

MUNICIPAL RESIDENTIAL WASTEWATER RATES, 2024

(BASED ON USING 5,000 GALLONS OF CLEAN WATER PER MONTH PER HOUSEHOLD)

Andover	Crystal	Inver Grove Heights	Minnetonka Beach	Saint Bonifacius
Anoka	Dayton	Lake Elmo	Minnetrista	Saint Louis Park
Apple Valley	Deephaven	Laketown Township	Mound	Saint Paul
Arden Hills	Eagan	Lakeville	Mounds View	Saint Paul Park
Bayport	East Bethel	Landfall	New Brighton	Savage
Birchwood	Eden Prairie	Lauderdale	New Hope	Shakopee
Blaine	Edina	Lexington	Newport	Shoreview
Bloomington	Elko New Market	Lilydale	North Oaks	Shorewood
Brooklyn Center	Empire Township	Lino Lakes	North St. Paul	South St. Paul
Brooklyn Park	Excelsior	Little Canada	Oak Park Heights	Spring Lake Park
Burnsville	Falcon Heights	Long Lake	Oakdale	Spring Park
Carver	Farmington	Loretto	Orono	Stillwater
Centerville	Forest Lake	Mahtomedi	Osseo	Tonka Bay
Champlin	Fridley	Maple Grove	Plymouth	Vadnais Heights
Chanhassen	Gem Lake	Maple Plain	Prior Lake	Victoria
Chaska	Golden Valley	Maplewood	Ramsey	Waconia
Circle Pines	Greenfield	Medicine Lake	Richfield	Wayzata
Columbia Heights	Greenwood	Medina	Robbinsdale	West St. Paul
Columbus	Hastings	Mendota	Rogers	White Bear Lake
Coon Rapids	Hilltop	Mendota Heights	Rosemount	White Bear Township
Corcoran	Hopkins	Minneapolis	Roseville	Willernie
Cottage Grove	Hugo	Minnetonka	Saint Anthony	Woodbury
	Independence			



THE COUNCIL'S MISSION IS TO FOSTER EFFICIENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR A PROSPEROUS METROPOLITAN REGION

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Metropolitan Council Environmental Services

Metropolitan Council Members

Charlie Zelle	Chair	Diego Morales	District 9
Judy Johnson	District 1	Peter Lindstrom	District 10
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Anjuli Cameron	District 8		



The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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Background Information

Introduction

The Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council is the regional agency serving the Twin Cities' seven-county metropolitan area, providing essential services to the region. The Council works with local communities to provide these critical services:

- Operate the region's largest bus and light-rail system.
- Enhance water sustainability in the region, most notably by treating wastewater.
- Engage communities and the public in planning for future growth.
- Provide affordable housing opportunities.
- Provide planning, acquisitions, and funding for a regional system of parks and trails.

Under its *2040 Water Resources Policy Plan*, the Council works to support development that makes the most efficient use of public resources and investments, protects natural resources, enhances livability and quality of life, and promotes economic competitiveness.

The plan also integrates the "regional systems" including transportation, aviation, parks and open space, and water resources management.

More information about the Metropolitan Council can be found on the Council's Website, www.metrocouncil.org.

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES)

MCES is one of the public service divisions of the Metropolitan Council.

Water services provided by MCES ensure that:

- Wastewater collection and treatment services are provided in a cost- and quality-competitive manner.
- Sufficient sewer capacity exists to serve current and planned development.
- Local government plans include policies and requirements that support adequate future water supplies, inflow and infiltration

mitigation efforts, and nonpoint source pollution prevention in the region.

To provide these services to customer communities, MCES:

- Operates and maintains approximately 660 miles of regional sewers that collect flow from about 5,000 miles of sewers owned by 111 communities.
- Treats about 250 million gallons of wastewater daily at nine regional treatment plants.
- Continues to achieve near-perfect compliance with federal and state clean water standards.
- Establishes user fees that pay 100 percent of wastewater operations and debt service costs.
- Maintains wastewater service rates consistently below the national average.
- Works with approximately 950 industrial permit holders to reduce the amount of pollution entering our wastewater collection system.
- Provides facilities that accept liquid waste from industries, landfills, ethanol plants, groundwater cleanup, septic system pumping, and port-a-potties.
- Provides water resources monitoring and analysis for the region.

MCES' Rate System

A system of rates has been established to pay the costs incurred in meeting MCES' responsibilities. These rates are briefly defined and listed in order of their fiscal significance (Figure 1).

While the focus of this report is municipal wastewater rates, other rates, and charges are on pages 9 and 10 of this report. More information can be found on the Met Council's Website, <https://metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Rates-Charges.aspx>

Community Rates Addressed in this Study

Within the seven-county metropolitan area, there are 111 communities that are the customers (primary users) of the MCES wastewater system in 2024. They are billed by MCES at a wholesale rate. In turn, each community bills property owners – residential, industrial, and commercial users – for wastewater collection and treatment.

The focus of this report is on the municipal wastewater charges imposed by the metropolitan communities on their single-family residential customers. This is a retail rate that includes MCES' wholesale rate charged to each community, plus the additional amount added by each community to pay for local trunk and lateral sewer costs.

MCES wholesale volume charges are billed to each community monthly. Most communities base their wastewater charges on metered water consumption.

Retail Rate is the fee a municipality charges its customers – residential, commercial, or industrial – for wastewater. This fee covers the wholesale cost from MCES as well as funds needed to administer and maintain the local government's trunks and lateral system.

Exhibit 1 lists the retail rates of MCES' customer communities in 2024 along with several years of history.

MCES sewer charges are supported by Minnesota Statute 473.519 (Exhibit 4) and EPA regulation 35.929 (Exhibit 5).



Figure 1. Definition of MCES' Rates

- **Municipal Wastewater Charge (MWC):** A wholesale fee charged directly to communities for regional wastewater collection and treatment. This fee is based on the proportion of wastewater treated that originates within each community and MCES's overall revenue requirements. Communities then incorporate their fees into this charge, resulting in the final retail sewer billings for residents and businesses.
- **Sewer Availability Charge (SAC):** A one-time fee imposed on local governments when a new user (residential, commercial, or industrial) initially connects to the wastewater system. MCES may levy SAC when a business expands or undergoes changes that lead to increased demand on the wastewater system. For a standalone single-family residence, a charge of one SAC unit applies, which is based on a maximum potential daily wastewater flow volume of 274 gallons. The rate for one SAC unit stands at \$2,485.
- **Industrial Strength Charges:** Fees billed to industrial users and liquid waste haulers discharging into the wastewater system industrial waste at chemical oxygen demand (COD) and/or total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations above base levels established by the Council. Base concentrations are COD and TSS concentrations of normal residential wastewater.
- **Other Industrial Charges:** Included in this category are liquid waste hauler load charges, industrial discharge permit fees, temporary capacity charges, self-monitoring report late fees, stipulation agreement payments, and cost recovery fees.

Revenue Sources

MCES' main revenue source for wastewater operations and debt service is fees from users of the metropolitan system (primarily the municipal wastewater charges).

These fees, or charges, are established through a system-wide cost allocation process that distributes the annual cost of developing and operating the system among users.

Refer to Exhibit 3, State Law on Cost Allocation: Minnesota Statutes 473.517. In addition to municipal wastewater charges, most of the remaining revenue comes from SAC fees and industry-specific charges.



Figure 2. MCES' Revenue Sources

Based on 2024 Budget of \$362 million



Maintaining competitive rates and a high level of performance are priorities for MCES and the health of the region.

Factors That Influence Wastewater Pricing

Comparing wastewater treatment charges among communities, both locally and nationally, is one indicator of relative cost and efficiency. Many factors other than cost and efficiency can influence wastewater pricing.

These factors include variables such as:

- level of treatment (primary, secondary, or tertiary),
- age of the system,
- amount of infiltration and inflow (influenced by proximity to water table),
- climate in the locale of the system,
- customer composition,
- amount of debt service expense included in sewer charges,
- size and density of urban area,
- varying rules and regulations, and
- system size.

For example, MCES pays for its debt service (which is its largest expense item) from its fee revenue, while in some comparably sized metropolitan areas, debt service is paid from property taxes and not reflected in fees. The level of treatment can also cause large cost variances among otherwise comparable metropolitan areas. MCES (near the source of the Mississippi River) has some of the most stringent environmental regulations in the Midwest.

The range and variety of factors that influence operations mean that rates alone are insufficient data from which to draw conclusions regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of wastewater operations.

Exhibit 2 shows some national comparison sewer charge data.

The MCES Cost Allocation System

Regional Approach

In the 1970s the Metropolitan Council and the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission (a predecessor agency to MCES), acting under statutory direction, initiated a regional approach to the cost of wastewater treatment.

As a result, a community's sewer bill does not depend on the size of the nearest treatment plant (and its unit cost of treatment). Rather, the costs of the system are pooled and allocated across all communities.

In 1992 the regional approach was also applied to wastewater conveyance and the cost of constructing interceptors.

The regional approach was reaffirmed by a 1995 customer-based Sewer Rates/Cost Allocation Task Force, which said:

*A uniform sewer service rate is the most equitable way to allocate costs throughout the Metropolitan Disposal System (MDS) for sewage requiring a normal level of treatment because the system is designed to maximize **regional** efficiency and **regional** water quality goals.*

Regional treatment provides cost savings not available with local treatment. In general, the larger the plant, the lower the unit cost of treatment.

The regional approach also provides equity in costs and services throughout the region. Regional service enhances environmental quality by allowing service decisions to be made at the regional level, avoiding inter-city negotiations and conflicts.

Over time, the facilities that make up the metropolitan disposal system have undergone

several development phases. In the early years, the focus was on consolidating and regionalizing the system and decommissioning small inefficient plants, especially those that were discharging into lakes rather than rivers. A primary focus was on bringing the entire system into compliance with evolving federal and state environmental standards.

Later, the expansion and upgrade of several larger regional plants was completed to meet the growth demands and increased regulation. In the current phase, maintenance, rehabilitation, and efficiencies are the primary focus.

System-Wide Cost Allocation System

While the facilities and operations of MCES were being updated and made more efficient, its methodology for setting wastewater service charges was also being improved.

The result of this evolution is that today, MCES has a rate system that charges on a utility-like basis and reflects only the cost of providing service and the volume of use.

All customer communities pay an allocated portion of the Metropolitan Wastewater Charge, which is based on their annual volume of wastewater treated.

Each year MCES uses budgeted expenses to derive its Metropolitan Wastewater Charge (Figure 3). MCES began using this method in 2005 to allocate the Metropolitan Wastewater Charge to customer communities. With this method, the cost of service is allocated based on actual known flow from the most recent calendar year.



Figure 3. MCES' Rate Determination: Step 1

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Total Annual Budget Expense} \\
 - \text{Transfer from SAC Fund} \\
 - \text{Other Revenues \& Use of Reserves} \\
 \hline
 = \text{Metropolitan Wastewater Charge} \\
 \text{Required}
 \end{array}$$

These tentative overall charges are analyzed for competitiveness and affordability and are compared to prior MWCs and inflation rates.

Adjustments are made by putting pressure on the total annual budget or using excess operating reserves. During this process of budgeting and rate setting, the MCES management team, council administration and staff, and municipal and industrial customers interact to determine the best way to meet the region's wastewater collection and treatment needs.

The next step of the process determines an individual community's bill by multiplying the metropolitan wastewater charge by the community's percent of the total system flow for the prior year (Figure 4). One-twelfth is billed each month.

Impact of System Flow on Wholesale Rate

Annual flows can vary significantly because of weather and climate cycles. Therefore, even if MCES' total revenue remained the same, the rate charged per volume of flow varies. For example, total charges of \$200,000,000 and a system flow of 100 billion gallons yield a rate of \$2,000 per million gallons, or \$2 per 1,000 gallons.

Should the system flow drop to 95 billion gallons, the rate would be \$2,105.26 per million gallons.

The dollars that need to be collected by MCES remain almost the same at either flow level since most expenses are fixed (debt service and labor), and those that vary do so more with the solids content of wastewater than the volume.



Figure 4. MCES' Rate Determination: Step 2

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{Metropolitan Wastewater Charge} \\
 \times \text{Community's Percentage of Total Flow} \\
 \hline
 = \text{Community's Annual MWC Bill}
 \end{array}$$

Twin Cities Area Residential Average Annual Cost

Weighted Average per Household

In 2024, the weighted average retail community wastewater charge for a single-family residence in the Twin Cities area was \$405 per household per year, a 7.6% increase for the two years since last reported in 2022. During the same two-year period, MCES' total MWC increased 12.7%.

The household cost is based on each community's reported rates for a household with a consumption of 5,000 gallons per month. These rates are then weighted based on the number of single-family customer households served by each community.

Figure 5. Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Weighted Average Retail Charge per Household

YEAR	WEIGHTED AVERAGE CHARGE	TWO-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE	MEDIAN CHARGE	TWO-YEAR PERCENT CHANGE
2004	\$186	5.1%	\$180	4.7%
2006	\$181	-2.7%	\$185	2.8%
2008	\$195	7.7%	\$200	8.1%
2010	\$216	10.8%	\$223	11.5%
2012	\$235	8.8%	\$232	4.0%
2014	\$255	8.5%	\$242	4.4%
2016	\$274	7.3%	\$268	10.6%
2020	\$347	13.1%	\$326	7.6%
2022	\$377	8.5%	\$357	9.4%
2024	\$405	7.6%	\$375	5.2%

The number of one- and two-family households varies greatly by city (see Exhibit 1). Therefore, MCES believes a weighted average is the most accurate reflection of rates for the purpose of this study. Weighted average has been used since 1998.

See Exhibit 1 for individual community charges.

Median Community Charge

Median charges for 2004 through 2024 are listed at the end of Exhibit 1. Weighted average and median charges for average metropolitan area

communities from 2004 to 2024 are summarized in Figure 5.

Types of Rates

Communities in the metropolitan region use several types of sewer rates to charge residential customers.

- 17 use a flat charge;
- 6 use a uniform rate;
- 67 use a base/uniform rate;
- 19 use a base/increasing block rate;
- 1 uses an increasing block rate, and
- 1 do not charge residential wastewater rates

These rate types used by MCES customer communities are defined as follows.

The **flat charge** for residential customers is a fixed dollar amount for each residential unit, regardless of use. Reportedly this method is used based on the following assumptions: that volume varies little among single-family houses; that system access or availability is the principal consideration in costs; that revenue from flat charges is more predictable than from volume-based rates; and/or that a flat charge system is easier to administer. Also, flat charges are used where water use is not metered.

Environmentalists generally discourage this methodology as it encourages consumption and discourages conservation.

Uniform rates are set so that each gallon of metered water use is charged the same rate. Bills are often based on the usage of water during the winter quarter so that homeowners are not charged sewerage fees based on water used in lawn and garden care.

The **base/uniform rate** combines a fixed dollar charge or minimum charge (generally, per month or per quarter) with a metered volume charge. The fixed dollar charge varies widely. In some cities, the fixed portion equates to a service charge or billing fee and the total is modest. In other cities the fixed portion is relatively large.

Base/increasing block means that like the base/uniform rate, a fixed dollar charge is combined with a volume charge. The difference is that the volume rate increases as the volume used increases. For example, the first 5,000 gallons might be \$2 per thousand gallons and the second 5,000 gallons might be \$3 per thousand gallons.

Increasing block rates mean that sewer service charges are based on metered water use, but increase as water use increases, without a fixed component. The higher charges are set incrementally, often in 5,000 to 10,000-gallon blocks.

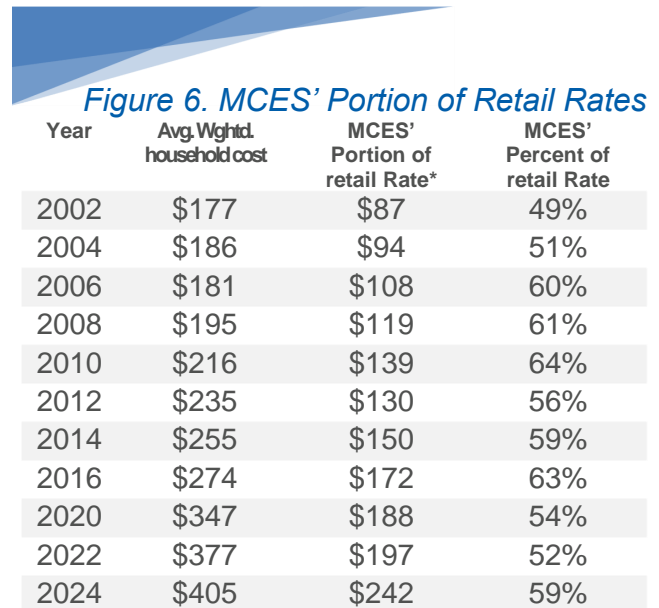
Community Rate-Setting Practices

Communities served by MCES have the authority to set their retail rates, but they must be consistent with pertinent laws and regulations. Pursuant to MN Statutes, section 473.519 (Exhibit 4), each unit of government must adopt a system of charges sufficient to pay its share of the cost allocated to it by the Council.

Residential Rate Changes

Figure 6 shows the approximate portion of the total average retail sewer charge that is paid to

MCES. The remainder is needed to cover city sewer costs.



**Based on 60,000 gallons of water sold, which equates to 70,200 gallons of wastewater due to inflow/infiltration (I/I) that is estimated to be 17% of wastewater flow (70.2 X \$3.46 per 1,000 gal.= \$242).*

National Data and Trends

National Comparison

Comparing MCES' performance and competitiveness with wastewater agencies in other areas of the country is important to the Council. While not perfect, analyzing national data and comparing levels of service, rates, operating and maintenance costs, and debt service with similar agencies helps MCES assess the Council's regional competitiveness.

MCES uses the annual survey prepared by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) as its primary authority on the expenses, revenues, and rates of other agencies across the nation. NACWA members represent the majority of the sewered population in the United States and collectively treat more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater per day.

The most current NACWA survey, the 2023 NACWA Index, contains rate data from 1985 to 2023 with projected data through 2028; 164 member agencies completed this survey, serving over 99 million people. The annual retail wastewater charges for these communities increased, on average, 3.2% over the past ten years. Over the same period, this compares to average inflation of 2.3%, an average increase in MCES wholesale sewer charges of 4.2%, and an average increase in our region's annual retail sewer charge of 4.6%.

Exhibit 2 shows the NACWA retail average and compares its annual increases to inflation, to annual increases in MCES' Metropolitan Wastewater Charge, and to our region's average retail household rates.

Interpretation of National Survey Data

Interpretation of survey data can be challenging. Survey data may differ because of survey wording and wording of responses, unique rate-setting and operational strategies, and other factors not covered by generic survey forms. NACWA mentions that some agencies, when responding to a current survey, will modify answers to previous surveys; others respond to some of the questions, but not all.

However, even with the disparities and not always perfect responses, survey information can be useful for comparative purposes and as an indicator of trends in wastewater cost.

The self-selecting nature of surveys must also be noted. One metropolitan area, which was frequently the highest cost city in the survey for many years, has declined to participate in recent surveys.

National Trends

The NACWA survey also provides information on the current trends in the wastewater industry across the nation.

Many wastewater agencies have experienced cost increases two times greater than inflation over the past several years. To meet these increased cost challenges, wastewater agencies have implemented programs to become more efficient, including:

- Cost-saving energy recovery initiatives,
- Implementation of asset management programs,
- Increased provision of reclaimed water services,
- Sales of fertilizer products made from biosolids, and
- Implementation of utility management/excellence programs.

Other Rates and Charges

Other MCES rates and charges related to treatment of wastewater are summarized in this section. Communities also have related charges, such as sewer connection and/or city SAC fees.

This study does not include information on these other community charges; that information is most reliable if received from individual communities.

MCES Sewer Availability Charge (SAC)

In 1973, MCES began to levy this one-time capacity charge for new connections or increased capacity demand to the metropolitan wastewater system.



Figure 7. MCES SAC (per Residential Equivalent Connection)

YEAR	AMOUNT
2009 Base SAC	\$2,000
2010 Base SAC	\$2,100
2011 Base SAC	\$2,230
2012 Base SAC	\$2,365
2013 Base SAC	\$2,435
2014-2024 Base SAC	\$2,485

One SAC unit is based on 274 gallons of maximum potential daily wastewater flow volume. A freestanding single-family residence is charged one SAC unit. Other types of buildings pay a prorated SAC fee, based on the estimated capacity of wastewater they may demand.

The dollar value of a single SAC is set by the Metropolitan Council and is the subject of a periodic study. Figure 7 shows the SAC for the years 2009 through 2024.

Industrial Strength Charge

Industrial strength charges reflect additional treatment costs caused by industrial wastewater, which has more pollutants than typical residential wastewater.

Industrial strength charges are based on the concentration of pollutants (as measured by TSS] and COD) and the volume of the discharge.

Strength charge rates are determined annually by the Council, based on operational expenses at wastewater treatment plants for treating TSS and COD in excess of normal residential wastewater.

Industrial users are also subject to normal municipal wastewater and sewer availability charges.

Industrial Strength Charge Rate:



Figure 8. Industrial Strength Charge Rates

	2024 Rate
Cost per excess pound of TSS	\$0.3100
Cost per excess pound of COD	\$0.1550

Industrial Strength Charge: For Waste Hauled from Outside the Region



Figure 9. Out-of-Region Industrial Strength Rate Charges

	2024 Rate
Cost per excess pound of TSS	\$ 0.4130
Cost per excess pound of COD	\$ 0.2065

This strength charge applies to customers outside the Council's seven-county area.

Liquid Waste Hauler Load Charge Rates

Liquid waste haulers pay MCES for septage, leachate, and other hauled wastes that are discharged to MCES disposal sites. The load charge combines a strength charge component, a volume component, and a receiving facilities component.

In addition, a \$15 per 1,000-gallon service charge applies to hauled wastes originating outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Industrial Discharge Permit Fees

Industrial users of the Metropolitan Disposal System must apply for a permit from MCES to discharge wastewater.

Those industrial users issued a permit are subject to annual permit fees, which recover a portion of the costs to administer the industrial pretreatment program.

Permit fees are based on permit type, annual volume of wastewater, significant industrial user (SIU) status, and self-monitoring reporting frequency.

Temporary Capacity Service Charge

This charge is assessed for temporary use of the metropolitan system (e.g., capacity for disposal of contaminated groundwater) and is assessed in lieu of SAC, due to the temporary nature of the service. Essentially, this charge is for renting capacity in the system.

Industrial Capacity Charge (ICC)

As of January 1, 2019, industries have a new option for paying SAC for process discharge that may reduce or eliminate large SAC payments and a new way that Industrial SAC is determined and billed. ICC will be determined and invoiced after each industry's reporting period, but only for discharges above an industry's SAC baseline. One benefit of ICC is that it allows permitted industries the choice to rent their needed capacity rather than own it.

Self-Monitoring Report Late Fee

A late fee is assessed to permittees who fail to submit a complete self-monitoring report on a timely basis. The fee amount is based on the frequency and severity of late reports.

Stipulation Agreement Payment

These rare penalties are charged to negate the economic advantage of noncompliance with federal pretreatment standards or local limits.

Cost Recovery Fees

These fees are used to recover costs from any responsible party associated with spill or enforcement responses or non-routine data requests.

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Surcharge

MCES monitors wastewater flows from communities and identifies those that exceed peak flow limits, which indicates excessive flows due to I/I. These communities are assigned a work plan value, which is the amount they are expected to invest into their wastewater system to mitigate sources of I/I. Communities are eligible for State I/I grant funds to pay up to 50% of the expenses, when funds are allocated by the Legislature. Since 2010, MCES has distributed more than \$24M in state grant funds, supporting over \$200M of total spending.

A 2016 task force determined this program has been successful in focusing attention and funds on I/I improvements, and recommended continuation of the program. The success of the program includes these outcomes:

- MCES has deferred or eliminated the almost \$1 billion that was projected to be needed to build capacity for this excess I/I,
- The MPCA recently terminated MCES' joint CSO permit with Minneapolis (NPDES/SDS permit) due to joint work to eliminate CSO events which has resulted in no sewer overflows since 2010,
- Some evidence of a reduction in peaks has been observed,
- Total annual flows have been trending down, despite regional growth and increased rainfall trends,
- There has been no consent decree from EPA.

See the Council website for more information.

Encroachment Application Fee

Assessed to recover administrative time spent by MCES staff developing and processing encroachment agreements when someone requests to encroach on MCES property (\$600 fee per easement).

Direct Connection Application Fee

Assessed to recover administrative time spent by MCES staff on requests to connect directly to an ES interceptor (\$1,000 fee per connection).

Next Steps

Wastewater treatment agencies are stewards of the health and environment in communities nationwide.

MCES embraces this stewardship with goals that continue to ensure a sustainable environment within the context of providing competitive, quality service to the region's residents. We hope the information presented in this study is of interest and value to our customers and stakeholders.

We welcome reader feedback on this issue and suggestions for future studies.

Please e-mail comments to Aaron Boaitey at Aaron.Boaitey@metc.state.mn.us

Exhibit 1

MCES 2024 Survey

Community Retail Sewer Charges — Annual Charges for One-and Two-Family Residences

Based on 5,000 metered gallons of water consumption per month. See page 6 for explanation of rate methods in column 4.

Community	2024 Annual Cost (1)	2024 1 & 2 Family Residences (2)	2024 Rate Method	2022	2020	2018	2016	2014	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004
Andover	\$278	7,876	Flat	\$252	\$245	\$245	\$237	\$237	\$237	\$231	\$224	\$207	\$191
Anoka	\$364	4,799	Base/Uniform	\$340	\$337	\$294	\$257	\$256	\$244	\$244	\$228	\$213	\$205
Apple Valley	\$349	11,568	Base/Increasing Block	\$317	\$288	\$262	\$242	\$228	\$215	\$198	\$186	\$170	\$170
Arden Hills	\$682	2,680	Base/Uniform	\$636	\$577	\$509	\$360	\$349	\$335	\$299	\$271	\$246	\$204
Bayport	\$268	1,025	Base/Increasing Block	\$268	\$268	\$283	\$267	\$316	\$247	\$211	\$194	\$194	\$194
Birchwood	\$420	356	Base/Uniform	\$415	\$414	\$281	\$281	\$227	\$225	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240
Blaine	\$322	20,069	Flat	\$252	\$240	\$216	\$192	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$179	\$179
Bloomington	\$330	25,479	Uniform	\$309	\$299	\$278	\$232	\$198	\$173	\$154	\$147	\$135	\$122
Brooklyn Center	\$438	7,458	Flat	\$393	\$357	\$330	\$320	\$299	\$271	\$255	\$250	\$238	\$222
Brooklyn Park	\$295	18,460	Base/Uniform	\$266	\$252	\$229	\$202	\$184	\$176	\$163	\$153	\$147	\$138
Burnsville	\$368	15,196	Base/Uniform	\$318	\$296	\$275	\$256	\$191	\$223	\$209	\$193	\$185	\$185
Carver	\$489	1,938	Uniform	\$461	\$434	\$398	\$368						
Centerville	\$329	1,487	Base/Uniform	\$296	\$208	\$228	\$282	\$262	\$260	\$225	\$212	\$212	\$196
Champlin	\$472	7,915	Base/Uniform	\$419	\$376	\$327	\$327	\$311	\$283	\$225	\$196	\$187	\$177
Chanhassen	\$426	8,332	Base/Uniform	\$362	\$326	\$296	\$252	\$234	\$220	\$229	\$207	\$186	\$164
Chaska	\$497	7,158	Base/Uniform	\$373	\$263	\$274	\$233	\$213	\$191	\$188	\$169	\$153	\$152
Circle Pines	\$510	1,857	Base/Uniform	\$402	\$402	\$402	\$360	\$333	\$333	\$270	\$240	\$180	\$168
Columbia Heights	\$332	5,734	Base/Increasing Block	\$308	\$280	\$258	\$231	\$215	\$192	\$191	\$178	\$152	\$126
Columbus	\$439	33	Uniform	\$452	\$452	\$462	\$462	\$438	\$366	\$346	\$169		
Coon Rapids	\$311	20,672	Base/Uniform	\$291	\$291	\$291	\$276	\$247	\$244	\$236	\$206	\$196	\$188
Corcoran	\$563	1,325	Base/Uniform	\$531	\$510	\$477							
Cottage Grove	\$313	12,379	Base/Uniform	\$279	\$279	\$243	\$210	\$200	\$187	\$180	\$171	\$153	\$162
Crystal	\$440	7,518	Base/Increasing Block	\$384	\$323	\$221	\$210	\$194	\$185	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180
Dayton	\$455	2,530	Base/Uniform	\$437	\$289	\$256	\$194	\$146	\$149	\$134			
Deephaven	\$776	1,494	Flat	\$460	\$460	\$380	\$380	\$340	\$340	\$300	\$260	\$260	\$240
Eagan	\$313	20,173	Base/Uniform	\$270	\$240	\$223	\$211	\$212	\$199	\$168	\$143	\$125	\$119
East Bethel	\$478	126	Base/Uniform	\$478	\$478	\$377	\$497						
Eden Prairie	\$332	18,042	Base/Uniform	\$313	\$291	\$255	\$247	\$213	\$189	\$157	\$150	\$142	\$117

Edina	\$436	14,249	Base/Uniform	\$378	\$343	\$311	\$285	\$264	\$246	\$226	\$205	\$187	\$167
Elko New Market	\$653	1,547	Base/Uniform	\$634	\$635	\$576	\$500						
Empire Township	\$202	828	Base/Uniform	\$193	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$182	\$180	\$182	\$144
Excelsior	\$589	788	Base/Uniform	\$536	\$435	\$435	\$435	\$435	\$435	\$435	\$241	\$231	\$220
Falcon Heights	\$350	1,185	Base/Uniform	\$348	\$322	\$307	\$293	\$266	\$243	\$222	\$180	\$156	\$140
Farmington	\$337	7,010	Base/Uniform	\$268	\$225	\$216	\$216	\$188	\$192	\$162	\$154	\$153	\$150
Forest Lake	\$639	5,641	Base/Uniform	\$585	\$536	\$307	\$274	\$330	\$292	\$264	\$310	\$310	\$170
Fridley	\$429	7,546	Base/Uniform	\$398	\$376	\$360	\$333	\$285	\$252	\$229	\$181	\$152	\$145
Gem Lake	\$220	84	Flat	\$200	\$200	\$172	\$172	\$172	\$172	\$172	\$172	\$172	\$120
Golden Valley	\$367	6,869	Increasing Block	\$332	\$316	\$293	\$255	\$217	\$224	\$224	\$224	\$204	\$198
Greenfield	\$663	95	Base/Uniform	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$663	\$792	\$533	\$213	\$444	\$444
Greenwood	\$400	316	Flat	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$260	\$280	\$280	\$300	\$260	\$260	\$240
Hastings	\$357	6,848	Base/Uniform	\$335	\$313	\$309	\$213	\$195	\$195	\$189	\$174	\$159	\$147
Hilltop	\$205	13	Base/Uniform	\$200	\$200	\$182	\$182	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$120	\$116
Hopkins	\$478	2,903	Base/Uniform	\$425	\$404	\$367	\$258	\$246	\$225	\$240	\$168	\$150	\$135
Hugo	\$346	3,871	Base/Uniform	\$288	\$288	\$264	\$232	\$232	\$244	\$232	\$212	\$212	\$185
Independence	\$1,048	242	Flat	\$968	\$924	\$672	\$672	\$672	\$632	\$596	\$561	\$545	\$529
Inver Grove Heights	\$402	8,189	Base/Uniform	\$338	\$311	\$290	\$261	\$244	\$223	\$208	\$194	\$181	\$167
Lake Elmo	\$323	2,236	Base/Increasing Block	\$316	\$309	\$303							
Laketown Township	\$300	269	Flat	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$240	\$228	\$220	\$200	\$392
Lakeville	\$368	22,768	Base/Uniform	\$357	\$323	\$283	\$242	\$224	\$210	\$204	\$166	\$159	\$155
Landfall	\$243	0	Base/Uniform	~									
Lauderdale	\$250	714	Flat	\$231	\$231	\$220	\$211	\$194	\$194	\$169	\$168	\$170	\$168
Lexington	\$287	689	Base/Uniform	\$264	\$239	\$220	\$220	\$213	\$186	\$186	\$175	\$162	\$162
Lilydale	\$231	136	Flat	\$210	\$150	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$160	\$150	\$135
Lino Lakes	\$263	5,837	Base/Uniform	\$250	\$244	\$244	\$244	\$324	\$268	\$228	\$228	\$228	\$268
Little Canada	\$356	2,151	Base/Uniform	\$320	\$299	\$294	\$275	\$200	\$220	\$186	\$180	\$180	\$180
Long Lake	\$656	764	Base/Uniform	\$300	\$556	\$494	\$425	\$425	\$387	\$354	\$336	\$292	\$221
Loretto	\$727	231	Base/Uniform	\$638									
Mahtomedi	\$618	2,595	Base/Uniform	\$577	\$543	\$512	\$456	\$395	\$327	\$269	\$256	\$242	\$217
Maple Grove	\$284	22,922	Base/Uniform	\$270	\$250	\$227	\$215	\$198	\$195	\$147	\$147	\$147	\$147
Maple Plain	\$654	582	Base/Increasing Block	\$593	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$516	\$367	\$367	\$183	\$156
Maplewood	\$340	9,505	Uniform	\$393	\$323	\$246	\$235	\$235	\$226	\$206	\$192	\$169	\$157
Medicine Lake	\$276	1	~	~									
Medina	\$348	1,673	Base/Uniform	\$341	\$337	\$321	\$303	\$286	\$277	\$277	\$264	\$233	\$211
Mendota	\$160	161	Flat	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160	\$160
Mendota Heights	\$477	3,719	Base/Uniform	\$335	\$314	\$314	\$243	\$231	\$200	\$200	\$140	\$140	\$140
Minneapolis	\$530	77,294	Base/Uniform	\$470	\$440	\$375	\$323	\$305	\$257	\$236	\$196	\$168	\$275

Minnetonka	\$546	15,793	Base/Uniform	\$463	\$435	\$404	\$343	\$212	\$186	\$177	\$159	\$147	\$141
Minnetonka Beach	\$461	402	Flat	\$380	\$328	\$328	\$300	\$240	\$232	\$232	\$232	\$192	\$192
Minnetrissa	\$436	2,325	Flat	\$420	\$412	\$412	\$396	\$392	\$380	\$340	\$300	\$300	\$300
Mound	\$661	3,673	Base/Increasing Block	\$623	\$588	\$538	\$491	\$410	\$351	\$327	\$308	\$267	\$254
Mounds View	\$401	3,029	Base/Uniform	\$360	\$321	\$305	\$271	\$237	\$217	\$197	\$190	\$190	\$190
New Brighton	\$351	5,600	Base/Uniform	\$326	\$308	\$290	\$271	\$239	\$196	\$185	\$163	\$156	\$142
New Hope	\$470	5,407	Base/Uniform	\$426	\$390	\$322	\$299	\$287	\$251	\$269	\$246	\$236	\$181
Newport	\$270	812	Base/Uniform	\$510	\$458	\$207	\$207	\$209	\$210	\$203	\$160	\$160	\$155
North Oaks	\$300	402	Flat	\$300	\$353	\$157	\$203	\$107	\$117	\$125	\$200	\$201	\$152
North St. Paul	\$661	4,455	Base/Increasing Block	\$619	\$619	\$545	\$481	\$408	\$365	\$300	\$283	\$280	\$260
Oak Park Heights	\$348	1,140	Base/Increasing Block	\$314	\$314	\$324	\$282	\$264	\$248	\$228	\$200	\$200	\$188
Oakdale	\$373	8,896	Base/Uniform	\$319	\$311	\$302	\$272	\$248	\$234	\$221	\$208	\$203	\$200
Orono	\$505	2,340	Base/Uniform	\$758	\$753	\$603	\$558	\$504	\$475	\$439	\$410	\$386	\$365
Osseo	\$252	617	Base/Uniform	\$222	\$205	\$202	\$200	\$198	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$160	\$140
Plymouth	\$422	25,069	Base/Uniform	\$379	\$340	\$304	\$272	\$248	\$238	\$174	\$210	\$191	\$170
Prior Lake	\$255	8,982	Base/Increasing Block	\$425	\$414	\$337	\$284	\$237	\$237	\$219	\$219	\$219	\$189
Ramsey	\$367	4,680	Base/Uniform	\$304	\$289	\$289	\$267	\$267	\$267	\$260	\$249	\$242	\$242
Richfield	\$376	14,932	Uniform	\$369	\$355	\$307	\$261	\$233	\$205	\$188	\$157	\$151	\$149
Robbinsdale	\$625	4,985	Base/Uniform	\$548	\$465	\$384	\$333	\$301	\$272	\$247	\$224	\$203	\$188
Rogers	\$521	645	Base/Uniform	\$296									
Rosemount	\$310	7,979	Uniform	\$315	\$286	\$219	\$202	\$187	\$179	\$170	\$164	\$164	\$164
Roseville	\$341	9,889	Base/Increasing Block	\$334	\$317	\$285	\$250	\$272	\$205	\$168	\$146	\$130	\$122
Saint Anthony	\$376	2,377	Base/Uniform	\$347	\$330	\$307	\$263	\$239	\$222	\$210	\$198	\$198	\$198
Saint Bonifacius	\$389	850	Base/Uniform	\$338	\$279	\$267	\$267	\$230	\$231	\$210	\$186	\$164	\$164
Saint Louis Park	\$449	13,100	Base/Uniform	\$409	\$380	\$346	\$308	\$281	\$255	\$223	\$193	\$179	\$166
Saint Paul	\$447	69,800	Base/Increasing Block	\$468	\$395	\$335	\$312	\$306	\$284	\$266	\$228	\$213	\$204
Saint Paul Park	\$359	1,858	Base/Increasing Block	\$359	\$334	\$305	\$272	\$264	\$192	\$200	\$152	\$152	\$152
Savage	\$345	9,692	Base/Increasing Block	\$332	\$325	\$305	\$135	\$129	\$125	\$117	\$111	\$102	\$193
Shakopee	\$268	11,716	Base/Uniform	\$257	\$250	\$228	\$206	\$184	\$186	\$203	\$189	\$180	\$168
Shoreview	\$436	8,504	Base/Increasing Block	\$415	\$391	\$372	\$351	\$330	\$303	\$275	\$212	\$210	\$191
Shorewood	\$490	2,944	Flat	\$412	\$347	\$318	\$294	\$291	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280	\$280
South St. Paul	\$532	6,356	Base/Uniform	\$465	\$399	\$342	\$304	\$280	\$262	\$223	\$223	\$187	\$168
Spring Lake Park	\$296	1,980	Flat	\$269	\$328	\$269	\$249	\$236	\$222	\$222	\$211	\$211	\$195
Spring Park	\$621	286	Base/Increasing Block	\$480	\$420	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$345	\$360	\$250	\$250	\$238
Stillwater	\$312	5,613	Base/Uniform	\$456	\$356	\$284	\$264	\$264	\$230	\$230	\$230	\$224	\$214
Tonka Bay	\$595	735	Base/Increasing Block	\$595	\$595	\$530	\$530	\$507	\$507	\$480	\$440	\$376	\$332
Vadnais Heights	\$375	3,944	Base/Uniform	\$314	\$291	\$274	\$268	\$257	\$246	\$228	\$209	\$200	\$188
Victoria	\$334	3,650	Base/Increasing Block	\$290	\$299	\$287	\$276	\$250	\$250	\$239	\$209	\$216	\$204

Waconia	\$565	4,477	Base/Increasing Block	\$484	\$443	\$426	\$427	\$412	\$393	\$360	\$343	\$320	\$243
Wayzata	\$621	1,340	Base/Uniform	\$621	\$503	\$409	\$353	\$334	\$316	\$294	\$243	\$210	\$199
West St. Paul	\$680	5,403	Base/Uniform	\$614	\$582	\$335	\$311	\$293	\$355	\$304	\$225	\$196	\$185
White Bear Lake	\$372	7,874	Base/Uniform	\$368	\$344	\$317	\$245	\$228	\$229	\$213	\$176	\$168	\$169
White Bear Township	\$382	4,680	Base/Uniform	\$382	\$408	\$323	\$227	\$227	\$220	\$220	\$220	\$209	\$209
Willernie	\$242	234	Flat	\$242	\$220	\$208	\$196	\$194	\$194	\$192	\$192	\$192	\$192
Woodbury	\$352	24,108	Base/Uniform	\$328	\$307	\$281	\$252	\$230	\$230	\$220	\$196	\$184	\$175
Total		779,723											
Median Cost	\$375			\$357	\$326	\$303	\$267	\$242	\$232	\$223	\$200	\$185	\$180
2 yr % Change	5.2%			9.4%	7.6%	13.5%	10.3%	4.3%	4.0%	11.5%	8.1%	2.8%	4.7%
Weighted Average (3)	\$405			\$377	\$347	\$307	\$274	\$255	\$235	\$216	\$195	\$181	\$186
2 yr % Change	7.6%			8.5%	13.1%	12.0%	7.5%	8.5%	8.8%	10.8%	7.7%	-2.7%	5.1%
Percent charged flat rate	6.0%			6.0%	5.9%	8.1%	8.4%	8.6%	11.5%	15.2%	18.0%	19.0%	

Notes:

- (1) Cost based on 60,000 gallons of clean water purchased yearly.
- (2) Estimated number of residential (one and two-family) households served by MCES.
- (3) Weighted for the number of households served.

Exhibit 2

2012 – 2024 National Comparison: Average Annual Sewer Charges

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
National Average Annual Residential Sewer Service Charge (1)	\$412	\$435	\$448	\$452	\$479	\$501	\$503	\$512	\$527	\$551	\$569	\$588	\$612
National Average Increase in Cost of Wastewater Services	3.5%	5.6%	3.0%	.9%	6.0%	4.6%	.4%	1.8%	2.7%	4.8%	3.3%	3.3%	4.0%
Metro Area Retail Rate Average (2)	\$235	\$245	\$255	\$264	\$274	\$290	\$307	\$327	\$347	\$362	\$377	\$392	\$405
Metro Area Retail Increase	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.6%	5.8%	5.9%	6.5%	6.1%	4.3%	4.1%	4.0%	3.3%
MWC Wholesale Increase (3)	.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.5%	5.4%	5.4%	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%	2.0%	4.0%	5.5%	6.8%
CPI (4)	2.3%	1.9%	1.4%	-.6%	1.6%	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%	1.2%	4.8%	7.5%	2.7%	_

(1) Based on the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) annual Service Charge Index survey which got a survey response from 171 nationwide wastewater agencies in 2021. This average is based on the increase in the NACWA Clean Water Index data that includes only the same agencies that report from one year to the next.

The source is 2023 National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Index: <https://www.nacwa.org/news-publications/financial-survey-nacwa-index>

(2) Odd years are interpolated from even-year results per this survey.

(3) This is the increase in MCEs' total Metropolitan Wastewater Charges.

(4) This is the consumer price index for the Minneapolis-St. Paul area (all items).

Exhibit 3

State Law on Cost Allocation (Minnesota Statutes 473.517)

473.517 ALLOCATION OF COSTS.

Subdivision 1. Allocation method.

Except as provided in subdivision 3, the estimated costs of operation, maintenance, and debt service of the metropolitan disposal system to be paid by the council in each fiscal year, and the costs of acquisition and betterment of the system which are to be paid during the year from funds other than bond proceeds, including all expenses incurred by the council pursuant to sections [473.501](#) to [473.545](#), are referred to in this section as current costs, and shall be allocated among and paid by all local government units which will discharge sewage, directly or indirectly, into the metropolitan disposal system during the budget year according to an allocation method determined by the council. The allocated costs may include an amount for a reserve or contingency fund and an amount for cash flow management. The cash flow management fund so established must not exceed five percent of the council's total wastewater services operating budget.

Subd. 2. [Repealed by amendment, [1997 c 181 s 2](#)]

Subd. 3. Allocation of treatment, interceptor costs; reserved capacity.

(a) In preparing each budget the council shall estimate the current costs of acquisition, betterment, and debt service, only, of the treatment works in the metropolitan disposal system which will not be used to total capacity during the budget year, and the percentage of such capacity which will not be used, and shall deduct the same percentage of such treatment works costs from the current costs allocated under subdivision 1. The council shall also estimate the current costs of acquisition, betterment, and debt service, only, of the interceptors in the metropolitan disposal system that will not be used to total capacity during the budget year, shall estimate the percentage of the total capacity that will not be used, and shall deduct the same percentage of interceptor costs from the current costs allocated under subdivision 1. The total amount so deducted with respect to all treatment works and interceptors in the system shall be allocated among and paid by the respective local government units in the metropolitan area through a metropolitan sewer availability charge for each new connection or increase in capacity demand to the metropolitan disposal system within each local government unit. Amounts collected through the metropolitan sewer availability charge (SAC) must be deposited in the council's wastewater reserve capacity fund. Each fiscal year an amount from the wastewater reserve capacity fund shall be transferred to the wastewater operating fund for the reserved capacity costs described in this paragraph. For the purposes of this subdivision, the amount transferred from the wastewater reserve capacity fund to the wastewater operating fund shall be referred to as the "SAC transfer amount."

(b) The council will record on a cumulative basis the total SAC transfer deficit. In any year that the wastewater reserve capacity fund has a year-end balance of at least two years' estimated SAC transfer amount, the council shall increase the subsequent annual SAC transfer amount in excess of the amount required by paragraph (a) with the goal of eliminating the cumulative total SAC transfer deficit. The annual amount by which the council increases the SAC transfer amount shall be determined by the council after appropriate study and a public hearing.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, [1987 c 53 s 8](#)]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, [1987 c 53 s 8](#)]

Subd. 6. Deferment of payments.

(a) Upon request of a local government unit, the council may provide for the deferment of payment of all or part of the allocated costs that are allocated by the council to that local government unit in any year pursuant to subdivision 1, repayable at the time or times specified by the council, with interest as determined by the council. A deferment must not result in an increase to the allocated costs which are allocated by the council to other local government units in any year pursuant to subdivision 1.

(b) Upon request of a local government unit, the council may provide for the deferment of payment of all or part of the allocated costs which are allocated by the council to a local government unit in any year pursuant to subdivision 3, repayable at such time or times as the council shall specify, with interest at the approximate average annual rate borne by council bonds outstanding at the time of the deferment, as determined by the council. Such deferred costs shall be allocated to and paid by all local government units in the metropolitan area which will discharge sewage, directly or indirectly, into the metropolitan disposal system in the budget year for which the deferment is granted, in the same manner and proportions as costs are allocated under subdivision 1.

Subd. 7. [Repealed, [1987 c 53 s 8](#)]

Subd. 8. [Repealed, [1994 c 628 art 3 s 209](#)]

Subd. 9. [Repealed, [2014 c 271 art 3 s 22](#)]

Subd. 10. Direct charging of industrial users.

(a) The term "industrial discharger" for the purposes of this subdivision means a recipient of wastewater treatment services that is required by council rules or procedures to have a permit issued by the council in order to discharge sewage to the metropolitan disposal system.

(b) The council may directly impose on all or any category of industrial dischargers all or any portion of the costs that would otherwise be allocated among and paid by local government units under subdivision 1. Any amounts imposed directly on industrial dischargers by the council under this subdivision must be deducted from the amounts to be allocated among and paid by local government units under subdivision 1, and any charges imposed by a local government unit for the same purpose are of no further force and effect from and after the effective date of the council's direct charges. Charges imposed under this subdivision are in addition to any other charges imposed on industrial dischargers by a local government unit and must be paid by the industrial discharger at such intervals as may be established by the council. The council may impose interest charges upon delinquent payments.

(c) Charges by the council to industrial dischargers under this subdivision including any interest charges, as well as any other charges or related fees owed by the industrial discharger pursuant to a discharge permit issued by the council for the subject property, are a charge jointly and severally against the owners, lessees, and occupants of the property served. The council may certify such unpaid amounts to the appropriate county auditor as a tax for collection as other taxes are collected on the property served. The proceeds of any tax collected pursuant to the council's certification must be paid by the county treasurer to the council when collected. Certification does not preclude the council from recovery of delinquent amounts and interest under any other available remedy.

History:

[1975 c 13 s 83](#); [1987 c 53 s 2-5](#); [1994 c 628 art 3 s 166-170](#); [1997 c 181 s 2](#); [1Sp2003 c 16 s 8](#); [2010 c 212 s 1](#); [2013 c 101 s 2-4](#); [2019 c 50 art 1 s 121](#)

Exhibit 4

MINNESOTA STATUTES 2013 473.519

473.519 1972 U.S. WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT: USE CHARGE SHARES.

Each local government unit shall adopt a system of charges for the use and availability of the metropolitan disposal system which will assure that each recipient of waste treatment services within or served by the unit will pay its proportionate share of the costs allocated to the unit by the council under section [473.517](#), as required by the federal Water Pollution Control Act amendments of 1972, and any regulations issued pursuant thereto. Each system of charges shall be submitted to the council if requested by the council.

History:

[1975 c 13 s 84](#); [1994 c 628 art 3 s 171](#); [1997 c 181 s 3](#); [2013 c 101 s 5](#)

Exhibit 5

40 CFR 35.929-1 - Approval of the user charge system.

§ 35.929-1 Approval of the user charge system.

The Regional Administrator may approve a user charge system based on either actual use under paragraph (a) of this section or ad valorem taxes under paragraph (b) of this section. The general requirements in §§ 35.929-2 and 35.929-3 must also be satisfied.

(a) User charge system based on actual use. A grantee's user charge system based on actual use (or estimated use) of wastewater treatment services may be approved if each user (or user class) pays its proportionate share of operation and maintenance (including replacement) costs of treatment works within the grantee's service area, based on the user's proportionate contribution to the total wastewater loading from all users (or user classes). To ensure a proportional distribution of operation and maintenance costs to each user (or user class), the user's contribution shall be based on factors such as strength, volume, and delivery flow rate characteristics.

Thank you to the customer communities that responded to our questions to clarify information found on city websites.

Contact Us

390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805
651.602.1000
TTY 651.291.0904
public.info@metc.state.mn.us
metro council.org

