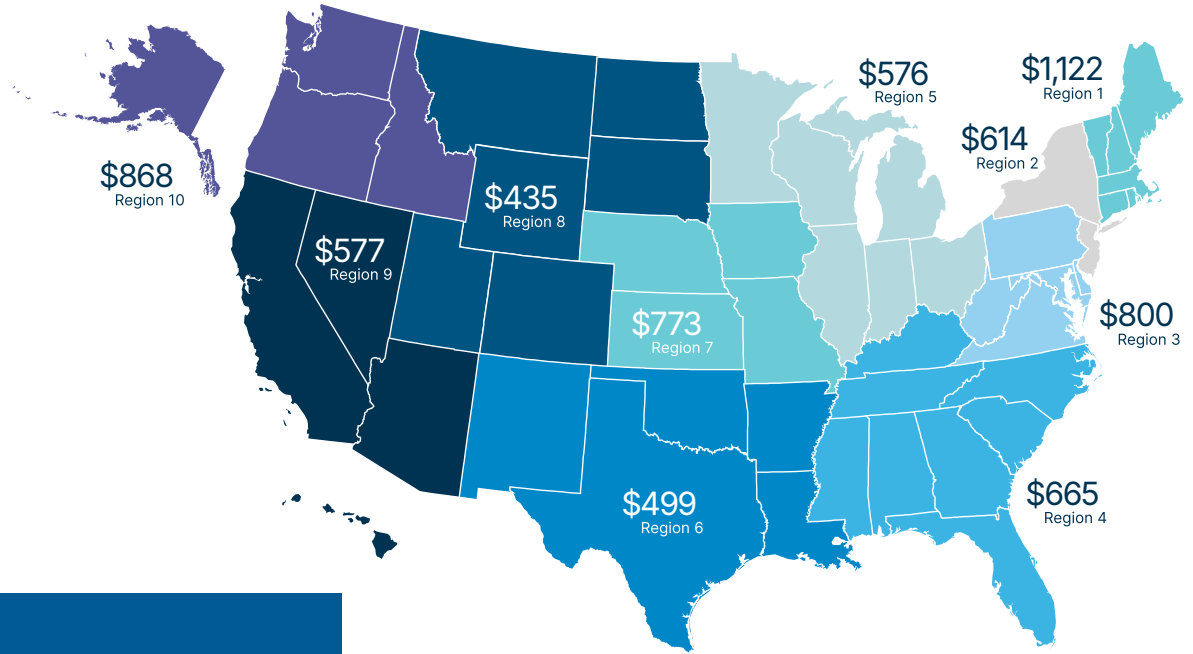


2025

# Cost of Clean Water Index



**Regional Average Annual Charges, 2025**  
All Respondents

**110 Million**

POPULATION SERVED

**171**

UTILITY RESPONDENTS

**\$648**

AVERAGE NATIONAL ANNUAL SEWER SERVICE CHARGE

**4.4%**

INCREASE IN SEWER CHARGES 2024-2025

**2.6%**

INCREASE IN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 2024-2025

## Average Charge for Wastewater Services Increased 4.4% in 2025

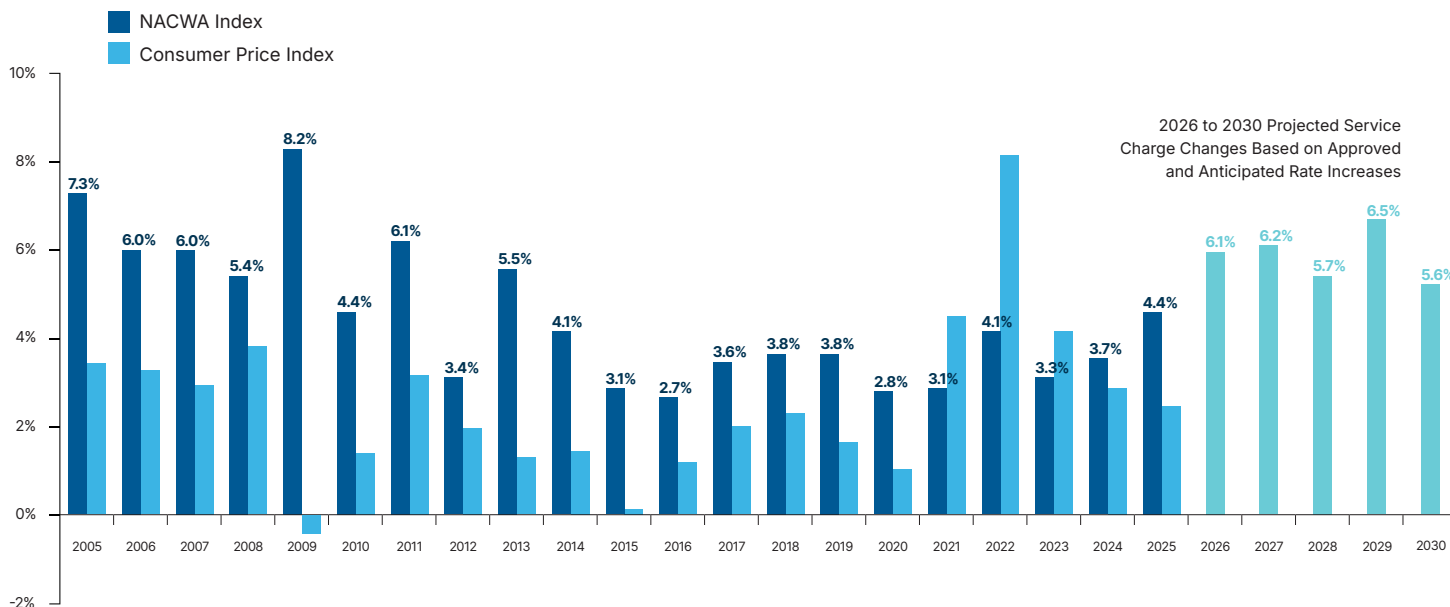
NACWA's Cost of Clean Water Index for calendar year 2025 indicates that the average cost of wastewater services rose 4.4 percent. The average increase was 1.8 percentage points above the rate of inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) (see *Annual Change in Cost of Clean Water Index vs. Inflation* chart). The increase was also the highest one-year increase in wastewater charges reported since 2013.

In 2025, the national average amount that a single-family residence paid for wastewater services was \$648. Wastewater service charges vary widely among EPA regions and states, and are affected by demographics, geography, system age, regulatory requirements, and a range of other issues. To illustrate these variations, the *Regional Average Annual Charge* map shows a breakdown of average charges by EPA region. The average service charge by Region varies from a low of \$435 in EPA Region 8 to a high of \$1,122 in EPA Region 1.



## Annual Change in the Cost of Clean Water

Index vs. Inflation



The *Annual Change in the Cost of Clean Water Index vs. Inflation* chart presents a national snapshot of the increase in service charges, as compared to inflation, since 2005. [Table A-1](#) provides additional detail, including a breakdown of NACWA Index values and service charges back to 1985, the base year for the Index. The values for 2025 are based on the responses from 171 NACWA members serving nearly 110 million people.

Customers pay for sewer services in a variety of ways. Charges may be based on property values, gallons of water used, on a flat rate, or include some combination of these values. Because of this variability, the NACWA Index uses what the average single-family residence pays annually because it is a more consistent measure to track the cost of services over time. In 2025, the majority of clean water utilities implemented rate structures that resulted in increases in the average annual household service charge. However, in some communities, volume-based rates increased, but average service charges dropped due to reductions in actual or estimated residential water use or decreased revenues. Additional national and regional data are included in [Tables A-1](#) and [A-3](#).

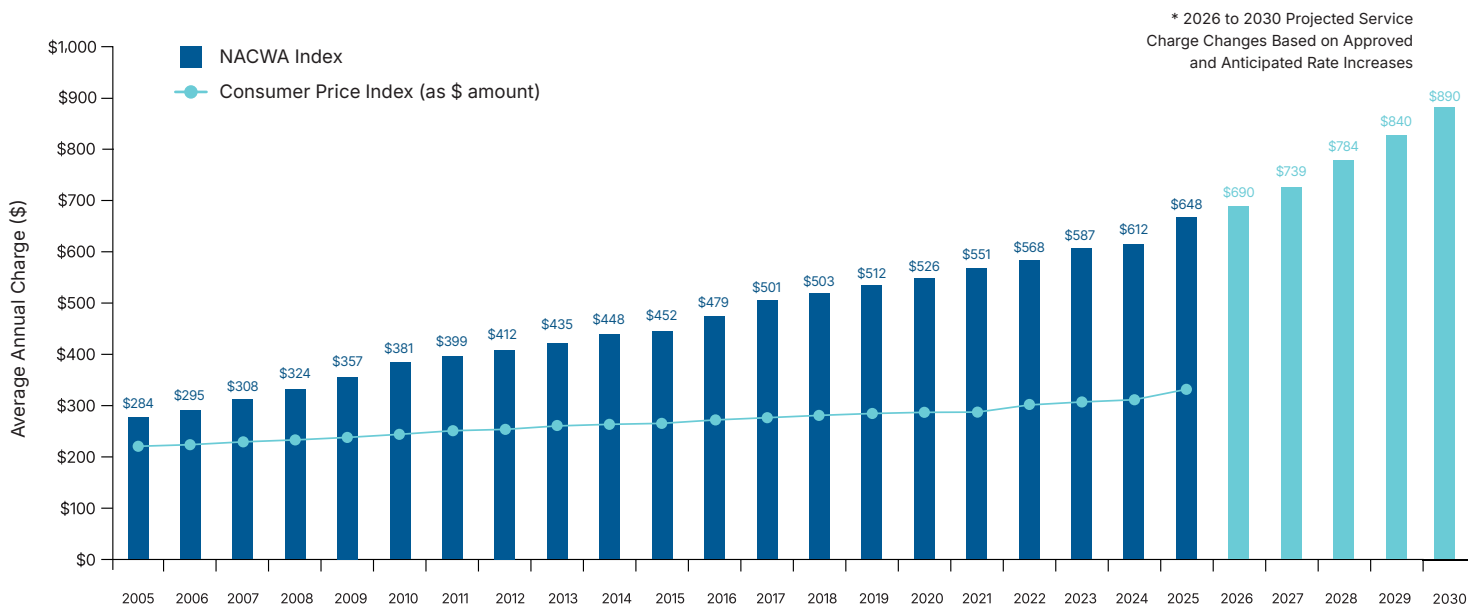
### Average Annual Service Charge Exceeds 2.0% of Poverty Threshold

The *Average Annual Service Charge* chart presents a national snapshot of wastewater service charges since 2005 and provides a projection of average charges through 2030. In comparison to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the annual sewer service charge has increased at nearly double the rate of the CPI since 2005 and has nearly doubled in value since 2008. The average annual sewer charge of \$648 represents over 2.0 percent (2.02 percent) of the 2025 federal poverty income threshold (\$32,150) for a family of four.



## Average Annual Service Charge

2005 – 2025 & Projected



\* 2026 to 2030 Projected Service Charge Changes Based on Approved and Anticipated Rate Increases

## Average Sewer Rates Projected to Increase 34% from 2025 to 2030

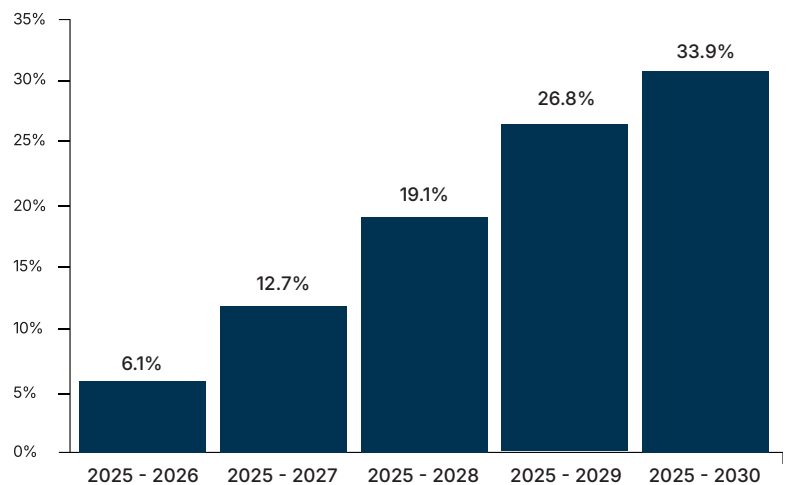
Infrastructure needs, as well as inflationary and regulatory cost pressures, are leading to a higher prevalence of approved and planned rate increases nationwide. Eighty-eight percent (88%) of agencies reported approved or planned rate increases for 2026.

From 2025-2030, rates for wastewater services are expected to increase approximately 5 to 6 percent per year (see [Table A.2](#)) with an average cumulative five-year increase of 34 percent (see [Average Cumulative Projected Increases in Sewer Charges](#) chart which shows the average of projected increases in charges among agency respondents in one, two, three, four and five-year increments).

These rate increases are being driven by many factors, including regulatory compliance costs, especially consent decrees and stricter treatment requirements, as well as major expenses for capital improvement projects, aging infrastructure repair and replacement, and system expansion to meet growth and capacity needs. Respondents also cite inflation which has increased construction, labor, materials, energy, and operating costs, causing many utilities to project increases above historical levels.

## Average Cumulative Projected Increases in Sewer Charges

2025 – 2030



*Disclaimers: The NACWA Index strives to use the best available data each year when determining current and historical household charges and trends. These data are intended for comparison purposes only, and are subject to change from one year to the next. While this document presents the most up-to-date data available, if better data become available in the future, the data presented here may be modified.*

*Additional data and information on the NACWA Index, past years' surveys, and regional summaries are available on NACWA's website.*



**Table A-1: NACWA Service Charge Index, 1985 to 2025**

Year	NACWA Index <sup>(1)</sup>	Change from Previous Year <sup>(2)</sup>	Average Service Charge (\$)	Change from Previous Year (\$)	Change to Consumer Price Index	Total Responses	Population represented (in millions)	Total Responses in Both Previous and Current Year
1985	100.0		\$102.75			155	88.6	
1986	106.8	6.8%	\$109.69	\$6.95	1.9%	158	88.8	155
1987	112.4	5.3%	\$115.51	\$5.82	3.6%	157	88.8	157
1988	119.9	6.9%	\$123.17	\$7.99	4.1%	163	91.3	157
1989	130.1	8.4%	\$133.65	\$10.35	4.8%	166	92.0	163
1990	141.0	8.4%	\$144.84	\$11.25	5.4%	169	92.3	166
1991	153.7	8.9%	\$157.88	\$12.84	4.2%	171	92.5	169
1992	166.7	8.5%	\$171.33	\$13.84	3.0%	175	94.7	171
1993	183.1	8.3%	\$188.12	\$13.78	3.0%	184	100.5	170
1994	193.4	5.1%	\$198.68	\$10.32	2.6%	194	102.4	182
1995	197.8	2.2%	\$203.22	\$4.23	2.8%	199	99.6	189
1996	201.7	3.6%	\$207.28	\$6.44	3.0%	205	105.8	195
1997	203.9	1.3%	\$209.49	\$2.88	2.3%	208	107.9	202
1998	207.8	2.4%	\$213.52	\$4.89	1.6%	214	106.6	204
1999	209.8	0.7%	\$215.61	\$1.90	2.2%	224	109.4	210
2000	216.4	3.0%	\$222.31	\$6.41	3.4%	234	113.7	218
2001	223.5	2.2%	\$229.63	\$4.47	2.8%	238	113.5	227
2002	232.6	3.6%	\$238.99	\$8.45	1.6%	220	107.8	215
2003	243.0	3.1%	\$249.71	\$7.69	2.3%	232	108.4	198
2004	254.8	6.5%	\$261.79	\$16.10	2.7%	222	109.0	200
2005	276.3	7.3%	\$283.91	\$18.79	3.4%	213	108.7	188
2006	287.1	6.0%	\$295.03	\$17.23	3.2%	203	107.0	177
2007	299.4	6.0%	\$307.60	\$16.47	2.8%	196	104.6	173
2008	315.4	5.4%	\$324.11	\$18.00	3.8%	191	107.6	165
2009	347.3	8.2%	\$356.90	\$26.41	-0.4%	171	103.4	161
2010	371.2	4.4%	\$381.45	\$16.82	1.6%	181	100.7	143
2011	387.7	6.1%	\$398.57	\$23.78	3.2%	176	104.0	158
2012	401.6	3.3%	\$412.17	\$13.97	2.1%	179	108.1	148
2013	424.3	5.5%	\$435.26	\$22.53	1.5%	183	107.8	155
2014	436.0	4.1%	\$447.99	\$17.45	1.6%	184	112.8	164
2015	439.8	3.1%	\$451.93	\$13.53	0.1%	176	110.6	160
2016	466.3	2.7%	\$479.07	\$11.85	1.3%	173	104.4	156
2017	487.8	3.6%	\$501.21	\$11.49	2.1%	180	105.4	144
2018	489.5	3.8%	\$503.01	\$19.77	2.4%	178	109.6	154
2019	498.3	3.8%	\$512.01	\$6.30	1.8%	178	110.3	149
2020	512.3	2.8%	\$526.44	\$14.57	1.2%	175	104.4	154
2021	536.1	3.1%	\$550.81	\$15.73	4.7%	171	105.5	144
2022	552.4	4.1%	\$567.56	\$23.09	8.0%	173	104.9	143
2023	571.2	3.3%	\$587.95	\$19.85	4.1%	165	99.4	140
2024	595.3	3.7%	\$611.65	\$21.57	2.9%	170	106.8	142
2025	630.6	4.4%	\$647.91	\$30.41	2.6%	171	109.7	147

**Note 1:** The value of the Service Charge Index is based on all responses received. The base year, 1985, has been indexed to a value of 100 at the national level.

**Note 2:** The annual percent change in the Index is based on the responses of those agencies that responded in both the previous year and current year using the same calculation method.



**Table A-2: Projected Annual Service Charge Increases, 2026-2030**

	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
<b>Average Annual Increase (%)</b>	6.1%	6.2%	5.7%	6.5%	5.6%
<b>Average Service Charge (Projected \$)</b>	690.09	739.24	784.31	839.58	890.26
Change from Previous Year (\$)	42.18	49.15	45.06	55.28	50.68
<b># of Total Responses</b>	151	143	141	140	110
<b># of Responses with Numeric Estimates</b>	129	98	82	72	49
<b>Approved</b>	56%	28%	21%	17%	11%
<b>Planned</b>	32%	51%	53%	55%	52%
<b>No Change</b>	7%	6%	5%	4%	5%
<b>Uncertain</b>	5%	15%	21%	24%	32%

**Table A-3: Regional Annual Average Sewer Service Charges, 2025 Summary**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	National
<b># of Agencies</b>	7	11	20	22	35	12	13	12	24	15	171
<b>Population</b>	3.4	13.5	14.5	12.8	20.9	9.5	3.8	3.6	22.2	5.5	109.7
<b>2025 Charge</b>											
Average	\$1,121.55	\$613.55	\$799.96	\$664.94	\$576.02	\$498.84	\$772.52	\$434.88	\$576.85	\$868.30	\$647.91
Median	\$795.00	\$452.81	\$631.35	\$598.95	\$516.13	\$501.54	\$627.60	\$468.01	\$615.66	\$704.64	\$599.88
Minimum	\$594.66	\$267.67	\$272.28	\$265.50	\$150.00	\$296.42	\$312.00	\$265.00	\$284.20	\$556.80	\$150.00
Maximum	\$1,252.58	\$761.60	\$1,182.64	\$1,221.79	\$865.00	\$878.40	\$1,003.80	\$802.32	\$1,325.04	\$1,248.48	\$1,325.04
<b>% Change<sup>(3)</sup></b>											
1-year (2024-25)	1.4%	6.6%	7.3%	6.1%	4.9%	0.9%	1.5%	7.7%	3.7%	2.1%	4.4%
3-year (2022-25)	7.7%	16.5%	16.7%	7.3%	8.0%	9.7%	8.6%	35.0%	11.3%	13.2%	11.7%
5-year (2020-25)	17.0%	21.8%	35.1%	14.8%	15.6%	17.1%	20.6%	45.6%	18.0%	24.3%	20.5%

**Note 3:** The percent change values in Table A-3 are based on the responses of those agencies that responded in both the previous year and current year using the same calculation method.

