

2010 Water/Wastewater Rate Survey Summary

January and February of 2010 saw WRC staff updating the annual water and wastewater rate surveys for REAP member communities. Overall, only 6 member communities have water rates or rate structures which remain unchanged from those reported in 2009. In other words, 81% of REAP member communities changed their water rate structures or rates themselves between mid 2009 and January of 2010. Meanwhile, changes in wastewater rates or rate structures were less common, with 55% of REAP communities reporting some change in structures or rates for wastewater within city limits from the time of the first survey in 2009. Outside of city limits, wastewater rates and rate structures were more likely to have changed from 2009 as 15 of the 21 (71%) REAP communities which provide wastewater service outside of city limits have changed their rates or rate structures within the past year.

From 2009-2010, the average cost of 5,000 gallons of both water and wastewater service for residential users increased. The average cost of 5,000 gallons of water for residential use in the REAP region is \$27.86, a 15.84% increase from 2009's average of \$24.05. For wastewater, the average monthly sewer usage per household is 5259 gallons. Inside city limits, the regional average cost for 5,000 gallons of residential wastewater is \$28.14, up 13.41% from last year's average of \$24.81. Outside of city limits, the average cost for 5,000 gallons of residential wastewater service is \$35.98, a 7% increase from 2009's average of \$33.63.

The REAP Region's average monthly minimum cost or base rate for residential water service is now \$13.87, up 12% or \$1.52 from 2009 and the average gallons included in regional base rates has dropped 66.24% from 1970 to 1185. New for 2010 was a survey of water treatment methods utilized in member communities. Most REAP communities use Chlorination for water treatment; with the exception of Hutchinson which uses Reverse Osmosis and Winfield which uses Ozone. For wastewater, the average residential minimum monthly fee for wastewater service inside REAP community city limits is \$17.79, a 9.16% increase from 2009. As with water, the average number of gallons of service included in the monthly minimum fee decreased. For those communities who assess a uniform rate per 1000 gallons of wastewater service, the average cost per 1000 gallons increased 5.46% or \$0.17 from \$3.09 to \$3.26. Data collected show that the majority of REAP member communities utilize a mechanical system for wastewater treatment.

A complete set of data for Water and Wastewater rates as well as sample calculations are available on the REAP website at www.reap-ks.org/water. Once again, REAP staff would like to thank its member communities for their participation in the survey and for the assistance of their staff in gathering the needed data. Any questions, comments, or suggestions can be addressed to Angela Buzard.