



A message from the Board Chair about your utility bill



The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) **will be issuing 2024 annual utility bills** to owners of properties serviced with curbside collection, water and wastewater services. Below is a message from the SCRD Board Chair about increased utility rates for 2024.

When your utility bill arrives at the end of April, you will see that the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) Board has raised utility rates for water; and for some of those living in rural areas, rates have increased for wastewater services as well.

Much like previous years, the main drivers for water increases include:

Decades of underfunding in the water service. Instead of planning for the future of the system, rates remained stagnant for decades. It is only in recent years that the SCRD Board has taken action to ensure safe, secure water is available now and into the future.

Aging infrastructure that is nearing end of life or is outdated. The SCRD maintains thousands of kilometres of water infrastructure, much of which was last upgraded in the 1970s. This infrastructure has a lifespan of approximately 50 years. Much of it must be replaced in the coming decades due to their age or it will not meet today's needs.

Climate change. Years of successive drought, not just on the Sunshine Coast but across the Province has shown local governments the urgent need to develop and diversify water sources to ensure supply can be maintained through the summer months.

What is the SCRD doing to secure supply? This year, five wells will be drilled in the Sechelt area to see if a new source can be brought online. Work is continuing on a raw water reservoir project in collaboration with the shíshálh Nation. Thousands of water meters will be installed in the District of Sechelt. Old asbestos cement watermains in South Pender will be replaced and more detailed plans will be developed for required upgrades to the water treatment plants at Garden Bay and in Egmont.

In addition to the above work, SCRD utility crews will be out each and every day repairing, maintaining and replacing water infrastructure to ensure safe, secure water flows through taps in homes across the Region.

The SCRD Board understands that it is frustrating to see further increases on your utility bill, however, we hope you understand these increases are necessary for the immediate and future needs of water systems on the Sunshine Coast. Contact information for each of the SCRD's directors is available on the SCRD website should you have any questions.

Leonard Lee
Board Chair, Sunshine Coast Regional District



Can you pay your utility bill monthly?

Yes, you can! You can make periodic installments on your utility account throughout the year. The frequency of the payments is up to you.

To have the amount automatically come out of your bank account you must set up the payment online through your financial institution. The SCRD does not have the ability to set up pre-authorized payments for you. You will need to add the Sunshine Coast Regional District as a payee and include your six digit account number, and then you are good to go!

Easy Credit Card Payment!

Visit www.scrd.ca/pay to make a utility bill payment using Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

