

Next steps

Preserving our environment through the protection of our water resources is a group effort - we all play a role.

In an effort to foster a greater sense of environmental stewardship among local property owners, and encourage practices that reduce a property's contribution of stormwater runoff and pollutant loading to the municipal stormwater system, city staff will investigate the potential to create a stormwater management credit program throughout 2011.

In the meantime, here are a few ways you can help reduce your property's contribution to the local stormwater system:

- Use a rain barrel to collect water for your garden. Rain barrels reduce runoff and help conserve water.
- Dispose of hazardous products like motor oil, antifreeze, etc., by dropping them off at our local waste management facility. Never pour these materials, or any waste products into the stormwater system.
- Wash your car at a carwash, rather than in your driveway, to prevent soapy water and sediment from entering our stormwater system.

For more helpful tips, please visit www.kitchener.ca/stormwater

For more information on the city's new stormwater user-fee funding model, please:

- Visit: www.kitchener.ca/stormwater
- E-mail: revenuecustomerservice@kitchener.ca
- Call: 519-741-2450

New stormwater user rate now in effect

On January 1, 2011, the City of Kitchener transferred stormwater management funding from property taxes to a user-fee program - a fair and equitable approach, based on the amount of stormwater each property contributes to the city's stormwater management system.

The new stormwater user fee affects only property owners and will appear on your monthly utility bill, starting in February 2011. Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) does not apply to the stormwater rate.

This funding model allows the city to dedicate dollars specifically to stormwater management -- a service that has been consistently underfunded through the tax base.

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What is stormwater management?

Stormwater runoff flows over hard surfaces, such as rooftops and driveways, and across the land, before it's routed into drainage systems (eg. pipes, catchbasins) and ultimately into natural areas such as creeks, lakes and wetlands.

As the landscape changes from undeveloped natural areas to developed cities, the areas where the runoff can be absorbed into the ground continue to decrease, and are replaced with hard (impervious) surfaces that don't absorb stormwater.

Proper stormwater management is necessary to control erosion, flooding and water quality; and to protect our creeks and watercourses from pollutants.

Stormwater rate schedule

Type Code	Description	Basis for Charge	Number of Dwelling Units	Monthly Charge per Property ¹
1	Residential Single Detached Small	Detached homes with building footprint* size of 105 m ² or less	1	\$6.30
2	Residential Single Detached Medium	Detached homes with building footprint* between 106-236 m ²	1	\$10.50
3	Residential Single Detached Large	Detached homes with building footprint* size of 237 m ² or more	1	\$13.80
4	Residential Townhouse / Semi-Detached	Per property (per Tax Roll ID)	1	\$7.50
5	Residential Condominium	Per property (per Tax Roll ID)	1	\$4.20
6	Multi-Residential (2-5 Units)	Per building	Duplex	\$8.40
			Triplex	\$12.60
			Four-plex	\$16.80
			Five-plex	\$21.00
7	Multi-Residential (>5 Units)	Per property (according to number of dwelling units)	Per property (according to number of dwelling units)	Charge = (# units) × (\$2.10/month)
8	Non-Residential Smallest	26 - 1,051 m ² of impervious area	n/a	\$20.10
9	Non-Residential Small	1,052 - 1,640 m ² of impervious area		\$53.70
10	Non-Residential Medium-Low	1,641 - 7,676 m ² of impervious area		\$140.70
11	Non-Residential Medium-High	7,677 - 16,324 m ² of impervious area		\$410.70
12	Non-Residential Large	16,325 - 39,034 m ² of impervious area		\$995.40
13	Non-Residential Largest	39,035 m ² or greater of impervious area		\$2,136.90

* Footprint: The building footprint for residential properties is calculated by measuring the roofs of the building, as well as any sheds or garages, all of which contribute to the overall impervious area.

Putting your dollars to good work

The new stormwater utility user fee will enable the city to improve its stormwater management service levels by:

- Keeping pollutants out of our stormwater system - leading to better protection of our source water.
- Preventing local flooding and pollution from reaching our creeks and streams - preserving their health and vitality.
- Replacing aging stormwater infrastructure (pipes, catch basins), some of which are 80 to 100 years old.
- Accelerating needed improvements to the local stormwater management system. Planned projects include Victoria Park Lake, Huron Business Park Pond 3 environmental assessment, Kolb drain restoration, Schneider Creek channel restoration and Grand River erosion control.