



Columbia Water & Light

residential water rate changes

With the passage of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, new water rates go into effect beginning with bills issued after Oct. 1, 2022.

The approved changes include the following:

- 24-cent increase for each residential tier.
- \$2 increase in residential base fees.

* Note: Base fee increases are effective the first billing cycle after the sale of the remaining water bonds, which is projected for December 2022.

These changes were made to implement a revenue increase in connection with the August 2018 revenue bond package approved by the voters for water utility capital improvements, and due to increasing costs related to operations and maintenance.

City of Columbia Utilities had not increased water rates since 2019.

How will this impact my bill?

Each customer's bill is based on consumption, which means the rate increases impact all customers differently.

City of Columbia water fees begin with a minimum monthly charge (the base fee) and a fire flow charge, which are determined by meter size. Usage fees are measured in hundred cubic feet (CCF). One CCF is approximately 748 gallons. Water & Light's three-tier rate structure charges a higher rate in the summer months (June-September) once a customer exceeds individualized usage milestones.

A complete breakdown of water rates can be found on the [Utility Rates](#) page of the City's website.

The City's utility billing portal ([MyUtilityBill.CoMo.gov](#)) includes an interactive dashboard that allows customers to track water usage.

Why are rate increases needed?

This rate increase is necessary for the Water Utility to fund debt payments from the 2018 revenue bond package that was approved by voters for water utility capital improvements, including the second sale of bonds that will finance proposed improvements at the [McBaine Water Treatment Plant](#).

The rate increase will also help the Water Utility to continue to meet customer expectations of reliable and affordable water service, as the costs for operations and maintenance have increased.

Are there programs available to help people with their utility bills?

Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services' [Utility Assistance](#) Program provides financial assistance for certain types of utility services for eligible residents.

Two types of applicants are eligible for utility assistance:

- Seniors and persons with disabilities.
- Families with children age 18 and younger.

Applicants must be permanent residents of Boone County whose income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Customers can save money with Columbia Water & Light's [tips and tools](#) that help reduce consumption and conserve water. Water & Light can help with water conservation projects. Sign up for a [free home assessment](#), or call 573.441.5528.

Have questions about your utility bill?

Contact City of Columbia Utility Customer Service

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

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