

# Tacoma Public Utilities

## 2023-2024 Residential Rate Proposals

We present our 2023-2024 budgets for approval to the Public Utility Board and Tacoma City Council this fall. Our proposals include rate adjustments for Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water.

The Tacoma City Council will review rate proposals for Environmental Services (Wastewater, Solid Waste, and Stormwater) after receiving recommendations from the Environmental Services Commission.



### Tacoma Power

Average increases: 3.9% in 2023; 3.9% in 2024

- \$3.70 average monthly increase in 2023\*
- \$3.70 average monthly increase in 2024\*

*Rates go into effect in April of each year.*



### Tacoma Water

Average increases: 4.2% in 2023; 4.2% in 2024

- \$1.73 average monthly increase in 2023 (inside the City of Tacoma)
- \$1.80 average monthly increase in 2024 (inside the City of Tacoma)
- \$2.05 average monthly increase in 2023 (outside the City of Tacoma)\*
- \$2.11 average monthly increase in 2024 (outside the City of Tacoma)\*

*Rates go into effect in January of each year.*

*\*Rates in University Place are slightly higher due to a 6% utility tax from the City of U.P.*



## Environmental Services



### Stormwater

Average increases: 6.6% in 2023; 6.7% in 2024

- \$1.81 preliminary average monthly increase in 2023
- \$1.96 preliminary average monthly increase in 2024



### Wastewater

Average increases: 8.3% in 2023; 7.5% in 2024

- \$4.88 preliminary average monthly increase in 2023
- \$4.81 preliminary average monthly increase in 2024



### Solid Waste

Average increases: 4.4% in 2023; 4.4% in 2024

- \$2.16 preliminary average monthly increase in 2023
- \$2.26 preliminary average monthly increase in 2024

*Rates go into effect in January of each year.*

*These rates are preliminary and subject to change.*



# Why adjust rates?

Increased costs from inflation are the primary factors affecting our rates for 2023 and 2024. Our rates cover the cost of providing safe, reliable services, maintaining our system, protecting natural resources near our facilities, complying with regulations, and investing in upgrades that improve your services.

While we do everything we can to keep costs down, our increased costs are significant enough that our rates must also be increased to cover them. By gradually increasing rates over time, we can prevent large increases while still providing the services you rely on.

## Increase costs from inflation

Like our customers, we are experiencing increased costs for equipment, fuel, personnel, and other expenses.

## Supply chain shortages

Delays and difficulty buying equipment also result in increased costs and limited resources.

## Postponed projects

We reduced costs during the pandemic by delaying maintenance projects that now need to continue.

## Impacts of COVID-19

During the pandemic, we reduced our budget and rate increases for 2021 and 2022. Many customers also have outstanding balances following the pandemic.

## Expanded payment assistance

To help our customers having difficulty paying their bills, we are also expanding our assistance programs for those who qualify.

- More customers will be able to meet the eligibility requirements.
- Income-qualified households may qualify for increased assistance of up to \$888 annually. The assistance amount depends on the number of utility services the customer receives.
- Assistance funds will cover the majority of rate increases in 2023 and 2024.

We hope this expanded assistance will help those most in need.

## How we address equity when planning rates

- Providing payment assistance programs for those in need.
- Delivering equitable services to customers and visitors.
- Working to reflect the community we serve by hiring and retaining diverse employees.
- Coordinating with community groups to share information.

## How we manage costs and affordability

We know rates affect you. We work hard to keep our costs down, which keeps our rates some of the lowest in the country and more affordable for everyone in our community.

- Equipment costs – we look for less expensive ways to repair or buy equipment.
- Personnel costs – we review open positions to prioritize when and where to replace or add staff.
- Payment assistance programs – customers can qualify for more funds.
- New payment resources – we added better tools to our online account systems.

## How to manage your utility bills

- Budget Billing can help you manage your monthly budget. [MyTPU.org/BudgetBilling](https://MyTPU.org/BudgetBilling)
- Online payment resources provide several new options. [MyTPU.org/MyAccount](https://MyTPU.org/MyAccount)
- Power and water conservation can lower your costs and are good for the environment.  
[MyTPU.org/Rebates](https://MyTPU.org/Rebates)
- Payment assistance is available, if you qualify.  
[MyTPU.org/Assistance](https://MyTPU.org/Assistance)
- Zero-interest loans can support your energy-efficient home improvement projects.  
[MyTPU.org/ZeroInterest](https://MyTPU.org/ZeroInterest)
- Sewer conservation loans can help with private-side sewer repair. [CityofTacoma.org/SideSewer](https://CityofTacoma.org/SideSewer)

## How you can get involved

- Read our budget proposals online.
- Attend our public meetings and outreach events.
- Submit your questions and comments through our online form.
- Subscribe to our email newsletter.

Visit [MyTPU.org/Rates](https://MyTPU.org/Rates) for details.

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