

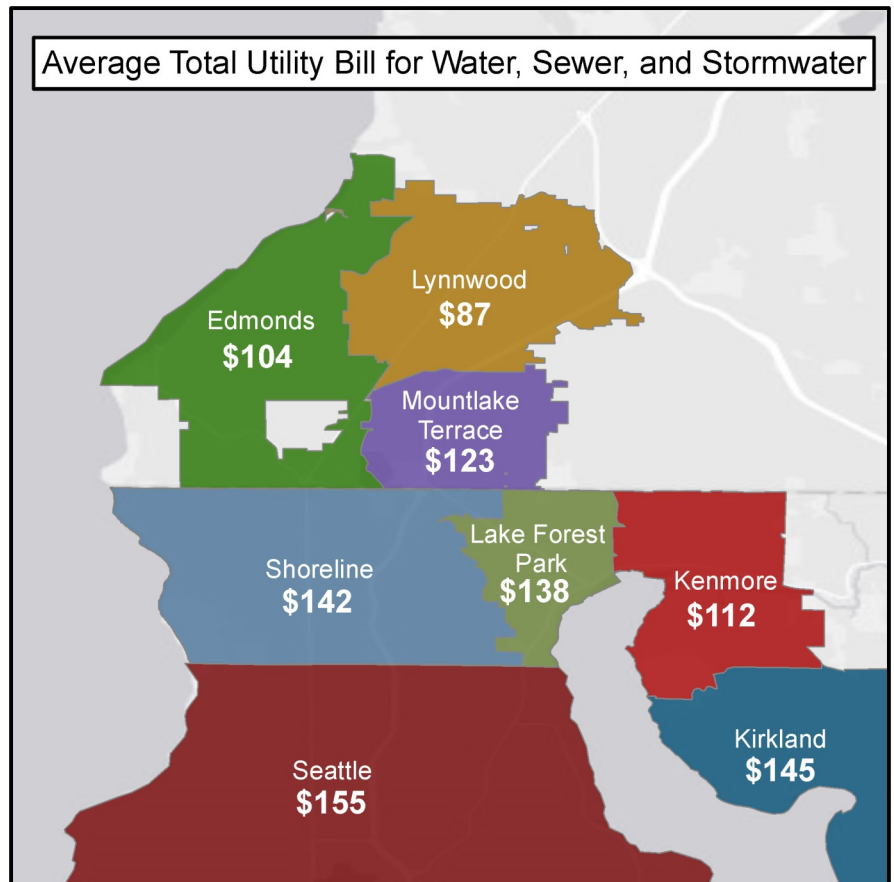
New Sewer and Stormwater Utility Rates

Why have the rates gone up?

Following a multi-year public planning process, sewer and stormwater rates and service expectations were evaluated. In order to address a significant gap between the city's needs and existing revenue, new sewer and stormwater rates were approved and will go into effect January 1, 2020.

Most of the current system was installed in the 1950s - 1970s and is at the end of its service life.

The rate increases are necessary to replace aging systems; meet state and federal regulations; and avoid sewer service disruptions, backups, flooding, and water quality pollution. The increase is also needed to reduce emergency repairs, which are more expensive than planned repairs.



Why did the rates go up so much at one time, rather than slowly over time?

- Required upgrades to the Edmonds Wastewater Treatment Plant where the city's sewage is treated. The City of Mountlake Terrace's share to maintain the facility is \$6 million.
- During the recession, rates were kept low instead of making gradual increases and inflation continued to rise.
- Low funding levels led to needed maintenance being deferred and catch up is required in order to maintain an acceptable level of service.
- The federal government is no longer contributing to local utilities like it had in the past.
- Extreme inflation in construction has resulted in higher costs for repair and replacement.

What else will rates pay for?

- Repairing more than 50 known drainage problem areas around the city
- Complying with Washington State Department of Ecology's requirements for protecting creeks, lakes, and Puget Sound
- Building habitat and flood control improvements around Hall Creek in Ballinger Park
- Reducing sewer backups and avoiding costly emergency repairs
- Providing more sewer capacity into future

Need more information?

Visit "Utilities 101" at www.cityofmlt.com/2052 or contact Public Works Director Eric LaFrance at (425) 744-6221 or elafrance@ci.mlt.wa.us.