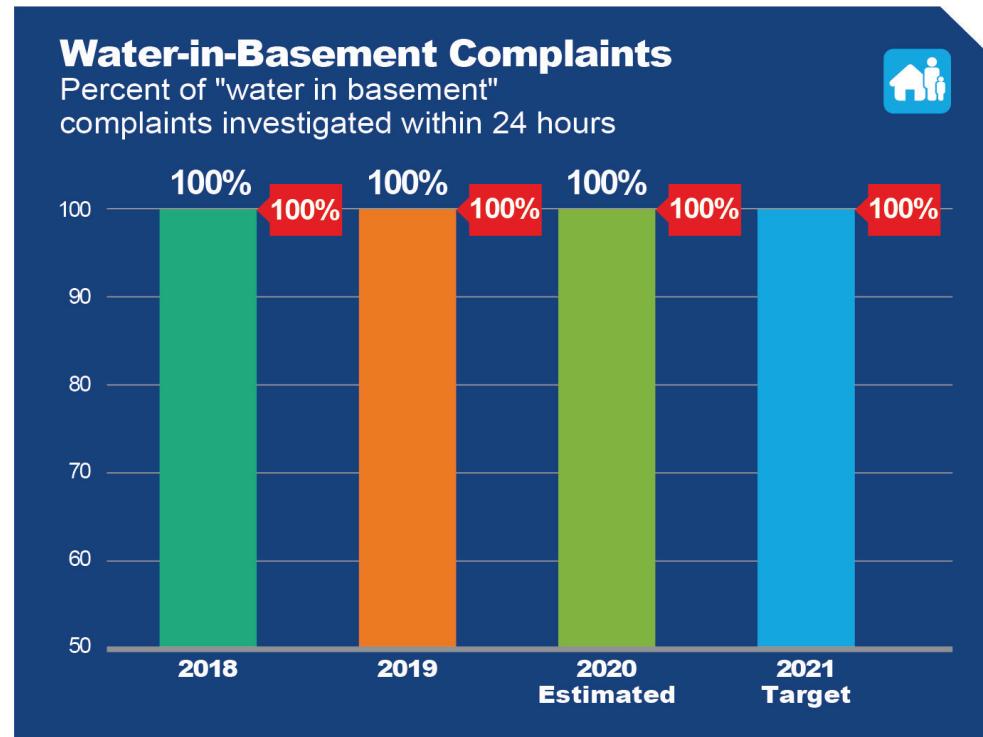
This measure reflects the monthly average number of water quality complaints received by the Division of Water. External conditions can cause the actual number of complaints to vary. In 2020, the target for this measure was reduced to 40 and will continue at 40 in 2021.

Water Distribution Mains

Annual number of breaks or leaks per 100 miles of water distribution mains (city lines only)



The number of water line breaks or leaks in the distribution system is consistently under 20 per 100 miles each year. The measure reflects city lines only and the target was reduced to 15 or fewer per 100 miles in 2019, and will continue for 2021.



Electric Power Outage Remediation



Average duration of electricity outage (minutes)



The Division of Power's aim is to minimize the length of time of any power outage. The target for this measure in 2021 is 90 minutes or less. The 2020 estimate reflects actual data for January 1-June 30, 2020.

Streetlight Maintenance and Repair



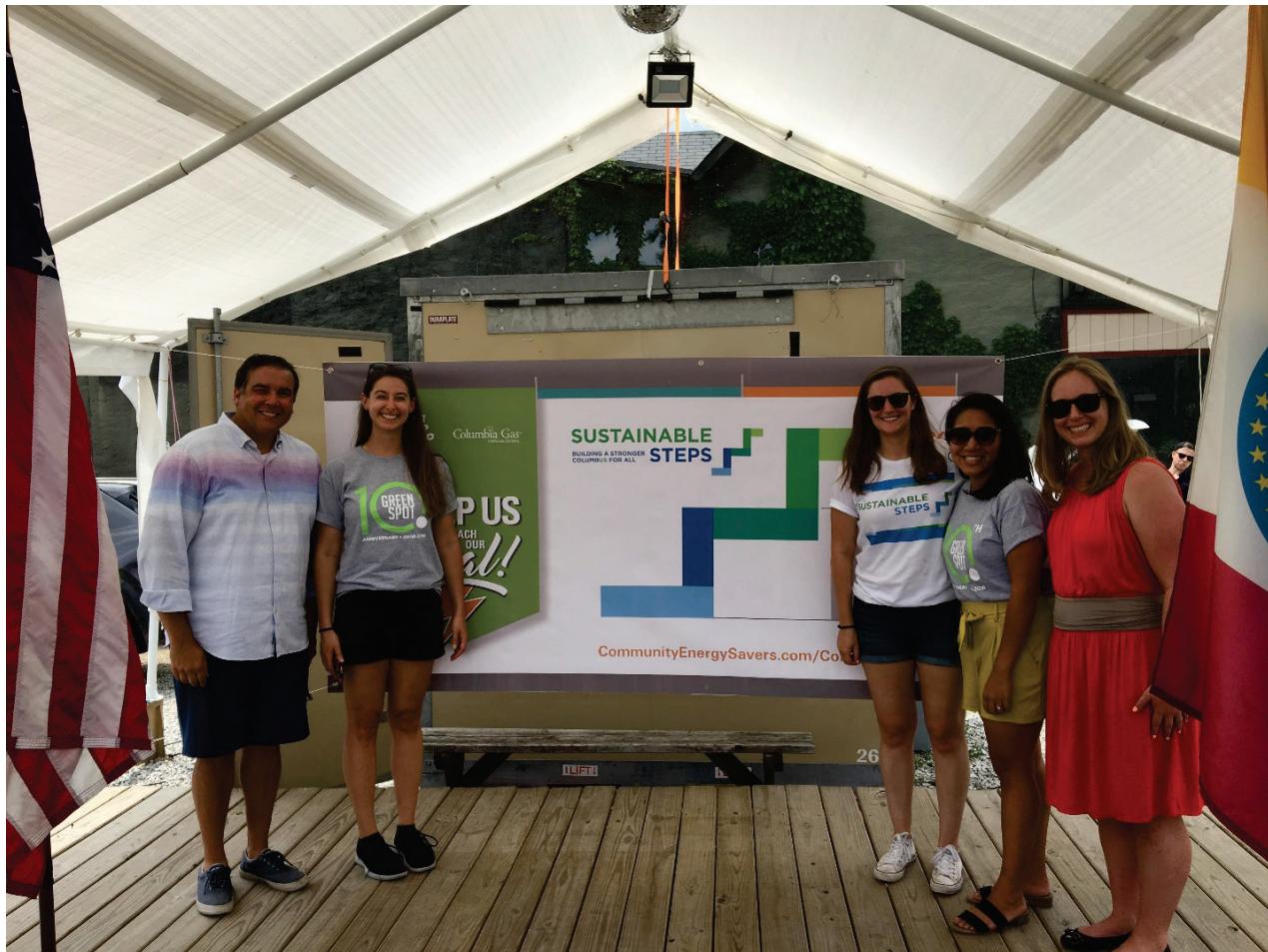
Response time for streetlight outage repair (days)



The Division of Power maintains an extensive street lighting system. This measure reflects the number of days to respond to a streetlight outage. In 2021, the division will continue to strive to meet the target maximum timeframe to address a streetlight issue in five days.

Utilities

Financial Summary by Fund						
Fund	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed	
Water Operating Fund						
Director's Office	\$ 8,928,474	\$ 10,741,559	\$ 13,355,327	\$ 11,360,215	\$ 13,490,790	
Water	177,909,841	177,506,843	202,830,698	181,587,344	211,099,657	
Water Fund Subtotal	186,838,315	188,248,402	216,186,025	192,947,559	224,590,447	
Electricity Operating Fund						
Director's Office	1,381,441	1,716,002	2,067,645	1,866,377	2,094,865	
Power	83,477,000	79,075,300	94,992,255	89,331,111	94,074,014	
Electricity Fund Subtotal	84,858,441	80,791,302	97,059,900	91,197,488	96,168,879	
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund						
Director's Office	10,184,891	12,303,740	14,743,545	12,761,118	14,954,527	
Sanitary	256,851,365	256,808,568	297,105,626	273,140,779	305,282,076	
Sanitary Sewer Fund Subtotal	267,036,256	269,112,308	311,849,171	285,901,897	320,236,603	
Storm Sewer Operating Fund						
Director's Office	2,704,119	3,209,552	3,924,644	3,357,002	3,882,556	
Storm	37,865,262	40,101,913	41,910,647	38,603,990	41,651,718	
Storm Sewer Fund Subtotal	40,569,381	43,311,465	45,835,291	41,960,992	45,534,274	
Department Total	\$ 579,302,393	\$ 581,463,477	\$ 670,930,387	\$ 612,007,936	\$ 686,530,203	



Financial Summary by Area of Expense								
Division	2018		2019		2020		2021	
	Actual		Actual		Budget		Projected	Proposed
Directors Office								
Water Operating Fund								
Personnel	\$ 7,305,111	\$	\$ 8,063,080	\$	\$ 9,389,722	\$	\$ 7,945,467	\$ 8,659,039
Materials & Supplies	97,757		175,511		327,558		239,577	306,301
Services	1,515,367		2,428,864		3,635,913		3,173,037	4,524,092
Other	897		665		2,134		2,134	1,358
Capital	9,342		-		-		-	-
Transfers	-		73,440		-		-	-
Water Operating Fund Subtotal	8,928,474		10,741,559		13,355,327		11,360,215	13,490,790
Electricity Operating Fund								
Personnel	1,157,085		1,257,991		1,476,276		1,243,931	1,355,098
Materials & Supplies	15,454		21,007		17,148		21,916	24,586
Services	207,292		425,353		573,885		600,194	714,967
Other	141		105		336		336	214
Capital	1,469		-		-		-	-
Transfers	-		11,546		-		-	-
Electricity Operating Fund Subtotal	1,381,441		1,716,002		2,067,645		1,866,377	2,094,865
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund								
Personnel	8,521,396		9,131,480		10,527,097		9,046,791	9,714,820
Materials & Supplies	109,611		155,475		137,525		156,647	175,231
Services	1,542,403		2,933,704		4,076,530		3,555,288	5,062,954
Other	1,006		745		2,393		2,392	1,522
Capital	10,474		-		-		-	-
Transfers	-		82,336		-		-	-
Sanitary Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	10,184,891		12,303,740		14,743,545		12,761,118	14,954,527
Storm Sewer Operating Fund								
Personnel	2,193,478		2,399,398		2,807,257		2,371,092	2,485,999
Materials & Supplies	29,141		39,108		32,605		41,587	46,734
Services	478,439		748,891		1,084,144		943,685	1,349,417
Other	268		199		638		638	406
Capital	2,793		-		-		-	-
Transfers	-		21,956		-		-	-
Storm Sewer Operating Fund Subtotal	2,704,119		3,209,552		3,924,644		3,357,002	3,882,556
Director's Office Subtotal	23,198,925		27,970,853		34,091,161		29,344,712	34,422,738

Utilities

Financial Summary by Area of Expense, cont.					
Division	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Budget	2020 Projected	2021 Proposed
Water					
Personnel	46,209,375	44,973,167	48,728,503	43,844,728	43,663,743
Materials & Supplies	17,735,996	18,470,634	19,801,970	20,048,334	20,265,220
Services	32,607,471	33,897,606	38,054,337	37,466,325	44,575,302
Principal	55,044,872	55,068,841	60,426,283	60,343,453	64,714,789
Other	669,026	23,080	91,000	13,939	56,000
Capital	1,110,294	1,084,492	2,059,000	2,059,000	1,743,770
Interest	24,532,806	23,989,023	33,669,605	17,811,565	36,080,833
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Water Subtotal	177,909,841	177,506,843	202,830,698	181,587,344	211,099,657
Power					
Personnel	10,338,536	10,455,132	12,642,916	10,534,308	11,744,796
Materials & Supplies	58,549,470	54,159,352	62,313,650	60,999,183	57,820,000
Services	9,999,864	9,858,606	15,005,532	14,134,467	17,389,968
Principal	984,000	418,271	553,271	553,271	888,271
Other	-	6,854	21,000	5,250	20,700
Capital	3,429,664	4,176,267	4,062,000	3,103,896	5,436,000
Interest	175,466	818	393,886	736	774,279
Power Subtotal	83,477,000	79,075,300	94,992,255	89,331,111	94,074,014
Sanitary					
Personnel	45,543,167	43,004,066	47,467,905	43,978,774	44,494,998
Materials & Supplies	7,194,613	9,001,555	12,467,311	12,691,055	12,614,427
Services	44,927,944	45,849,634	56,286,676	55,625,884	57,130,420
Principal	100,609,015	97,303,949	105,955,564	104,815,909	122,473,688
Other	130,263	254,728	165,800	935,521	158,800
Capital	2,789,329	4,552,769	4,761,500	3,668,646	1,656,620
Interest	38,040,021	35,284,442	46,912,895	28,337,015	50,456,398
Transfers	17,617,013	21,557,425	23,087,975	23,087,975	16,296,725
Sanitary Subtotal	256,851,365	256,808,568	297,105,626	273,140,779	305,282,076
Storm					
Personnel	1,844,017	2,367,978	2,818,224	2,433,252	2,590,216
Materials & Supplies	32,523	49,736	101,415	97,400	95,616
Services	21,693,830	22,696,939	24,368,458	24,187,061	24,382,057
Principal	10,493,700	10,549,000	10,113,010	10,055,137	9,980,195
Other	100,000	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Capital	-	90,233	31,000	28,000	-
Interest	3,701,192	4,348,029	4,458,540	1,783,140	4,583,634
Storm Subtotal	37,865,262	40,101,913	41,910,647	38,603,990	41,651,718
Department Total	\$ 579,302,393	\$ 581,463,477	\$ 670,930,387	\$ 612,007,936	\$ 686,530,203

Department Personnel Summary								
	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Budget		2021 Proposed	
	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Dept of Public Utilities								
Director's Office	207	3	200	4	239	11	239	8
Water	426	8	413	6	468	45	468	17
Power	91	0	95	1	110	4	110	4
Sanitary	416	0	412	0	471	3	472	6
Storm	17	0	21	0	26	2	26	2
Total	1,157	11	1,141	11	1,314	65	1,315	37

Please note: In addition to the positions listed above in the 2019 column, funding was included for two positions in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

Operating Budget by Program					
Program	2020	2020	2021	2021	
	Budget	FTEs	Proposed	FTEs	
Utilities Administration	\$ 16,410,396	27	\$ 10,365,559	27	
Fiscal	7,189,143	39	4,872,319	37	
Human Resources	4,344,407	35	3,818,000	33	
Internal Services	93,564,934	0	95,826,714	0	
Regulatory Compliance	4,188,957	29	3,730,952	30	
Public Relations	570,103	4	533,165	4	
Sustainability	889,787	6	725,827	5	
Emergency Preparedness	1,225,148	11	1,129,887	10	
Septic Tank Elimination Program	160,000	0	160,000	0	
Customer Service	31,070,265	243	34,568,597	247	
Maintenance	23,879,604	176	20,286,773	165	
Engineering and Development	79,139,373	128	77,561,743	133	
Fleet Management	2,883,994	26	3,185,910	30	
Water Distribution	55,014,129	275	59,932,720	273	
Wastewater Treatment	42,536,878	215	39,343,712	225	
Stormwater Management	4,067,182	26	3,352,667	26	
Electricity Distribution	14,104,246	48	15,253,523	52	
Street Lighting	5,518,598	26	5,495,323	18	
COVID-19	-	0	138,000	0	
Debt Management	284,173,243	0	306,248,812	0	
Department Total	\$ 670,930,387	1,314	\$ 686,530,203	1,315	

For additional financial information related to the Department of Public Utilities, please refer to the water, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and electricity operating fund summaries contained within the Enterprise Funds section. Program descriptions begin on the following page.



2021 PROGRAM GUIDE

UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION

To provide administrative support services for the Department of Public Utilities.

FISCAL

To ensure the financial integrity of the department. Includes budgeting, auditing, accounting, procurement, and debt service.

HUMAN RESOURCES

To ensure the effective and efficient management of human resources and safety for the department. Includes labor relations, payroll, benefits, training, selecting employees, classification management, compensation, organizational development, safety, and industrial hygiene.

INTERNAL SERVICES

To account for the internal service charges of the department to maintain operations.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

To ensure regulatory compliance and support to all divisions in the areas of environmental and other regulations.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

To provide information to residents of the City of Columbus and contracting areas regarding the department's water, power, and sewerage and drainage systems.

SUSTAINABILITY

To promote green infrastructure and conservation technologies in the department.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Coordinates all emergency preparedness activities for the department.

SEPTIC TANK ELIMINATION PROGRAM

A partnership with Columbus Public Health to protect area water sources by eliminating onsite sewage treatment systems and connecting these properties to the city's sanitary sewer. The city offers a no-interest loan program to assist homeowners with associated expenses.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

To support managers of the other divisions by providing timely and accurate information related to the core business functions of the utility for daily operational decisions and long-term strategic planning.

MAINTENANCE

To provide general maintenance for the department and division facilities including upkeep of buildings, heating, cooling, and ventilation, lighting, parking lot maintenance, and grounds and green space maintenance.

ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT

To provide engineering support and development to the department's capital program and to ensure project engineering plans and specifications are in proper form and accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

To provide assistance in all phases of fleet management for the department including coordination with the Fleet Division in the Department of Finance and Management, development and review of specifications, and assistance and execution of vehicle procurement related functions.

WATER DISTRIBUTION

To ensure the residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area have an uninterrupted distribution of safe, reliable water and that the infrastructure of the utility is maintained.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT

To promote the health and safety of residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area through the effective treatment of wastewater.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To provide effective stormwater collection services to the community within the corporate limits of Columbus.

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION

To ensure that customers receive safe and reliable electric power and that neighborhoods receive modern street lighting.

STREET LIGHTING

To promote public safety through the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of an efficient and reliable street lighting system.

COVID-19

To account for the expenses necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

DEBT MANAGEMENT

To service and track all required debt service obligations (principal and interest) per bond covenant requirements, policies, and procedures. Ensure debt from bonds and loans are used to finance the department's capital program, including those projects in all divisions.

Utilities

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