

Bellevue Utilities News



Information about your water, drainage, wastewater and solid waste utility services

JAN/FEB 2022

2022 Updated Rates



New 2022 rates for Bellevue Utilities will apply effective January 1, 2022. These rates are part of the approved 2021-2022 budget adopted by the City Council in December 2020.

Average customer bill to increase \$7.48 per month

To continue providing customers with high-quality services, the average single-family residential customer will see an increase of about \$7.48 per month for combined water, wastewater and stormwater services—or about \$0.25 per day.

The following rate increases have been approved for 2022:

- Drinking water will increase by 3.5%
- Wastewater will increase by 4.5%
- Stormwater will increase by 3.3%

Why are rate increases needed?

- **Bills that we pay others are increasing.** As shown in the graphic below, over half of Utilities' budget covers costs to pay Cascade Water Alliance for drinking water, King County for wastewater treatment, and taxes and city support services. These external provider costs are outside of our ability to control.
- **Necessary investments to care for infrastructure.** Delivering utility services requires miles of pipes, pumps and other infrastructure. Much of it is well past its midlife—constructed in the 50s and 60s. We need to make regular investments to renew and replace these critical assets.
- **No rate increase in 2022 for local operations.** Because of careful cost-tightening efforts, there is no rate increase to cover this primary cost area Utilities controls.

Learn more about current rates, how Utilities' rates are set and our work to minimize rate impacts at BellevueWA.gov/Utility-Rates.

What Do Your Rate Dollars Pay for?

Bellevue Utilities provides essential daily services that support and improve our quality of life. These services are funded through rates.

When you pay your utility bill, you get:

- **Safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water.** To make this happen, we maintain over 600 miles of water mains and 24 reservoirs that store over 40 million gallons of water. BellevueWA.gov/Drinking-Water-Quality has more info on how we continually protect your water's safety and quality.
- **Protection from flooding and polluted stormwater runoff in streams.** Utilities cares for over 80 miles of open streams and over 800 acres of protected wetlands, in addition to over 20,000 storm drains and 400 miles of pipe that keep rain water flowing away from streets and properties.
- **Protection of your health by preventing sewage overflows.** By maintaining over 600 miles of sewer mains, Utilities safely delivers your wastewater to King County treatment facilities.

This graph shows a breakdown of how each rate dollar Utilities collects is used to pay for services.



\$0.54 External Provider Costs
Cascade, King County, and taxes and city support services

\$0.29 Infrastructure Investments

\$0.17 Local Operations

Bellevue's utility rates are reviewed regularly by the department, the Environmental Services Commission, and by the City Council. We work to ensure that your daily essential services continue at the level of quality you expect, that our rates stay steady and competitive with neighboring cities, and that Bellevue remains one of the best places to live and work. Visit BellevueWA.gov/Utility-Rates to learn more about what your rate dollars support.

New Food Serviceware Law Begins January 1, 2022

Beginning January 1, 2022, Washington restaurants will no longer automatically include single-use food service items like plastic utensils, cold beverage cup lids, condiments and straws with food orders.

Single use items such as utensils and straws are not recyclable. Used for less than an hour, they can last 500+ years in a landfill. Nationwide, we use 1 trillion disposable food service products each year! Not only does this waste create steep environmental costs, but added business costs as well.

The new state law restricts the use of these items and prohibits packaged bundles of single-use items in order to reduce waste, litter, and improper recycling. Customers can still request individual items if needed.

How can you help reduce single-use and plastic waste?

Bring your own! When eating out, carry durable serviceware items such as reusable travel utensils. Try making it a habit to keep those items clean and available for use on the go.

For more information about the new law, visit [Ecology.wa.gov/serviceware](https://ecology.wa.gov/serviceware).



The single-use items pictured at left are included in the new food serviceware law.

When possible, refuse these items and bring your own utensils.

Single-use waste reduction success at BSD!

Bellevue School District, in partnership with Bellevue Utilities and supported by a Department of Ecology grant, has recently begun eliminating straws and replacing plastic utensils with durable metal utensils at all Bellevue elementary schools. This will eliminate more than 700,000 plastic utensils and straws per year! If you have a child in BSD, you can help! If school utensils are brought home by your child on accident, please send them back to school for reuse.

Bellevue Utilities News is available online and in other languages at www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.

可在以下网站用中文查看《贝尔维尤市公用事业新闻》(Bellevue Utilities News): www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities

벨뷰 유틸리티 뉴스 (Bellevue Utilities News)는 www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities 웹사이트에서 한국어로 이용하실 수 있습니다

«Коммунальные новости Бельвью» (Bellevue Utilities News) имеется на русском языке по адресу www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.

Novedades de Bellevue Utilities (Bellevue Utilities News) está disponible en español en www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities

Tin Tức Về Tiện Ích của Bellevue (Bellevue Utilities News) có bằng tiếng Việt trong www.bellevuewa.gov/utilities.

Help to Pay Utility Bills



As of January 1, 2022, accounts with past-due balances that do not have payment arrangements in place may face late fees and potential service disconnection. To help our customers in financial need, Bellevue Utilities offers several bill support options.

To learn about bill assistance programs you may be eligible for, including the Emergency Assistance Program or programs for low-income seniors and persons with permanent disabilities, visit BellevueWA.gov/Utility-Relief, or call 425-452-5285.

For flexible payment plan arrangements, please call 425-452-6973 or email MyUtilityBill@bellevuewa.gov.

More information about available COVID-19 financial resources can be found at BellevueWA.gov/COVID-19.

New Year, New Zero-Waste Resolutions

Kickstart the new year with zero-waste goals for yourself and your family! If you want to downsize or declutter, or are simply looking for ways to reduce waste and recycle more in everyday life, these resources can help you take waste actions that protect our environment.

- **Recycle right!** Keep your eyes out for the updated 2022 residential recycling guide coming soon. Visit BellevueWA.gov/Recycle-at-Home for the most current information.
- **Become a Super Sorter** and learn responsible reorganizing, how to reduce food waste and ditch disposables, and more in our **Greener Living community classes!** Classes on a variety of zero-waste topics will be offered at no cost throughout the year. Visit BellevueWA.gov/Greener-Living-Classes to view class topics and register.
- **Recycle more!** Do you have unusual or bulky items you want to avoid sending to the landfill, but you're not sure what to do with them? Check out the Recycle More guide for local year-round disposal options at BellevueWA.gov/Recycle-More.
- **When in doubt, find out!** Still have questions about waste reduction, recycling, or composting? Contact us at recycle@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6932.



General information—425-452-6932
utilities@bellevuewa.gov | utilities.bellevuewa.gov



Customer Service/Billing—425-452-6973



Drinking Water Quality—425-452-6192



24 Hour Emergencies—425-452-7840 (flooding, water main breaks, no water, sewer overflows, pollutant spills)



Republic Services (solid waste service)—425-452-4762