

Non-Residential Sewer Utility Credit

POLICY AND PROCEDURE

What is it?

An opportunity for qualifying non-residential customers to receive a credit on their monthly sanitary sewer/wastewater utility bill if they can demonstrate that they do not discharge a significant portion of the water they consume into the sanitary sewer system.

Why a credit?

Sanitary utility charges include a basic monthly service charge plus a sewer usage charge that is based on metered water consumed by the customer. For most sanitary utility customers almost all of the water consumed is subsequently discharged into the sanitary sewer system. However, some customers incur water losses in their processes, consuming significant portions of their supply water. The water loss results in reduced discharges to the sanitary sewer system. Drainage Services recognizes that this non-contributive volume of water may be significant, and that the affected customers should receive a discount for that portion of the water not returning to the sewer system. This credit would recognize the non-contributions to the sewer system.

When did it become effective?

The non-contributive sewer utility credit was approved by City Council on May 31, 2000 along with other changes to the sanitary utility rate structure. The non-contributive credit has been in effect since January 2, 2001, as it received Council approval of the necessary revisions to the Sewers Use Bylaw on December 15, 2000.

What is the process?

Customers must apply to the City for a credit. Any customer may apply if they meet the eligibility requirements. If successful, the customer must enter into a legal agreement with the City, at which point a credit, in the form of a "sewer usage reduction factor", will be applied to each subsequent monthly bill. Approved credits need to be renewed on a five year basis, or sooner if there are changes in their processes which may affect their water loss estimates. Upon request by the City the customer must submit metering records in order to provide verification that there have been no changes in their processes. All applications must be signed and sealed by an independent professional engineer registered in Alberta who is not employed by or affiliated with the customer.

What are the eligibility requirements?

Demonstrated and Verifiable Loss

It must be clearly demonstrated that there is a loss experienced on a continuous, monthly basis. The method used to determine this loss must be outlined in the engineering report. The equipment used to generate flow data used in the assessment must remain in place to allow verification by the City at any time. Upon request by the City reports on meter readings shall be submitted by the customer to verify the magnitude of the credit.

A non-contributive sewer utility credit, in the form of a "sewer usage reduction factor", will be calculated in direct proportion to the demonstrated loss. The credit will be applied to all subsequent monthly bills, subject to renewal requirements.

Non-residential Customers Only

This policy applies to non-residential customers only. There is a seasonal sewer pricing program which applies to residential lawn watering.

What are the application requirements?

Application Fee

A processing fee will be charged for the application.

Engineering Report

All applications for a non-contributive sewer utility credit must be accompanied by an engineering report which is signed and sealed by an independent professional engineer registered to practice in Alberta, and are subject to approval by the City. The engineer must not be employed by or affiliated with the customer.

The engineering report must include an identification of the percent reduction in water consumption being requested by the customer, and a justification of this amount.

The customer must advise the City any time there is a change in operation or process that may affect the water loss estimations made. The City may then require the engineering report to be updated and resubmitted.

As a minimum, the engineering report must be updated and resubmitted every five years to account for any changes in operation or other factors that may have affected the water loss estimations made.

Demonstrated and Verifiable Loss

To justify a demonstrated and verifiable loss, one of the following methodologies, as deemed appropriate by the City for each customer, shall be used in the engineering analysis:

1. Detailed engineering calculations of the volume of water lost to the sewer system based on sub-metering records. As requested by the City sub-metering data shall be obtained for a period immediately prior to submitting the report. All sub-meters installed shall remain in operation and records maintained for future verification of readings. Sub-meters must be of equivalent or greater accuracy than the EPCOR water meters and be certified.
2. Detailed engineering calculations of the volume of water lost to the sewer system based on historical records of finished product (e.g. beverage containers) containing supply water that did not contribute to their sanitary discharges. At least twelve months of continuous and recent records must be provided. This will be the last complete 12 months of data prior to the report submission.
3. In the event that methods 1 and 2 are not applicable to the nature of the business, and with prior approval from Drainage Services, the City will consider methods other than sub-metering or finished product records. These could include detailed engineering calculations based on specifications of the various equipment in use in the facility.

Legal Agreement

Customers who become eligible for a non-contributive sewage utility credit must enter into a legal agreement with the City. This agreement identifies the conditions and terms of the above.