

Town of Simsbury
Water Pollution Control Authority
Sewer Use Billing Policy

The following details the policy and procedures of the Simsbury Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) regarding establishment and adjustment of sewer use charges.

Sewer Use Classifications

Sewer users are divided into two (2) classifications: Residential and Non-residential. Residential users are properties that are used for residential purposes only. They may be single or multiple family units. Non-residential users are properties that are engaged in business, education, non-profit enterprises, government, residential units with non-resident ownership, etc.

Residential Sewer Use Rate

The residential sewer use rate is based on the equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) which is up to 76,000 gallons per year. A single family dwelling or each single family unit in a multi-family structure is billed one (1) EDU per year. The WPCA sets the EDU rate at a public hearing held in May of each year.

Non-Residential Sewer Use Rate

The non-residential sewer use rate is based on the volume of water used by the entity during the period from April of the previous year through March of the current year. The summer quarter (July – September) is not included to account for lawn and garden irrigation. The average of the three quarters are multiplied by four (4) to obtain the adjusted annual water use. The WPCA sets the \$/100 cubic feet (748 gallons) rate at a public hearing held in May of each year.

Non-residential sewer users will be billed a Minimum Customer Charge if their annualized water use is less than or equal to 76,000 gallons per year.

Non-residential sewer users that use wells for potable water or do not have a water meter will be billed on estimated water use. Estimated water use will be calculated using generally accepted flow values for various types of use or typical flow values for Simsbury sewer users having water meters that are engaged in similar activities.

Secondary Water Meters

Customers that wish to adjust for irrigation water during months *other* than July through September can install a secondary water meter. This meter will be read and the final water volume used for billing will be adjusted accordingly. A post card will be sent to customers to record the secondary meter reading. Customers must return the meter reading card on or before March 31, 2011. Should the card be lost, a reporting form can be obtained on the Town's website or at the Treatment Facility.

Obtaining and adjusting secondary water meter readings to track water use requires additional staff effort and record keeping. Thus, a secondary water meter surcharge is applied. The amount of the surcharge will be set each year at a public hearing in May.

The water meter and its installation must be approved by Simsbury WPCA. A permit fee of \$100 is required to record the installation and compensate for inspection of the installation.

The WPCA will periodically schedule inspections of the secondary meter to verify the installation and accuracy of the meter.

Payment of Sewer Use Bills

Sewer Use bills are issued by the Tax Collector in June, due and payable from July 1 to August 1. As of August 2, there is a 1 ½% interest penalty per month on any unpaid balance. A lien is placed on the property for any unpaid balance as of April 1 of the following year.

Appeals

Appeals for any and all sewer use charges must be filed with the WPCA within 30 days after mailing of the bills. Payment of sewer use charges are the responsibility of the property owner.

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