

The Wastewater Charge - What You Need to Know...

What is the Wastewater Charge?

The Wastewater Charge is a new charge that all properties are liable to pay (both domestic and commercial). It is intended to raise revenue in order to cover a significant proportion of the operational costs of the sewerage network (wastewater and surface water). It also provides funding for investigations into sewage treatment. The charge commenced from April 2011, and income generated will not be used for other general revenue purposes.

The charge was approved by the States of Guernsey in January 2009. The administration of the charge and the collection of income is handled by Guernsey Water.

Why has the charge been introduced?

Currently, the maintenance and extension of the sewerage network is funded from States of Guernsey central revenue. As the pressure on finances grows and the number of projects in need of States' funding increases, it has been decided that the sewerage infrastructure needed to develop some financial self-sufficiency, and should be run on more commercial lines. This will in turn reduce the reliance on States' general revenue which so many projects are looking to take from.

How will the charge be calculated?

The charge consists of: (2012 Figures)

- 1). A standing charge of £30.84 per annum per household/business
- 2). Additional charges relating to wastewater discharged:
 - Metered customers will be charged on 90% of the water that comes in through the meter (as it is estimated that 90% of water goes to waste), at a rate of £0.62 per cubic metre.
 - Unmetered customers will be charged £0.14 for every unit of their property's TRP **per quarter**.
- 3). A fixed fee of £51.44 per annum per household/business in respect of sewage treatment investigation works. This fee is time-bound and will only be charged for four years (April 2011 - March 2015).

You can pay your wastewater bill in the same way as your quarterly Guernsey Water bill. If you are already on Direct Debit, **you do not need to do anything** - your wastewater bill will automatically be debited from your account. You will receive notification of the amount to be debited in advance as you do currently.

How much will this cost me?

The charge will be approximately £150 per average household each year (£37.50 per quarter), although the exact amount you pay will depend on the size of your property or the volume of your water supplied. For more information please visit www.water.gg/wastewater - here you will find a charge calculator which will give you an accurate figure of how much you will be paying. If you do not have access to the Internet a member of our Customer Service team can calculate this for you - please call us on 239500.

I am not connected to the main drain and have a cesspit - do I still have to pay this charge?

Yes. The revenue from the charge will be used for the maintenance of the whole sewerage infrastructure, which is utilised by main drain connections and cesspit-users alike (cesspit collections are put into the system at a point near to the dwelling). Also, the income will eventually go towards extending the foul sewer network and minimising the number of cesspits on the Island - so many customers who are currently on cesspits will be able to connect to the main drain in the future.

However, the States of Guernsey has reduced the cesspit-emptying charge by 50% in recognition of the fact that these customers will be paying the new charge in addition to this service. This will create greater equality of charging for everyone.

More information at www.water.gg/wastewater