



# Preparing for Future Water Needs

## Water and Sewer Rate Adjustment

February 2023

Columbus Light & Water has approved a water and sewer rate increase to help offset rising operating costs due to inflation. These increases are necessary to ensure that CL&W has the funds to continue to provide clean drinking water to all our customers and provide the sewer services that are essential to maintain the quality of life that everyone deserves. Operating costs during 2022 soared due to increases in material costs. Essential chemicals needed to treat water and wastewater increased by nearly 300%. Water pipe costs have increased from \$5 to \$18 a foot for our most used type and size of pipe. The average CL&W customer will realize a \$4 monthly increase in water billing based on the adjusted rate.

### Rate Adjustment Importance

Water and wastewater evaluations have identified facility and equipment capacity needs. The occasional rate adjustment provides additional revenue to meet current and future demands. When infrastructure investment is not made, utilities stop working and millions of dollars are needed to bring utilities up to standard. Columbus Light & Water has consistently worked to address system needs and will remain committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable services to our community.

New water and sewer rates go into effect March 1, 2023.  
The last CL&W rate adjustment occurred in 2016.

### Capital Improvements

Columbus Light & Water has two water plants, a wastewater treatment plant, and 61 lift stations. These facilities are aging and require constant maintenance and upgrades to stay operational. Along with ARPA Projects and other capital improvements, CL&W has nearly \$500,000 of upgrades to these sites planned for 2023.

### Water Line Replacement

Columbus Light & Water has identified various sections of the city that are using existing 2" water lines. Over the last decade, CL&W has diligently worked to upgrade these lines to 6" plastic pipe. This increase in size helps increase fire protection across the city and reduce maintenance costs. These smaller lines are prone to leaks resulting in multiple point repairs in the street.

### Lining Upgrades

Cured-in-place lining projects across various parts of the city will help reduce additional rain and ground water from entering the sewer system. This process lines the inside of the existing sewer with a new material similar to plastic pipe and extends the life of the pipe by decades.

### Base Sewer Service Charge

The base sewer service charge is 100% of the user's water bill. For measured wastewater flow, the base sewer charge is 100% of the flow applied to the base water rate. For service to all customers outside city limits, the water and sewer rates are 1 1/2 times (150%) the base rate.

### Standard Billing Units (One Hundred Cubic Feet - CCF)

CURRENT RATE	\$3.43 per CCF
NEW RATE	\$4.00 per CCF

### Rate Comparison Cost of Water & Wastewater

State Average . . . . .	\$52.43
Columbus . . . . .	\$41.98

## How It Will Affect the Customer:

### Minimum Bill per Month (per 4 CCF)

5/8" Meter	3/4" Meter	1" Meter	1 1/2" Meter	2" Meter	3" Meter	4" Meter	6" Meter
\$13.72	\$13.72	\$20.58	\$30.87	\$48.02	\$260.68	\$260.68	\$483.63
\$16.00	\$16.00	\$24.00	\$36.00	\$56.00	\$304.00	\$304.00	\$564.00