



## SEWER BILLING CHANGES

The County has adopted a new charge on both residential and commercial sewer parcels under Ordinances 21-038 and 21-048 effective with sewer billing after July 1, 2021. This new charge, denoted as **Capital Charges** on the bill, is fixed and will help defray the capital costs of the County's investment in its system-wide wastewater infrastructure.

The amount of the **Capital Charge** is based on the size of the water meter(s) associated with each parcel. A table of charges based on meter size can be found below.

Meter Size (in inches)	EDU Value	Capital Charge @ \$100 / EDU
1/2" or 5/8"	.25	\$25*
3/4"	1.5	\$150
1"	2.5	\$250
1 1/2"	5.0	\$500
2.0	8.0	\$800
3.0	15.0	\$1,500
4.0	25.0	\$2,500
6.0	50.0	\$5,000
8.0	80.0	\$8,000
10.0	115.0	\$11,500

\*Fiscal Year 2022, the base rate of \$100/EDU has been discounted by 75% for meters up to 5/8".

Parcels with multiple water meters, such as mobile home parks, apartment and office buildings and larger retail centers have been aggregated. Much like consumption information, meter size information was collected from the water supplier servicing the parcel.

### Are capital charges in addition to consumption charges?

Yes, capital charges are in addition to charges based on consumption. For residential customers, consumption will continue to be billed at the two lowest quarters of use, times two for annual consumption, then multiplied by the rate set by County Council. For commercial customers, actual consumption is billed at the rate set by County Council for a specific customer class.

### How are capital charges calculated?

For parcels with a single meter, an EDU value, short for equivalent dwelling unit, is applied to the parcel based on the meter size. Use the table above to determine the EDU value based on your meter size. At the time of billing, the EDU value will be multiplied by the EDU rate set by County Council, currently set at \$100. Most

residential homes have a water meter size of 5/8". In that case, the EDU value is .25, so the Capital Charge is \$25.00 (.25 x \$100 = \$25)

For parcels with multiple meters, the EDU values are added together. For example, a parcel with 17 meters all at 5/8" will have an EDU value of 4.25 (17 x .25 = 4.25). At \$100 per EDU, the Capital Charge will be \$425.00. In the case of a commercial account billed quarterly, the Capital Charge will be \$106.25 per quarter.

No. of Meters:	17 at 5/8"
EDU Value:	(17 x .25) = 4.25
Capital Charge:	4.25 x \$100 = \$425.00

For parcels with multiple meters of different sizes, the EDU values are added together. For example, for a parcel with 31 meters at 5/8" and one meter at 1", the following applies:

No. of Meters:	31 at 5/8" and one at 1"
EDU Value:	(31 x .25) + (1 x 2.5) = 10.25
Capital Charge:	10.25 x \$100 = \$1,025.00

### **If I have well water, do I have to pay a Capital Charge?**

Yes, with few exceptions, capital charges apply to all wastewater customers.

### **If I have well water, how is my Capital Charge calculated?**

Wastewater customers with well water were populated with the minimum EDU value of .25.

### **What if I qualify for an exemption due to age or disability?**

For any wastewater customer that has applied for and received an exemption, the Capital Charge has been waived.

### **How can I tell what size my meter is?**

If you believe you have been billed using the wrong meter size, please complete the Request for Refund / Adjustment of Sewer Capital Charge at the following link, <https://bit.ly/3fankID> follow the directions and return the form to [treasury@newcastlede.gov](mailto:treasury@newcastlede.gov)

### **Have the due dates changed?**

Due dates have not changed. Annual residential sewer bills are generally due before the beginning of March; quarterly commercial sewer bills are due before the beginning of September, December, March and June. Balances not paid in full will be charged a penalty. For any balance that remains on an account on the following business day after the due date, a penalty of 6% will be assessed. A penalty of 1% each month the delinquency continues will be assessed.