



Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Rates and Fees for Industries

Wastewater Conveyance and Treatment Costs

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services owns and operates nine Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WRRFs) and over 650 miles of sewer pipe that convey wastewater to the treatment facilities from 111 communities in the seven-county metropolitan area. These nine WRRFs treat a combined total of nearly 250 million gallons of wastewater each day. Operation and maintenance costs of the WRRFs and the conveyance system are funded entirely by user fees paid by businesses and homes that are connected to the sanitary sewer. User fees paid by permitted industries include Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) and Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC), strength charge, and permit fees.

Sewer Availability Charge (SAC)

SAC is a fee for use of capacity in the wastewater conveyance system. SAC funds are used to pay for new sewer pipe and treatment facilities, rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and equipment to meet new environmental regulations. SAC is collected from served communities for new connections and increased capacity demand. While SAC is assessed to communities, it is calculated based on the capacity demand of each specific residential home or business. Each paid SAC unit allows for discharge capacity up to 274 gallons per operating day. Payments are made by the property or business owner to the city where the property is located.

Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC)

ICC is a fee charged directly to a permitted industry for any volumes that exceed the industry's ICC threshold during a reporting period. The ICC threshold is the volume of wastewater equivalent to the facility's assigned SAC baseline multiplied by the number of operating days. This value changes each reporting period based on operating days. To calculate a potential ICC, the threshold is compared to the reported discharge for that period. If the reporting period discharge is at or below the existing threshold, no ICC charges will incur. For every 1,000 gallons discharged above the threshold, ICC will be assessed and invoiced. ICC is paid directly to Metropolitan Council Environmental Services and does not increase the facility's SAC baseline. Industries have the option of paying SAC in lieu of ICC, which will increase their baseline.

Strength Charge

WRRFs are designed to treat typical domestic strength waste. Any waste with strength greater than typical domestic waste results in increased energy and treatment costs. Strength is determined by measuring the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentrations of the wastewater. Permitted industries that discharge COD and TSS concentration levels above typical domestic waste are required to pay a strength charge based on COD, TSS and volume (or production for microbreweries). Industries that have COD and TSS concentrations at or below domestic waste levels do not pay a strength charge. Strength charges are assessed and invoiced for each reporting period.

Permit fees

Each industry on permit with Metropolitan Council pays an annual permit fee based on their permit type, significant industrial user status, reporting frequency and volume of discharge. These permit fees are cost-recovery fees for administering the Industrial Pretreatment Program.