



# Your City of Anacortes Utility Bill

*Rate Changes and Information*

FALL 2015

The City of Anacortes is going through a period of changes to our utility services and recalculation of utility service fees to ensure we maintain the level of investment necessary to protect our infrastructure. City utilities are paid for by utility fees, not property or sales tax. While some of our fees are annually adjusted for inflation, others have not been—which means utility revenue is eroded over time, preventing critical maintenance on our infrastructure.

**Thank you for being a City of Anacortes utility customer!** We are trying hard to keep costs as low as possible while ensuring that City utilities are high quality and infrastructure is preserved for future generations.



## Water

### What's New

Beginning with your November bill (for October service), both the base water rate and your consumption rate (usage per gallon) will increase for all City customers. The water rate increase for a typical household will be about \$6 per month (39%).

### Why the Change?

The City's 3-million-gallon water reservoir off Whistle Lake Road urgently needs to be refurbished. Because our retail water rates have been the second-lowest in the state, the City has not collected sufficient reserves in the water utility to fund this \$5 million project nor the ongoing need to replace aging water lines. The City Council continues to study these water-related issues. The City has set a revenue target to fund the infrastructure improvements, and will adjust rates up or down to ensure we achieve the target and can maintain our infrastructure but don't overbill our customers.

### How You Can Save

Visit <http://goo.gl/PkJ45T> for tips on how to conserve water.



## Sewer

Sewer rates are adjusted annually for inflation, up to 2%. **The City has made no other changes to the rate for this service.** The water rate increase does not affect the sewer rate.

### How You Can Save

Sewer rates are calculated based on the size of your water meter and your water usage. For residential customers, **saving water will reduce your sewer bill all year long.** The sewer charge is capped based on your winter (November-February) water usage to reduce the cost of summer outdoor watering.



## Storm Drain

**The City has made no changes to the storm drain fee.** Your storm drain fee is based on the number of impervious surface units (ISU) of your property, with all residences having a minimum based on one unit (equivalent residential unit or ERU). Impervious surfaces may include, but are not limited to, rooftops, concrete or asphalt paving, graveled areas, walkways, patios, driveways, parking lots or storage areas, and oiled, macadam, or other surfaces that similarly impede the natural infiltration or runoff of surface water.



## Trash (Refuse)

### What's New

Rates for trash pickup remain the same. Last year, the City changed the collection schedule to ensure that solid waste is collected every week, even when your collection day is a holiday.

### How You Can Save

If you now have a 32-gallon bin but could get by with a 21-gallon bin, call the City to switch and save \$6/month. You might be able to cut your trash size by recycling more and using the organics service.



## Recycling *residential only*

### What's New

Starting on your September bill, the recycling charge increased from \$3 to \$9 per month. The City now contracts with Waste Management for recycling service; for the new guidelines, visit [www.wmnorthwest.com/anacortes](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/anacortes).

### Why the Change?

The City's contract with Republic Recycling (Rabanco) ended this year, and Republic chose not to bid on the replacement contract. Our new contract with Waste Management has different terms and higher fees. Your recycling charge now reflects our actual costs.

### Optional Bin Size Adjustment

In July and August, Waste Management delivered new 96-gallon recycling totes, but 64 and 32-gallon sizes are available. Call Waste Management at 800-592-9995 to request a different size tote. The recycling fee is \$9 per tote regardless of tote size.



## Yard Waste (Organics) *residential + restaurants only*

### What's New

**Organics is now collected every week, all year long.** If you previously had yard waste service from Waste Management, you still do—but as of September it's called "Organics" and included on your monthly City utility bill. Waste Management will no longer bill you separately.

### How You Can Save

Organics is an optional service, but if you subscribe you may be able to reduce your trash service because you can also put food scraps and approved compostable packaging in your organics bin. For guidelines, visit [www.wmnorthwest.com/anacortes](http://www.wmnorthwest.com/anacortes).



## More Info

### Still Puzzled?

Information about our rates and services is available on the web. Go to [www.cityofanacortes.org](http://www.cityofanacortes.org) and select "Utility Billing" on the left side. If you have additional questions:

- About your **bill**: please call 360-293-1909
- About your **trash service**: please call 360-293-1921
- About your **recycling or organics** service: please call Waste Management at 800-592-9995

Low-income residents may qualify for our utility discount program. Eligibility requirements and applications are available on our website or by calling 360-293-1909.