

1. Provide details on flat rate and other rate plans

Details are available on the Water Board's website at nyc.gov/nycwaterboard

2. Why would single family residents pay less than households living in apartments?

It depends on the circumstances. Metered multi-family properties can pay metered charges per unit as little as \$400-\$800 per year, significantly less than the flat rate multi-family program. Average metered charges per apartment unit for a multi-family building are \$738 per year, compared to average metered charges for a single-family home of \$994.

3. Does the multi-family conservation program have to do with the income levels of the ratepayer?

Not explicitly, as income is not reviewed. The properties that are billed on the MCP rate are often properties with more affordable rent rolls or an affordable ownership profile – such as HDFC properties and rent regulated properties.

4. The MCP rate required customers to meet certain water conservation measures. Is there a plan to do so?

Buildings that were switched from frontage to MCP have not yet been required to meet those requirements. We are looking at what to do with the 10% penalty for MCP properties that have not yet provided documentation demonstrating administrative compliance with the program's terms. The preference over the last two years was not to create additional financial stresses.

5. What about rent stabilized tenants? I never paid a water bill.

Water bills are the responsibility of the property owner, with the cost of water recouped through rents, along with the other costs of property ownership.

6. Do you have an analysis of difference in revenues if MCP rate payers actually paid what they are metered?

Based on an analysis conducted several years ago, MCP ratepayers save more than 20% compared to metered rates. However, many properties that could save money on metered rates choose the MCP rate, which allows for greater budget certainty.

7. I believe the lease with the city expires in 2024. Is there a desire to eliminate the rental payment altogether? That will free up hundreds of millions of dollars.

The lease is a three-party agreement, and amending it would require agreement among the City, the Water Board, and the Water Authority. The City always has the option to not request the rental payment.

8. Are there any benefit besides equity in creating a storm water charge?

There are several potential benefits that will be considered, enhancing transparency regarding services provided for managing stormwater and incentivizing stormwater mitigation through a credit system. DEP will also be considering the impacts on revenue stability.

9. How do we pass on affordability to low-income residents who do not own their property?

If landlords face lower costs, rents may be lower.

10. I noticed that none of the cities in the study saw a reduction in stormwater as a result to the implemented storm water fees. Do we have an idea how large and storm water fee we would need to change behavior?

Most cities that have seen limited participation in their stormwater credit programs concluded that the magnitude of the credits offered were not sufficient to justify the cost of retrofits to the property. It is difficult to quantify how large a stormwater charge would need to be to encourage widespread behavior change, but each of the cities mentioned that they expect the charges to increase in the coming years.