

City of Riverton Utility Rate Change Q & A



Q: Why do utility rates periodically change?

A: The rates charged for municipal utility services offset the costs to provide the services to the citizens of Riverton. The rates charges should generate adequate revenue to pay costs of operations and maintenance, as well as establishing replacement funds for future capital needs.

Q: How does the city set the rates?

A: In 2018, the city hired an independent consulting firm to analyze the city's current utility rate structure and associated costs. The analysis determined what levels utilities will need to fund needed system development, refurbishment, repair, maintenance, operation, and ongoing sustainability. The firm examined a substantial amount of data including but not limited to:

- Financial data including historical itemized budgets, income and expense statements, balance sheets, operational costs, etc.;
- Borrowing and debt history including historical and future ongoing obligations;
- Equipment repair and replacements schedules;
- Capital improvement needs including timing and costs;
- Volume usage data (per fund), sorted by rate classes and codes;
- Rates and fee tables, rate resolutions; and
- System-wide meter inventories, including their costs and efficiency ratios.

The professional recommendation of the consultant was to change the rate structure and bring pricing up to a level sufficient to support the current expenses associated with the utility infrastructure. The report recommended annual rate increases to support ongoing and future costs.

Q: Am I able to review the study?

A: Certainly! The study is available on the City of Riverton website at https://www.rivertonwy.gov/document_center/Misc/Great%20Rates%20Utility%20Study.pdf

Q: When will the proposed rate change go into effect?

A: The proposed rate changes will go into effect in the billing cycle beginning February 15, 2023. The bills will be generated mid-March.

Q: How much will my bill change?

A: The bills for water and wastewater will be different depending on water meter size and usage. Sanitation rates vary based on container size and recycling participation. The proposed rate changes are 3% increase for water services, 3% increase for wastewater services, and 2% for sanitation services. The monthly increase for the average family of four using 12,000 gallons of water and a standard 90-gallon rollout container will be \$4.30, or roughly \$1.08 per person.

Q: What is my meter size?

A: Meter sizes vary depending on location. Please contact the Utility Billing Department and they will be happy to provide that information to you.

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Q: Are the summer sewer billings still based on winter averages?

A: Yes. During each of the months of February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September and October of each year, residential usage for a specified account shall be calculated on the average usage for the account during such of the preceding full months November, December and January

Q: Is the curbside recycling program still available?

A: Yes, the curbside recycling program is currently still available. You may sign up by contacting the Public Works Department at (307) 856-3687 or City Hall at (307) 856-9120. The recycling discount will no longer be available under the rate structure adopted in 2019.

Q: Will my sanitation rate be higher if I choose to participate in the curbside program?

A: Yes. The new sanitation rates reflect a lower bill for citizens that do not participate in the curbside program and a slightly higher rate for those that do. Please see the rate schedule for details.

Q: What if I want to continue to recycle, but don't want to pay a higher rate?

A: We're happy that you are choosing to continue recycling and keep reusable materials out of the waste stream! You may continue to keep your sanitation rates down by taking your recyclables to one of the Fremont County Solid Waste Disposal District Free Recycling Zones. The Riverton Bale Station is located at 329 North Smith Road. Details about the facility is available on their website using this link: https://trashmatters.org/?page_id=76

Q: Where can I call for additional information?

A: Please reach out to the City of Riverton Customer Service Team at (307) 856-9120. You may also stop by City Hall at 816 North Federal Blvd.