



WATER IN THE WORKS

AN ELBERT CREEK WATER COMPANY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
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A Message from ECWC

Hello, and welcome to the seventh issue of *Water in the Works*, a quarterly newsletter published by Elbert Creek Water Company (ECWC). The purpose of this newsletter is to improve communication between ECWC customers and staff while providing customers with useful and informative articles, ideas, and updates about our distribution area.

New Water and Wastewater Rates are in Effect for 2022

Happy New Year, ECWC Customers! We are looking forward to another great year of providing you with safe and efficient domestic water and wastewater services. As a reminder, ECWC has new water and wastewater rates, which officially took effect on January 1st.

On December 1, 2021, ECWC Chief Operating Officer, Jim Goodman sent an email letter to all customers. This email explained the rationale behind the new rates, how they were calculated, and how it is anticipated that rates will evolve in the future. This email also contained a link to a presentation detailing the new rates, along with updated governing documents for ECWC. If you would like to access any of this information, please visit our website at www.elbertcreekh2o.com.

Your first bill with the new rates will arrive in your email inboxes on February 15th, for January's domestic and wastewater usage. For questions or more information, please contact info@elbertcreekh2o.com or acrona@theglacierclub.com.

Solar Array Coming to ECWC in June

Glacier Management and ECWC are working to become more energy efficient and dependent by installing a solar array by the rehabilitated ECWC wastewater treatment plant. The arrays will be located to the west of the building and will consist of seven rows of bifacial panels that maximize production. The arrays are designed to produce 300,000 kWh per year which will supply approximately 95% of the treatment plant's power needs. Construction is scheduled to start in June 2022. Below is an image with the preliminary array layout.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Update

ECWC and its contractors are entering the final stages of the wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation project. Since July 2021, ECWC's contractors have been replacing equipment and making repairs to update the facility to current standards and improve operations and safety. Most of the new equipment has been installed allowing for operation and the temporary treatment plant was decommissioned in October 2021. Construction is expected to be completed in March 2022. Continue to expect frequent activity and traffic during this period. Please contact ECWC with any questions.



Testing the new diffuser system in the aeration basin.



New sludge pumps in the wastewater treatment plant.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Update (continued)



One of the new Aerzen blowers that provides air to the aeration basin diffusers. These new blowers are quieter and more energy efficient than the previous blower.



New grinder at the wastewater treatment plant headworks.

Interpreting the Data on Your ECWC Water Bill

ECWC's meter reading hardware and billing software use truncation factors that need to be considered when interpreting data on your ECWC water bill. To the right are three example sets showing how data is presented on your monthly bill.

Our meter reading hardware tracks usage in hundreds of gallons. Because of this, in order to interpret your real-time meter read, you need to add two zeros to the back of any meter read number. For instance, in example one, the "Previous" (starting) read says "15656." In real time, this means the meter had registered 1,565,600 gallons of water during the last meter read that was performed. Similarly, in real time, the meter registered 1,587,900 gallons of water at the time of the most recent meter read. You can determine your usage by subtracting the "Previous" number from the "Present" number, or by looking at the "Usage" column. This figure is interpreted in thousands of gallons by our billing software system. To accurately interpret this figure, treat the decimal as a comma separating the numbers in the hundreds and thousands places. For instance, the usage figure in the third example, which shows up as "0.80," means this customer used 800 gallons of water during the month. The customer in the first example used 22,300 gallons of water during the month.

Finally, sometimes we need to perform multiple meter reads in a one-month span to help track water transmission and trends. When this happens, you will see two or more lines of data in the Meter Readings and Usages columns, like in example two. Interpret the data the same as in the explanations above, but to get your final usage, add the two numbers in the Usage column together. The customer in example two used a total of 7,500 gallons during the month.

Meter Readings		Usage
Previous	Present	
15656	15879	22.30

Example One

Meter Readings		Usage
Previous	Present	
2269	2321	5.20
2321	2344	2.30

Example Two

Meter Readings		Usage
Previous	Present	
375	383	0.80

Example Three

Did You Know? Winter Weather Tips for Protecting and Conserving Water From Partners for Clean Streams

Even though colder temperatures, snow, and ice have finally arrived this winter, you can still make a difference in our effort to protect and conserve water. Below are six tips on what you can do during the winter months.

- Drip your faucets during the winter months. Yes, we said it – use water to save water! As temperatures drop, leave your faucets on a slow drip while sleeping or not at home. This helps prevent your pipes from freezing or bursting, something that wastes a lot more water than a slow drip from a faucet. Hate to waste any water at all? Place a bucket underneath your faucet to collect the water and use it to water indoor plants or for pets.
- Is your dog a polluter? If you don't clean up after him, he is! Pet waste that is not properly disposed of washes into storm drains or nearby rivers and streams where it will raise bacteria and nutrient levels, just like human waste. If it builds up on snowy ground, the impact is more concentrated. Do your duty and clean up after your pets!
- Keep up with car maintenance to reduce leaking of oil, coolant, antifreeze and other hazardous fluids. These can leak fluids onto pavement, which ends up in streams and rivers directly, even on icy roads. A single pint of oil can cause a slick the size of a football field.

- Salt used to melt ice runs off into our storm sewers and eventually our waterways, where it can damage freshwater ecosystems. Consider alternatives, such as calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) or corn byproducts. If these alternatives are not available, less harmful salt-based products exist, such as potassium chloride, calcium chloride, and magnesium chloride. Sand also increases traction but does not melt the ice.

ALWAYS consider your own safety first!

- “No-shave November” is long gone, so back to shaving regularly! To save water while shaving, fill the sink with water instead of rinsing your razor under a running faucet.
- Recycle the water from pet bowls and fish tanks onto your indoor plants. This water has less chlorine and is often higher in nitrogen levels, both of which will help keep your plants alive until spring.

For more information on these and many other water conservation tips, check out our Give Water a Hand Campaign on our [website](#) or contact us at Admin@partnersforcleanstreams.org.

(Original article can be found at the following link:
<https://www.partnersforcleanstreams.org/reports/122-newsletter/2016/january/499-winter-weather-tips-for-protecting-conserving-water>)