



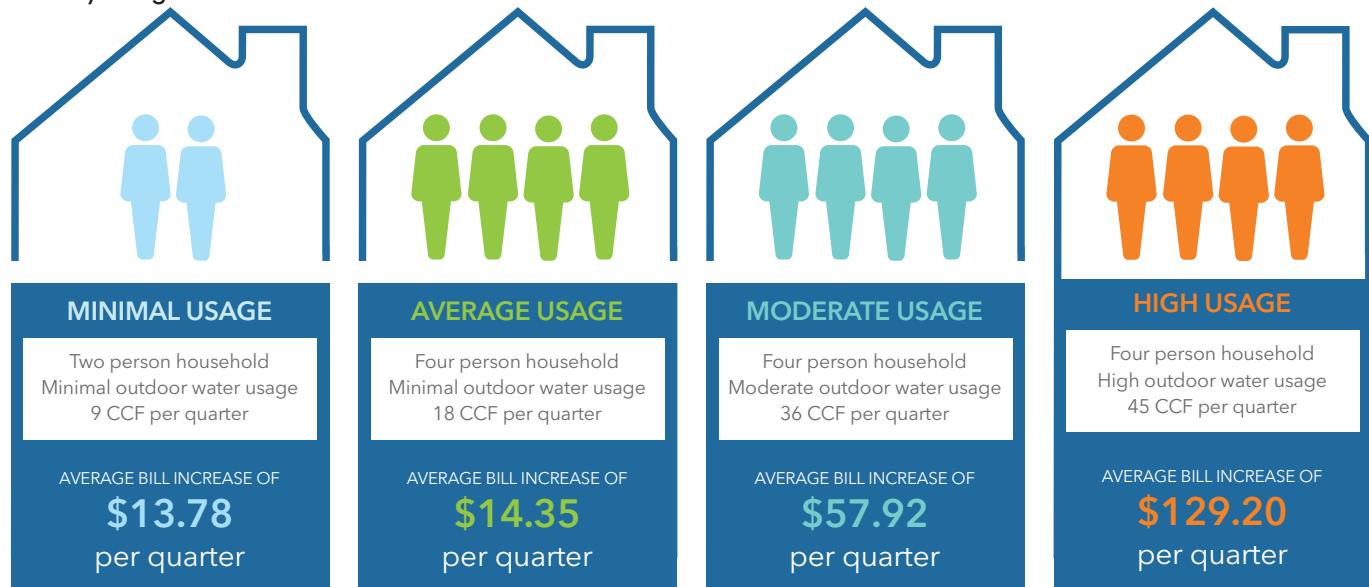
WaterMatters

Special Edition

Attention High Volume Water Users

On June 18, the Ann Arbor City Council enacted changes to water and sewer rates. Effective July 1, 2018, customers who use large amounts of water may see significant increases on their water bill.

You are receiving this special issue because our records indicate that in the past you have used enough water that would now be billed in the new 4th tier of the water rates. The 4th tier is pricing for water volume used greater than 36 CCF. Usage in tier 4 will be charged at \$14.08 per CCF. The previous rate was \$5.89 for any usage over 28 CCF.



Example Bill Impacts (Water & Sewer Only)

What is a CCF?

One CCF or hundred cubic feet is 748 gallons. The Water Research Foundation National Water Use survey shows the average American uses 50 gallons per day for daily household activities, and this is trending below 40 gallons per person per day for water users with high efficiency appliances. There are many different ways that we use water, for example, with 748 gallons, you can drink 11,968, 8 oz, glasses of water. A standard garden hose flows about 7.5 gallons per minute, so watering your garden for 10 minutes, would use about 1 CCF each 10 minutes.



100 Cubic Feet (CCF) = 748 Gallons



Find out more about the new water rates by visiting a2gov.org/waterrates

Continued on page 2

What you can do to save water and money:

There are steps you can take to conserve water and avoid tier 4 pricing.

START OUTDOORS. From the American Society of Landscape Architects: **1. Start early.** Plan ahead so that all new plantings take place in the spring. Plants require much less water to get situated in the spring than warmer months.

2. Go native. When deciding what to install in your yard, consider native and drought-resistant plants. They typically require less maintenance and little watering once established (sometimes none at all!).

3. Add compost and mulch. Use compost when planting and cover the area with mulch afterwards. Compost helps keep the water by the plant's roots and mulch prevents evaporation. Make sure to leave some space around the base of each plant and resist creating mulch mounds around plants and trees.

4. Reduce your lawn. The average American household uses 320 gallons of water per day, about 30 percent of which is devoted to outdoor uses. More than half of that outdoor water is used for watering lawns and gardens. Consider replacing some of that grass with an attractive groundcover that is drought-resistant, covers a large area, and requires zero mowing.

5. Let it super soak. Up a third of all water from sprinklers can evaporate during the heat of the day. Instead, give your plants fewer, heavy soakings. If you must use sprinklers, only use them in the morning.



6. Reuse greywater or capture rainwater.

Reusing grey water or capturing rainwater offers a free source for landscape irrigation. These systems can be easily installed and even incorporated into irrigation systems. However, do not use rainwater from roofs or greywater on vegetable gardens (or on anything you plan to eat).

7. Set up a drip irrigation system. Drip irrigation systems water plants right at the root and are an efficient alternative to sprinkler systems. They use 20 to 50 percent less water than conventional pop-up sprinkler systems and can save up to 30,000 gallons per year. Be sure to get a timer for maximum effectiveness.

Please visit a2gov.org/waterrates to find out all the details.