

IMPORTANT!
CHANGES TO YOUR WATER AND SEWER BILL EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

The City has recently adopted a new billing methodology for allocating stormwater charges effective with billings on or after January 1, 2017. Water rates will remain at the current amount of \$4.36 per 1,000 gallons of water, but sewer rates will decrease by 30% from \$9.68 per 1,000 gallons of water to \$6.74 per 1,000 gallons of water. A new fixed quarterly stormwater charge of \$45.75 per Equivalent Storm Water Unit (ESWU) for those properties in the Evergreen-Farmington Sewage Disposal District and \$59.50 per Equivalent Storm Water Unit (ESWU) for those properties in the Southeast Oakland County Sewage Disposal District will be added to the bill.

BACKGROUND

Previously, the amount of water that flowed through your meter was used to calculate both the water consumed and amount billed for sewage (both sanitary and stormwater). In 2014, lawsuits were filed challenging several Michigan cities, including Birmingham's, methodology for billing stormwater disposal costs that were based on water consumption. As a result of the settlement of this lawsuit, the City is changing the methodology of billing stormwater to reflect each property's estimated contribution to stormwater runoff.

METHODOLOGY

The City contracted the engineering firm Hubbell, Roth, and Clark (HRC) to develop a methodology which would calculate the estimated potential storm water runoff for various types of properties. HRC researched the amount of pervious areas (areas where rainwater can soak in) and impervious areas (areas where rainwater cannot soak in) throughout the City. Based on their research, they developed a factor called an Equivalent Storm Water Unit (ESWU). An ESWU is a measurement of the total imperviousness of a particular parcel based on a standard unit. Single family residential properties were averaged together and classified by lot size so that properties of similar size would be assigned the same ESWU factor. Non-single family residential properties were individually assigned an ESWU factor based on their individual parcels. To understand how this measurement was calculated, please visit the City's webpage www.bhamgov.org/stormwater and click on this link at the bottom of the page: [Report for Storm Water Utility Fee Apportionment for the City of Birmingham.](#)

Below is an example of how this new billing methodology would affect an average residential customer:

	Old Methodology (storm water included in sewer rate)	New Methodology Evergreen-Farmington	New Methodology Southeast Oakland
Water Consumption	20 units	20 units	20 units
Water	\$87.20	\$87.20	\$87.20
Sewer	193.60	134.80	134.80
Meter Charge	8.00	8.00	8.00
Storm Water Fee	N/A	45.75	59.50
Total Quarterly Bill	\$288.80	\$275.75	\$289.50

If you have questions regarding the calculation of your ESWU, please contact the City Engineer, Paul O'Meara, at 248-530-1836 or pomeara@bhamgov.org. If you have questions regarding your storm water utility fee, please contact the Finance Director/Treasurer, Mark Gerber, at 248-530-1814 or mgerber@bhamgov.org.