



# Important Information About Rates, System Repairs, and Benefits to Customers and Communities

Dear Oneida County Sewer District Customers:

The Oneida County Sewer District has developed its proposed 2022 Rate Schedule. In addition to funding the operation of the wastewater system, the rates customers pay also go toward the construction of system upgrades necessary to comply with federal and state regulations, and to provide continued service. The proposed sewer rate for 2022 is \$6.77/1,000 gallons. The estimated increase for a typical single-family home is \$5/quarterly water bill.

Your sewage use bill contains charges from the sewer district, your city/town/village and the Mohawk Valley Water Authority related to the cost of treating waste water, the cost of maintaining the pipes that carry the waste water and charges for water. Oneida County sewer use rates are set by the Oneida County Sewer District and approved by the Board of Legislators. Local sewer use charges are set by your municipality (Utica City Council or Town/Village board). The Mohawk Valley Water Authority Board of Directors determines the rates for only the water consumption portion of your bill. Similarly, the Village of Clayville and Sauquoit Water District/Town of Paris determine their water billing rates.

## Project Background

In 2007, the Oneida County Sewer District (comprised of 15 municipalities) reached a crisis point due to the extreme age of the pipes conveying sewage to the treatment plant. Without repairing the infrastructure:

- Property owners could face sewer backups, bringing with it property, health and safety, and quality of life consequences;
- Without the upgrades to the treatment facilities, residential and economic development would not be possible;
- Potential for a moratorium on further residential and economic development if the consent order was not followed.

With nothing being done by municipalities for 50 years, which is the life of the pipes, Oneida County and the members of the Oneida County Sewer District no longer had the option of delaying action.



Upgrades at the Oneida County Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) include energy recovery capabilities, food waste receiving facilities, a new 27 MGD pump station/screen facility for sanitary flow, and a refurbished 49 MGD pump station for City of Utica Flows.

## Efforts to Offset Costs to Municipalities and Customers

Oneida County continues to appeal to state and federal government for funding relief, having secured \$326 million in low-interest loans, \$20 million in no-interest loans, and \$32 million in grants to date. Oneida County also offers assistance to municipalities in instituting a sewer maintenance program to assure that the system is well maintained and we avoid a repeat of the current situation.

Sewer Rates - Various Upstate New York Cities			
Community	Fee Basis	Annual Cost: 80,000 Gallons (20,000 gal/quarter)	Average Cost Per Month
Watertown, NY <sup>(1)</sup>	\$35.91 per 1,000 cubic feet (CF) for first 1,200 CF, then \$20.95 per 1,000 CF	\$296	\$25
Albany, NY <sup>(2)</sup>	Minimum \$37.78 per 120 days, plus \$2.89 per 100 CF (\$3.86 per 1,000 gallons)	\$422	\$35
Onondaga County, NY <sup>(3)</sup>	\$457.48 per year for single-family household	\$457	\$38
Oneida County Sewer District, NY <sup>(4)</sup>	\$6.77 per 1,000 gallons	\$542	\$45
Oswego, NY <sup>(5)</sup>	\$115 for first 1,000 gallons per quarter, then \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons	\$660	\$55
Binghamton, NY <sup>(6)</sup>	Minimum \$17.00 for first 500 CF quarterly, then \$7.40 per 100 CF (\$17.00 for first 7,480 gallons, then \$7.40 per 1,000 gallons)	\$711	\$59
Jamestown, NY <sup>(7)</sup>	\$6.92 per 100 CF (\$9.25 per 1,000 gallons)	\$740	\$62
Ithaca, NY <sup>(8)</sup>	Minimum \$173.64 per quarter, then for every 100 CF over 1,200 CF: \$5.80 per 100 CF (5/8" meter) (\$7.75 per 1,000 gallons)	\$1,036	\$86

**Source**

- (1) City of Watertown Code: <https://ecode360.com/10497521>
- (2) <https://www.albanyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4425/Rate-Structure-2021-PDF?bidId=>
- (3) [www.ongov.net/wep/sanitary-unit-charge.html](http://www.ongov.net/wep/sanitary-unit-charge.html)
- (4) OCSD Rate Schedule, effective January 2022
- (5) 2021 rates provided by City Comptroller
- (6) 2022 Adopted Budget Report, effective April 2022
- (7) <https://www.jamestownbpu.com/183/Wastewater>
- (8) <http://www.cityofithaca.org/293/Rates-Metering-Billing>

For more information regarding your water or sewer bill, please contact the following:

**County sewer charges:** Oneida County Sewer District, 315.798.5656  
**City, town or village sewer charges:** Contact your local municipality  
**MVWA water charges:** 315.792.0301  
**Sauquoit Water District/Town of Paris:** 315.839.5400  
**Village of Clayville Water System:** 315.839.6222