

# 2016 UTILITY RATE CHANGES



The city's three utilities (water, wastewater, stormwater/flood management) are funded by user rates, hydroelectric sales, other fees, and not taxes. These fees are only used to support each utility. Escalating construction costs and new regulations are key drivers of rate increases. In 2016, rates are increasing 8% for water, 5% for wastewater, and 4% for stormwater and flood management.

## How much are rates increasing and why?

### Water Utility- 8%

A recent study estimated that over the next 25 years the United States must invest more than \$1 trillion in underground water infrastructure. To use a local example, construction will begin in 2016 on rehabilitation of the Betasso Water Treatment Facility. This is the primary plant for water treatment and some of the equipment is more than 50 years old.

The city continues to invest in this critical need. Our tap water delivers not only safe drinking water, but also fire protection, support for the economy, and the quality of life we enjoy.

### Wastewater Utility- 5%

Nationally, many sanitary sewer pipes were installed shortly after World War II and they are nearing the end of their service life. Locally, 64% of sanitary sewer lines were installed in the 1960's or earlier. Work continues on the city's sanitary sewer condition assessment and rehabilitation/ replacement programs. In 2016, 50% of the pipes will be cleaned and inspected, and an anticipated 6% of them will be rehabilitated or replaced.

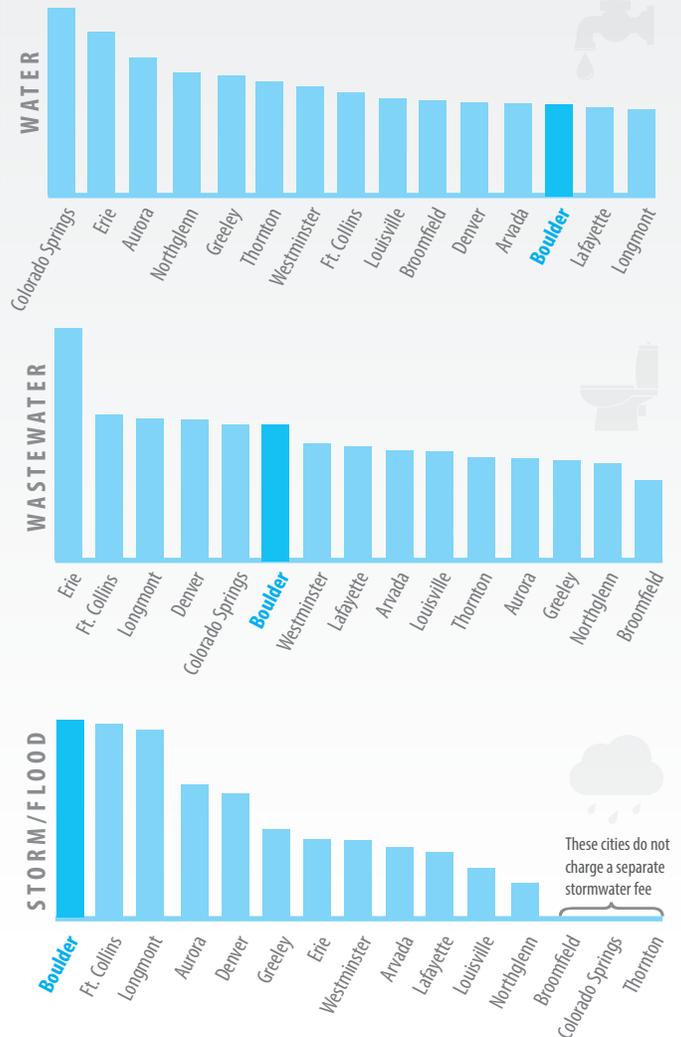
Wastewater quantity charges for residential customers are billed based on Average Winter Consumption (average use from December through March) or actual water use, whichever is less. The wastewater service charge is set at a fixed monthly rate based on your water meter size. Non-residential customers are billed according to their water budget option.

### Stormwater and Flood Management Utility- 4%

The EPA has reported that \$42 billion dollars is needed for national stormwater management. Locally, the city has 15 major drainageways, 160 miles of storm drain pipes and 4,800 catch basins that need to be maintained.

The stormwater/flood management fee is a fixed monthly charge for customers within the city limits. Single-family residential customers pay a fee based on their lot size. All other customers' fees are individually calculated according to the runoff generated from their lot. This fee is used to support flood infrastructure, regulatory compliance, water quality monitoring and hazard, and stormwater quality education programs.

### HOW DO BOULDER 2016 RATES COMPARE WITH OTHER CITIES' RATES?



### DID YOU KNOW

Boulder is the #1 risk of flash flood in Colorado? Visit [boulderfloodinfo.net](http://boulderfloodinfo.net) for more information.

## What does this mean for my water bill?

### PROJECTED MONTHLY INCREASE TO CUSTOMER BILLS

(The values below are sample estimates of potential 2016 increases)

Single-family Residence	-----	\$5
Hotel	-----	\$205
Grocery Store	-----	\$497
Large Format Retailer	-----	\$158
Pearl Street Retailer	-----	\$7
Industrial/Institutional	-----	\$387
Downtown Restaurant	-----	\$20
Downtown Brewpub	-----	\$45

### WATER CONSERVATION

The city's Water Conservation Program works with customers to sustain Boulder's water supplies and save on your bill by reducing indoor and outdoor water use. To learn more, call 303-413-7407 or visit [www.BoulderSavesWater.net](http://www.BoulderSavesWater.net).

### Check for Leaks. Save Water and Money!

A leaking toilet can waste up to 500 gallons of water per day. You can reduce your water bill and conserve water by checking for and fixing leaks inside and outside of your property.

