



Public Utilities

# Water Conservation Rate Structure

In 2008, the Mayor and Commission approved a water conservation rate developed and recommended by the Athens-Clarke County's Public Utilities Department and the Mayor-appointed Water Conservation Committee. The rates went into effect on July 1, 2008.

## Why is there a conservation rate?

Athens-Clarke County has a water conservation rate to reduce peak demands for water. The water conservation rates reduce the total amount of water used during the summer months when demands are highest. Leveling out peak consumption helps reduce stress on our water system and – most importantly – helps protect our water supplies, especially during the hottest weather. This rate reduces water more than one million gallons per day during peak months.

## How does it work?

Residential rates are based on each residential customer's Winter Average (WA). The WA is the average amount of water used during December, January, February and March of 2005–2006 or 100 gallons a day multiplied by the number of days in the billing cycle, whichever is greater. This Winter Average varies for individual customers (depending upon number of people in the household and other circumstances). The minimum winter average that is used in this rate structure is 3,000 gallons. Residential outdoor water use meter readings will be combined with indoor use in calculating the WA.

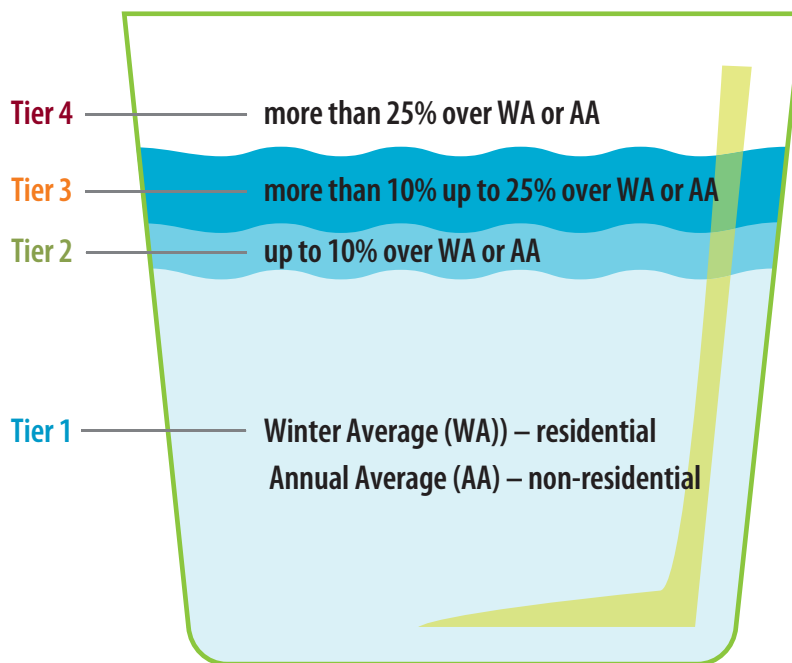
Non-residential rates use the same 4-tiered structure as residential customers, but are based on the 2006 Annual Average (AA) of monthly water use for each non-residential customer. Non-residential outdoor water use meter readings are billed at Tier 4.

## What if I didn't receive a water bill in 2005–2006?

If you are a residential customer and did not receive a water bill in 2005–2006, your Winter Average will be calculated based on a 2-person household with an average use of 50 gallons a day per person. If you became a customer after 2006 and you have more than two people in your household, you can request an adjustment by providing proof of how many people live in your home full-time.

If you are a non-residential customer and did not receive a water bill in 2005–2006, your Annual Average will be calculated based on water use information provided by you to the Public Utilities Director and compared to similar businesses in Athens-Clarke County.

Most water usage is billed in Tier 1.



The water conservation rate consists of a 4-tiered pricing system, based on Winter Average (WA) water use for residential customers and Annual Average (AA) water use for non-residential customers. Tier 1 is the lowest priced tier and Tier 4 is the highest. Based on the water use shown in 2015 customer bills, most water use under this rate system is billed in Tier 1. See the back of this insert for details and examples.

## How is a residential customer billed?

### Tier 1 Winter Average (WA)

WA water use at a rate of \$5.56 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 2 Up to 10% over Winter Average

additional water use up to 10% over the WA at a rate of \$6.95 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 3 More than 10% up to 25% over Winter Average

additional water use over 10% up to 25% over the WA at a rate of \$8.34 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 4 More than 25% over Winter Average

additional water use more than 25% over the WA at a rate of \$13.90 per 1000 gallons

## examples

### example A

Let's say that your Winter Average water use is 3,000 gallons and last month you used 3,000 gallons. You will be billed:

**Tier 1** your WA at \$5.56 per 1000 gallons **Total**  
water use charge = \$16.68

### example B

In another example, your neighbor has a Winter Average of 4,000, but he used 6,000 gallons this month. He will be billed:

**Tier 1** \$22.24 his Winter Average at \$5.56 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 2** \$2.78 400 gallons at \$6.95 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 3** \$5.00 600 gallons at \$8.34 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 4** \$13.90 1,000 gallons at \$13.90 per 1000 gallons

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= **Total water use charge of \$43.92**

*This cost is ONLY for water used; it does not include a sewer charge or monthly customer service fees, which may be part of the total bill.*

## How is a non-residential customer billed?

### Tier 1 Annual Average (AA)

AA water use at a rate of \$5.56 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 2 Up to 10% over Annual Average

additional water use up to 10% over the AA at a rate of \$6.95 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 3 More than 10% up to 25% over Annual Average

additional water use 10% to 25% over the AA at a rate of \$8.34 per 1000 gallons

### Tier 4 More than 25% over Annual Average

additional water use more than 25% over the AA and all water use on outdoor water use meters at a rate of \$13.90 per 1000 gallons

## examples

### example A

Let's say the Annual Average water use for a business is 25,000 gallons and last month it used 25,000 gallons. The business will be billed:

**Tier 1** the AA at \$5.56 per 1000 gallons = **Total**  
water use charge of \$139.00

### example B

In another example, a business has an AA of 25,000, but used 45,000 gallons this month. The business will be billed:

**Tier 1** \$139.00 the AA at \$5.56 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 2** \$17.37 2,500 gallons at \$6.95 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 3** \$31.23 3,750 gallons at \$8.34 per 1000 gallons  
+ **Tier 4** \$191.13 13,750 gallons at \$13.90 per 1000 gallons

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= **Total water use charge of \$378.73**

*This cost is ONLY for water used; it does not include a sewer charge or monthly customer service fees, which may be part of the total bill.*



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Water Bill Questions:  
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