

## Utility rate increases lower than previously proposed

City Releases Proposed 2017-2018 Utility Budget

October 27, 2016

Proposed rate increases for garbage collection, recycling, sewer and stormwater services for 2017 are lower than projected in the City's three-year budget released last fall. This year's budget proposes a rate increase of \$1.90 per month for waste services and an increase of \$1 per month for drainage services for typical residential customers. The newly-proposed monthly rate increase for waste is 12 per cent lower than the originally-planned increase of \$2.16 in the three-year budget passed by Council last year.

"Utility rate increases enable the City to continue providing Edmontonians with essential waste and drainage services," said Chris Ward, Branch Manager of Utility Services. "It is our duty to provide excellent customer services that are both financially and environmentally sustainable."

The proposed 2017-2018 budget for the City of Edmonton's two municipally-owned public entities, the Waste Management Utility and Drainage Utility, has been posted online at [edmonton.ca/budget2017](http://edmonton.ca/budget2017). Together, these utilities provide services such as curbside waste collection, recycling and drainage services that play an integral role in the day-to-day lives of residents.

As public utilities, the programs are not subsidized by property taxes; instead, they are funded entirely through rates and fees charged to residential and commercial users. This year marks the second year of the City's three-year budget cycle.

The proposed budget for the Waste Management Utility supports a variety of services including waste and blue bag collection, 21 community recycling depots and a Reuse Centre. In 2017, a new Anaerobic Digestion Facility to process organic waste will be built. It is projected to increase residential diversion rates by up to 10 per cent.

The proposed budget for the Drainage Utility supports planning, building, operating and maintaining pipes, tunnels, pump stations and stormwater management facilities. In 2017, the Drainage Utility will continue its focus on flood mitigation projects and environmental stewardship of the North Saskatchewan River.

The proposed budget for Utility Services will be formally presented to Utility Committee on November 4, 2016. The city-wide Operating and Capital Budgets will be made public on November 24, 2016.

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### For more information:

[edmonton.ca/budget2017](http://edmonton.ca/budget2017)

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