

CURRENTS

Understanding the New Stormwater Fee

Resources for Ratepayers at pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee



The stormwater fee will support the construction of new stormwater infrastructure in Pittsburgh.

Historically, stormwater services were funded through wastewater rates, which are based on water usage. This meant that those using more wastewater services paid more towards stormwater services.

The new stormwater fee, which went into effect on January 12, 2022, is calculated based on the hard or impervious surfaces on a property like roofs, driveways, and parking lots. This ensures that all property owners in Pittsburgh contribute a share

that is proportional to the amount of runoff generated by their property. This is a more equitable way to distribute these costs, and customers may notice their wastewater rates go down accordingly.

How much is the stormwater fee?

Calculating the stormwater fee meant that we needed to understand the amount of hard surface on each property in Pittsburgh. Using aerial photography, we mapped the entire city and determined that the average amount

of impervious surface on a single-family residential property is approximately 1,650 square feet. This is equal to one equivalent residential unit (ERU) of impervious surface and is accepted as the industry standard unit of measure. The new stormwater fee is applied to all residential and non-residential properties in Pittsburgh using the following rate table:

Can I reduce my stormwater fee?

We have established a credit program for customers who choose to manage stormwater on their properties. Residential and non-residential customers can earn stormwater credit by

meeting certain requirements and maintaining their stormwater systems. The Credit Manual and Application are available at pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee.

Customers may also replace paved surfaces with a garden or vegetated area. Reducing hard surfaces could lead to an overall fee reduction.

Is more information available?

Visit pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee for more information. It is your one stop shop for all things pertaining to the new stormwater charge - including our searchable Fee Finder Website. If you have questions, please email info@pgh2o.com.

Learn more about the stormwater fee the back or visit pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee.

Stormwater Monthly Fees (Based on Impervious Surface)	ERUs	2022	2023
Residential Tier 1 (≥400 to <1,015 sf)	.5	\$2.98	\$3.98
Residential Tier 2 (≥1,015 to <2,710 sf)	1	\$5.96	\$7.95
Residential Tier 3 (≥2,710 sf)	2	\$11.92	\$15.90
Non-Residential	Per ERU	\$5.96	\$7.95

70% of all Pittsburgh homeowners fall into Residential Tier 2.

Join our email list to get the latest news and updates. Signing up is simple at pgh2o.com/subscribe.



**Next Board Meeting:
May 27**

For a complete list of PWSA's board and community meetings, please visit pgh2o.com/events-meetings.

Following COVID-19 restrictions, meetings are held virtually and may be tentative or postponed.



Additional Stormwater Resources

Explore the resources below for additional information about the stormwater fee, including the stormwater credit program, customer assistance and a web map where you can search your property.

STORMWATER CREDIT PROGRAM: Our Stormwater Credit Program offers a discount on the monthly stormwater fee. Property owners choosing to manage stormwater on site may reduce their monthly stormwater charge. Installing stormwater management systems such as a rain garden or an underground stormwater system on private property are examples of how a private property owner may earn a credit. Find out more information and apply at pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee.

FEE FINDER WEBSITE: Use our searchable map to view the amount of impervious surface on your property and understand your stormwater fee. To use the site:

- Launch the [Fee Finder Website](#)
- Enter your address in the search bar and press enter
- Click inside the boundaries of your property to view details about its impervious surface and the number of Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's)
- To determine your fee amount, multiply the number of ERU's by the stormwater rate of \$5.96 and subtract any credits that may apply

DISPUTING STORMWATER FEE: If you have questions about the amount of impervious surface calculated for your property or believe there is a discrepancy, please contact our Customer Service department by calling 412-255-2423 (Press 5), to start the process.

Visit pgh2ostormwater.com for more information about our plans to manage stormwater.

Please call PWSA Customer Service at 412-255-2423 (Press 5) or email info@pgh2o.com for questions about the stormwater fee or general questions about the credit program.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Donate to the Hardship Grant Program online at Pgh2o.com/give.

Enroll in eBilling

Convenient and easy to use, our online billing and payment portal ensures timely delivery of bills and payments. Visit Pgh2o.com/ebilling to enroll.

Penn Liberty Plaza 1
1200 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Customer Service*

T 412.255.2423 (Press 5)
info@pgh2o.com

Emergency Dispatch*

412.255.2423 (Press 1)
Available 24/7

**translation services available*

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WATER WISE

Spring Cleaning for Green Infrastructure



Green infrastructure like rain gardens, rain barrels, and permeable pavers mimic nature to capture, store, and filter stormwater and help the environment. Many property owners in Pittsburgh have installed green solutions to reduce stormwater runoff from their roofs, driveways, or parking lots. To learn about stormwater control practices that may be eligible for a credit reduction on your stormwater fee, please visit pgh2o.com/stormwater-fee.

If you have green infrastructure on your property, follow these deep cleaning tips to prepare for spring rains:

- Remove any trash, leaves, sediment, weeds, or invasive plants.
- Remove dead stalks or spent flower blooms on perennial plants and replace any dead plants.
- Inspect soil and mulch depth and quality and replace if necessary.
- Inspect stormwater inlets and outlets, and repair or replace if necessary.
- Inspect and clean rain barrel tanks and fittings.
- If you have downspout diverter, switch it over to route water to the rain barrel.