



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALCOSAN ANNOUNCES NEW RATES, WHICH ARE LOWER THAN PREVIOUS ESTIMATES
Increases are needed to meet regulatory requirements to improve the wastewater system
Clean Water Assistance Fund is available to low-income homeowners

November 17, 2017 – The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority Board of Directors yesterday approved a four-year rate structure that will pay for the Clean Water Plan to improve the quality of the water in the region's rivers and streams. These increases are significantly lower than previously estimated.

The board chose to set rates for a four-year period because it allows residents, businesses and municipalities that are part of the ALCOSAN system plan their budgets for the long term without the prospect of surprise increases.

Beginning in January 2018, the average residential customer who uses 12,000 gallons of water per quarter and whose bill from ALCOSAN was \$390 in 2017, will pay \$419 in 2018. That is an increase of 7.5% which comes to \$29.22 per year or \$2.43 per month more. In 2019, 2020 and 2021, rates will increase 7% each year, with the cost to the average customer being \$513 per year or \$42.75 per month by 2021.

ALCOSAN's rate is computed two ways, the per-gallon rate and the customer service charge. The current rate of \$6.91 per 1,000 gallons of water used will rise to \$7.42 per 1,000 gallons for 2018. The quarterly customer service charge, \$14.51 in 2017, will be \$15.60 in 2018.

ALCOSAN's charges do not include the amount added by each municipality to maintain local infrastructure.

Low-income homeowners in the ALCOSAN territory can reduce their bills by applying to the Authority's Clean Water Assistance Fund. The fund has made available \$1 million to help low-income families and individuals pay their wastewater treatment bills. Details of the application process are available at www.alcosan.org and through the Dollar Energy Fund, at dollarenergy.org.

"Although we would have preferred not to have to raise our rates, I am pleased that our staff's hard work and sound fiscal management during the past four years mean the increases are not nearly as high as the last round," said ALCOSAN Board Chairperson Sylvia C. Wilson. "These increases are necessary to pay for the many improvements ALCOSAN is continuing to carry out to improve the efficiency of its system, which includes 83 municipalities. ALCOSAN is under a federal consent decree, currently being re-negotiated, to take these and other actions to eliminate overflows of stormwater and untreated sewage during heavy rain and snow melt.

"Without the increase, ALCOSAN's ability to take on responsibility for more than 200 more miles of large sewers and pump stations would be threatened, creating a greater burden on municipalities and their residents," continued Wilson. "ALCOSAN's funding for municipal improvement projects would be imperiled, its cost of borrowing for capital projects

would increase and it would be impossible to meet the legal requirements of the federal government without overburdening our customers.

“We fervently hope that all low-income homeowners in the ALCOSAN territory apply to our Clean Water Assistance Fund through Dollar Energy Fund to receive the help they need in paying these new rates,” said Wilson. “But no matter your income, know that you are part of fixing our system and giving the Pittsburgh region the world-class rivers and streams that we all deserve.”

ALCOSAN is one of the region’s premier environmental and public health organizations, treating wastewater for 83 Allegheny County communities, including the City of Pittsburgh. The authority, which is Green by Mission and Green by Choice, enhances the community’s quality of life and safety by working to protect drinking water, rivers and streams, and making the Pittsburgh region a great place to live, work and play. ALCOSAN’s 59-acre treatment plant processes up to 250 million gallons of wastewater daily and is one of the largest such facilities in the Ohio River Valley.

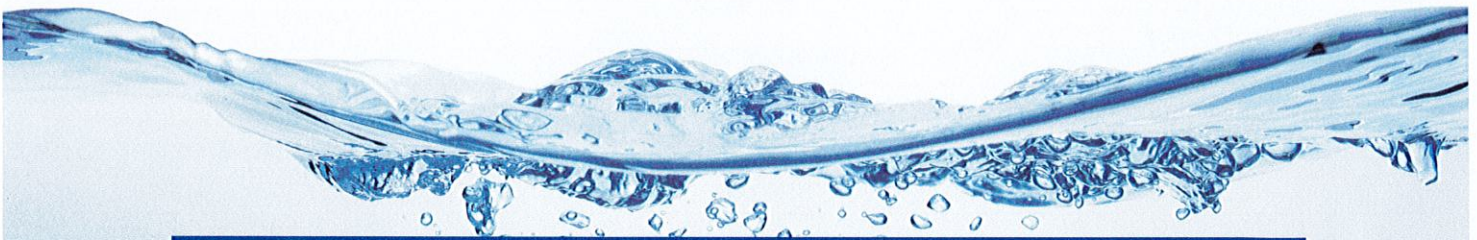


ALCOSAN's Clean Water Assistance Fund

**3 RIVERS
PROUD**

The Allegheny County Sanitary Authority has created the Clean Water Assistance Fund to help families pay their sewage treatment bills. This program serves low-income residential customers in the 83 municipalities that ALCOSAN serves. It is administered by Dollar Energy Fund.

Who is eligible? The Clean Water Assistance Fund is available to ALCOSAN service area residential homeowners (and tenants who have accounts in their own names) who meet family income limits set by the federal government.



Household size	Monthly income	Annual income
1	\$1,508	\$18,090
2	\$2,030	\$24,360
3	\$2,553	\$30,630
4	\$3,075	\$36,900
5	\$3,598	\$43,170
6	\$4,120	\$49,440
7	\$4,643	\$55,710
8	\$5,165	\$61,980

For households with more than eight members, add \$522.50 per month or \$6,270 per year for each additional person.

There is an income calculator on Dollar Energy's website at dollarenergy.org.

How much will I save? The grant from ALCOSAN's Clean Water Assistance Fund is \$30 every three months. The credit will be applied to your account by the agency that bills you for sewage treatment – for example, these bills may come from Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority, Jordan Tax Service, Wilkinsburg-Penn Joint Water Authority, your municipality or some other agency. The credits will automatically appear every three months, even if you are billed monthly, bimonthly or quarterly.

How do I apply? Social service agencies across the region accept and process applications. The list of agencies with contact information is on the reverse side; you may contact any agency on the list. Call for an appointment to apply in person.

You will need to provide a copy of your water/sewage bill, which includes ALCOSAN charges, so take one with you. You also must provide the Social Security numbers of all members of the household and proof of your household's monthly income. If you already are eligible for an assistance program through another utility, you can use that approval to verify your eligibility.

Do I live in the ALCOSAN service area? The following communities are served by ALCOSAN: Aspinwall, Avalon, Baldwin Borough*, Baldwin Township, Bellevue, Ben Avon, Ben Avon Heights, Bethel Park*, Blawnox, Braddock, Braddock Hills, Brentwood, Bridgeville, Carnegie, Castle Shannon, Chalfant, Churchill, Collier*, Crafton, Dormont, East McKeesport*, East Pittsburgh, Edgewood, Emsworth, Etna, Forest Hills, Fox Chapel*, Franklin Park*, Green Tree, Heidelberg, Homestead, Indiana*, Ingram, Kennedy, Kilbuck, McCandless*, McDonald, McKees Rocks, Millvale, Monroeville, Mt. Lebanon, Mount Oliver, Munhall, Neville, North Braddock, North Fayette*, North Huntingdon*, North Versailles, O'Hara, Oakdale, Ohio*, Penn Hills, Penn Township, Peters, Pitcairn, Pittsburgh, Pleasant Hills, Plum*, Rankin, Reserve, Robinson, Ross, Rosslyn Farms, Scott, Shaler, Sharpsburg, South Fayette, Stowe, Swissvale, Thornburg, Trafford, Turtle Creek, Upper St. Clair, Verona, Wall, West Homestead, West Mifflin, West View, Whitaker, Whitehall, Wilkins, Wilkinsburg, Wilmerding *Only a portion of the municipality is served by ALCOSAN