



Wastewater Utility



Excellence

Missoula's Wastewater Utility provides our customers with an incredibly high value for the low cost of approximately \$16 per month.

- This system protects the Clark Fork River, which is the lifeblood of our community, by removing more than 98% of the suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand that enters the system.
- We also remove 93% of phosphorus and over 80% of the nitrogen from the wastewater that comes through our high-tech Resource Recovery Facility, previously known as the wastewater treatment plant.
 - This facility converts organic material in sewage to methane and compost, helping to reduce our energy bill and providing a product for use throughout western Montana to grow vegetation and landscaping.
- Each year, our poplar plantation allows us to divert more than 1,000 pounds of phosphorus and 10,000 pounds of nitrogen that would otherwise enter the Clark Fork River and cause algae blooms.



The bio-generator at the Resource Recovery Facility creates electricity from the methane produced from the sewage treatment process.

Missoula's Wastewater Utility rates are the same as they were in 2015, even though the Consumer Price Index has risen 14% since then.

Investing in the Future

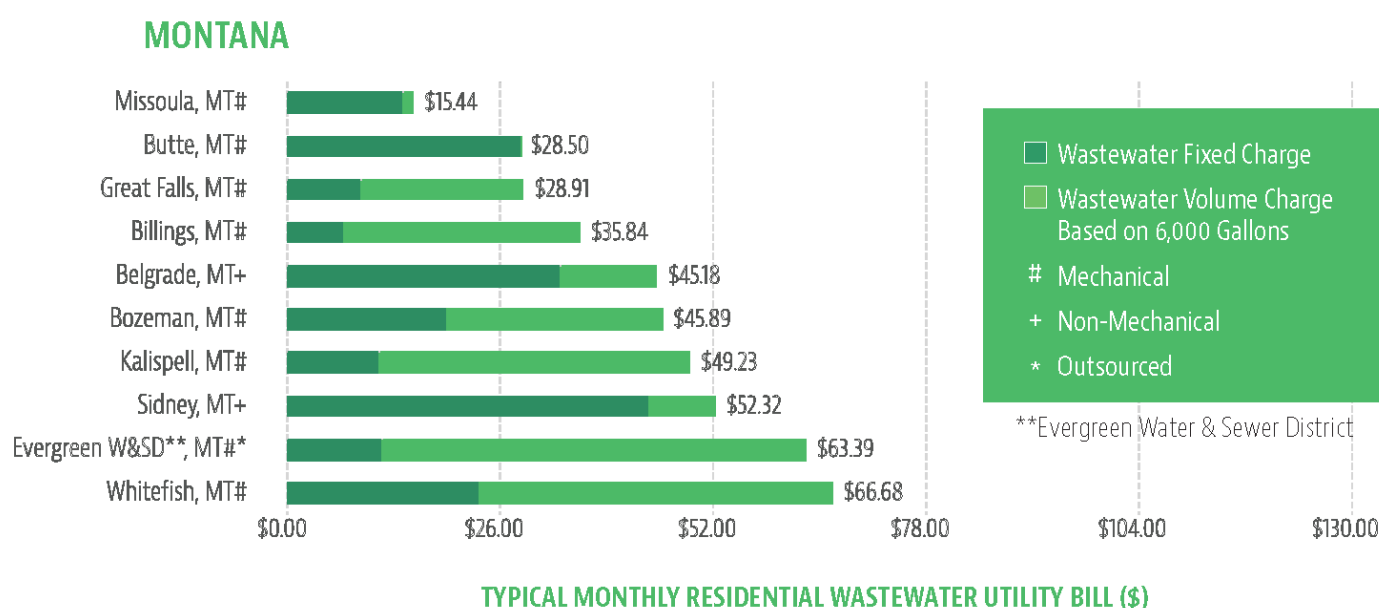
Our current rates will no longer support the types of investments the system needs to replace our aging infrastructure and to maintain and improve our infrastructure for collecting, pumping, and treating our wastewater.

The proposed rate increases will provide the funding to accomplish the following:

- Address inflationary cost increases on everything from our power bills to equipment to supplies needed to operate.
- Rehabilitate or replace three lift stations, and develop plans for two additional lift station rehabilitation projects in 2022.
- Improve the UV disinfection system and other systems at the Resource Recovery Facility to improve the reliability of our wastewater treatment.
- Upgrade and expand the compost facility (Garden City Compost) to meet more stringent treatment requirements from the Department of Environmental Quality.
- Make progress toward our goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions for Public Works & Mobility by 10% over the next five years.
 - Complete a third-party financing package for a 500 KW solar farm at the Resource Recovery Facility.
 - Continue ongoing energy efficiency projects at the Resource Recovery Facility.
- Address changes needed at the utility's poplar farm so that we can continue to divert unwanted nutrients from the Clark Fork River.

2021 Water Rates in Other Montana Cities and Towns

Missoula will still have the lowest wastewater rates in Montana, even if the proposed rates are approved.



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Note: For comparison purposes, AE2S uses 6,000 gallons of water usage to determine water and wastewater charges, but Missoula's average water customer uses slightly more than that per month.