

# Sewage Treatment Capacity Charge



King County  
Wastewater  
Treatment

## What is the capacity charge?

The sewage treatment capacity charge is a charge in addition to sewer service, billed to customers who connected to the sanitary sewage system on or after February 1, 1990.

## Why do we have a capacity charge?

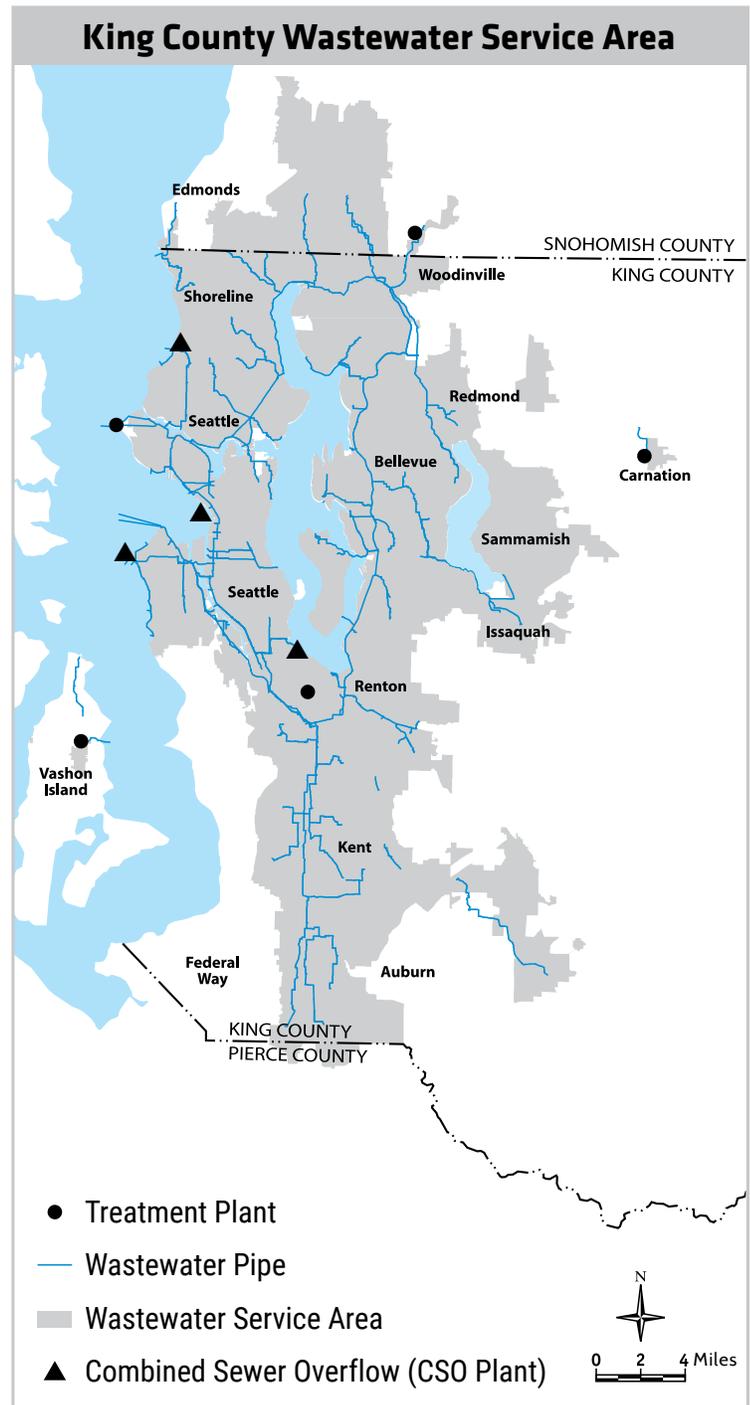
To protect public health and the environment, King County's wastewater treatment system must keep pace with growth in our region. That means building more pipes, pump stations, and treatment plants.

The capacity charge distributes the costs for this expanding infrastructure to customers with the newest sewer connections. In other words, the capacity charge helps make sure that "growth pays for growth."

## Who must pay?

All property owners in King County's service area whose home or building was connected to the King County sewer system on or after February 1, 1990 pay the capacity charge.

King County provides sewage treatment services to most cities and sewer agencies in King County, areas of south Snohomish County, and a small part of Pierce County.



## How much is the charge?

The 2026 capacity charge is \$77.99 per residential customer equivalent (RCE) per month. To calculate a residential property's monthly rate, use the formulas shown below:

### Single Detached Dwelling Unit

Net square footage (SF)  
less than 1,500 = 0.81 RCE

*Example:*  
 $0.81 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$63.17/\text{month}$



Net SF 1,500 to 2,999 =  
1.0 RCE

*Example:*  
 $1.0 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$77.99/\text{month}$



Net SF 3,000 or greater =  
1.16 RCE

*Example:*  
 $1.16 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$90.47/\text{month}$



### 2-4 Units in a Multi-Family Structure

0.81 RCE per unit

*Example for two units:*  
 $2 \text{ units} \times 0.81 =$   
 $1.62 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$126.34/\text{month}$



### 5 or More Units in a Multi-Family Structure

0.63 RCE per unit

*Example for six units:*  
 $6 \text{ units} \times 0.63 =$   
 $3.78 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$294.80/\text{month}$



### Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) with an Existing Single-Family Residence

0.59 RCE per unit

*Example:*  
 $0.59 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$46.01/\text{month}$

*New single-family residence with an ADU = 0.81 RCEs per unit*



### Detached Accessory Dwelling Units (DADUs)

0.59 RCE per unit

*Example:*  
 $0.59 \text{ RCE} \times \$77.99 =$   
 $\$46.01/\text{month}$



### Non-Residential Property

The capacity charge is determined by plumbing fixtures and/or wastewater flow projections converted to RCEs.

## How is it billed?

King County sends the first capacity charge bill to property owners approximately after three full months of connection to the sewer system, then every three months thereafter, for a total of 15 years or until the balance of the property's account is paid.

## What are my payment options?

At any time during the 15-year duration of the charge, you may pay the remaining balance in one lump sum at a discount. If you include the payoff amount in your mortgage, it might provide a tax advantage. However, if you are likely to sell your property within a few years of buying it, you may not want to prepay future charges because the remaining payments could be passed along to the next owner.

You can pay your bill online at [kingcounty.gov/paycapacitycharge](http://kingcounty.gov/paycapacitycharge).

## What do I do when I sell my home and the 15-year billing period is not over?

You may want to consult with your real estate agent regarding disclosure to prospective buyers and escrow agents handling your transaction. (RCW 64.06.020 and RCW 60.80)

## What is the money used for?

King County's wastewater treatment system protects public health and the environment by treating wastewater before recycling it or releasing it into Puget Sound. Increasing demand on the regional sewage treatment system has meant building new treatment facilities and expanding capacity of the current system. Examples of this needed expansion include the Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville, expansion of the Bellevue Pump Station, and the Southwest Interceptor project in the Kent-Auburn area.

## Will the rate go up?

The King County Council reviews and establishes the amount of the capacity charge annually. Increases apply to new connections within that year only—they are not retro-actively applied to existing accounts.

## Will I also get a bill for sewer service?

Yes. You will receive a sewer service bill from your local sewage service provider. The bill from your local agency will include both local charges for sewage collection and regional charges from King County for sewage treatment and disposal. The bill from King County will be for the capacity charge only. Your local sewer agency will provide appropriate forms for your capacity charge reporting.

## Why is the rate of my capacity charge bill different from my neighbor's, yet our houses were built about the same time?

The capacity charge rate is based on the date of the property's final side sewer inspection. Homes built around the same time may have been inspected in different years. Rate increases do not apply to existing connections. Each property is billed at the prevailing rate at the time the inspection took place.

## Why didn't the developer pay this charge?

By law the capacity charge is a monthly charge triggered by connection to the sewer system, not an upfront cost of development. The capacity charge is the responsibility of the current property owner.

## What is the legal basis for this charge?

The Revised Code of Washington, Chapter 35.58.570, and King County Code No. 28.84.050 are the legal basis for the capacity charge. Under these laws, a lien may be filed against a property that has delinquent or unpaid charges.

## Who can I contact about my bill?

For questions about your capacity charge bill, contact King County Revenue/Accounts Receivable.

**Phone:** 206-296-1450 **Fax:** 206-263-6073

**Web:** [kingcounty.gov/capacitycharge](http://kingcounty.gov/capacitycharge)

**Email:** [CapChargeEscrow@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CapChargeEscrow@kingcounty.gov)

For questions about your sewer service bill, contact your local sewage service provider.

Alternative formats available

Call: 206-296-1450 or TTY: 711