



City of Wapato
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NOTICE OF SEWER RATE INCREASE

REASON FOR RATE INCREASE

You may remember that the City of Wapato was fined tens of thousands of dollars by EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in 2012 because our wastewater treatment plant discharge exceeded EPA's permit limits. The City has to improve the wastewater treatment plant to meet EPA requirements. The plant upgrade construction started in October 2014. The total project cost is more than \$10 million, which is funded by a loan and grant package from USDA (United States Department of Agriculture). A sewer rate increase is necessary to cover the loan payments, and maintenance and operation of the wastewater treatment plant.

NEW RATES

The City Council of the City of Wapato passed Resolution 2014-26 in November 2014 to adopt the new sewer rates effective January 1, 2015. The sewer rates have increased 20%. If you live in a single family house or townhouse, you will see your sewer rate increase \$7 (from \$35 to \$42) per month. Your total monthly sewer fee will increase \$9.31 because the utility taxes of 33% are applicable to the new sewer rates.

The Mayor and City Council members understand the financial hardship of many of our citizens and customers. The mayor and his staff are actively seeking grants to reduce the financial burden of our rate payers and minimize future rate increases. We are not alone. Our neighboring cities have the similar issue. Our sewer rates will remain comparable to the neighboring cities.

CONTACT

If you have questions, please contact City Hall at (509) 877-2334. You may also discuss your concerns with any of the City Council members.