



# Boston Water and Sewer Commission News



Jan/Feb 2024

## Changes Coming to BWSC in 2024

### New rates for water and sewer; new stormwater program to launch

In December, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission Board of Commissioners adopted rate increases to pay for critical upgrades and projects to help the system prepare for future challenges. The rate increase will be 1.4% and take effect on Jan 1, 2024.

### Rates for January 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024

Consumption (Cu. Ft./Day)	Water		Sewer	
	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons
First 19	\$63.24	\$8.455	\$82.58	\$11.041
Next 20	\$67.54	\$9.030	\$92.96	\$12.428
Next 50	\$73.66	\$9.848	\$106.5	\$14.244
Next 260	\$78.51	\$10.496	\$113.52	\$15.176
Next 950	\$82.63	\$11.047	\$120.97	\$16.172
Over 1299	\$86.02	\$11.501	\$126.14	\$16.863

The Board of Commissioners also approved a change in the way we charge for stormwater. All properties with more than 400 Square feet of impervious surfaces like roofs, pavements, patios and parking lots will be charged for stormwater. The billing unit used to calculate the charge is called the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). 1 ERU equals \$8.98. The charge is based on the amount of impervious area of a typical residential property in Boston, which is 2,164 feet. The new charge will be accompanied by a decrease in the sewer rate. The stormwater charge along with the sewer rate decrease and the water rate increase will result in a decrease of \$0.62 per month for a typical residential customer based on water usage of 180 gallons per day.

### Rates for April 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

Consumption (Cu. Ft./Day)	Water		Sewer		Stormwater
	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons	Per 1,000 Cubic Feet	Per 1,000 Gallons	
First 19	\$63.24	\$8.455	\$66.07	\$8.833	Beginning on April 1, 2024 your monthly bill will have 3 line items; water, sewer and stormwater. All 1-6 unit properties will only be charged 1 ERU.
Next 20	\$67.54	\$9.030	\$77.16	\$10.315	
Next 50	\$73.66	\$9.848	\$95.36	\$12.748	
Next 260	\$78.51	\$10.496	\$106.71	\$14.266	
Next 950	\$82.63	\$11.047	\$116.13	\$15.525	
Over 1299	\$86.02	\$11.501	\$124.88	\$16.695	

# Financial Assistance Programs for Qualified Homeowners

## The No Cost Private Lead Replacement Incentive Program

BWSC offers eligible homeowners lead service pipe replacement free of cost. Call the lead hotline to set up an appointment to find out if your pipe is made of lead at 617-989-7888.

## Discount for the Elderly and Fully Disabled

A discount is available for homeowners 65 years or older, or fully disabled. Qualifying customers receive a 30% discount on your water and sewer bill and will automatically apply for those customers as well when the new stormwater charge begins in April.

## Sewer Lateral Financial Assistance Program

If you have a blocked, collapsed or leaking waste pipe you may be eligible to participate in the sewer lateral program and be reimbursed up to \$8,000.00.

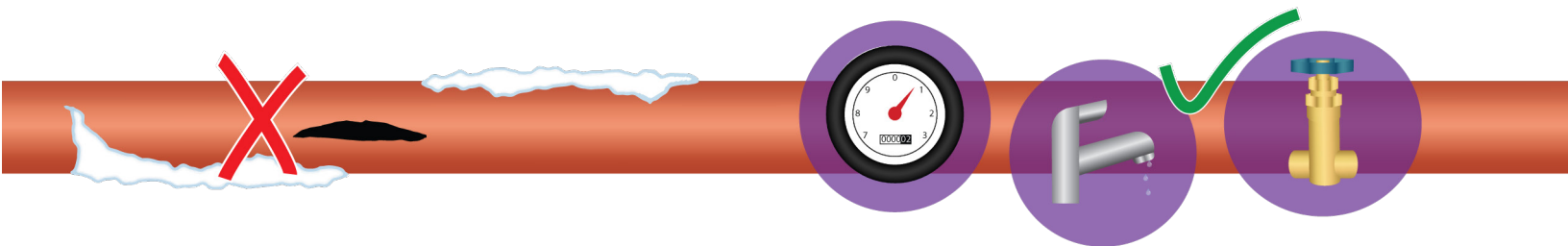
## Sewer Abatement

Sewer abatements allow the installation of a BWSC approved separate meter, that will calculate water usage not entering BWSC's sewer system.

## Leak Up To Owner Program

When a service pipe leaks, it is essential that it be fixed promptly. This program offers residential property owners the ability to contract with BWSC to repair a water service pipe leak for a reasonable cost. The cost of the repair can be paid interest free for up to 24 months on your water bill.

**Learn more about these programs at [www.bwsc.org](http://www.bwsc.org).**



## Prevent Frozen Pipes This Winter:

- Know where the water shutoff valve is in your home and how to turn it off.
- Keep cabinet doors leading to water pipes open during the winter, this will allow warmer air to circulate preventing frozen pipes.
- Seal openings in your home to prevent cold air from leaking through.
- Allow a steady trickle of water to flow from faucets during cold snaps, this may help pipes from freezing.
- Insulate pipes in unheated spaces such as garages, basements, and crawl spaces.
- Water meters may freeze during the winter if not protected from the cold. Be sure basement doors and windows are closed.