

**Durham
Regional
Council
approves 2026
water supply
and sanitary
sewer user rates**

Whitby, Ontario – Durham Regional Council has approved the 2026 Water Supply and Sanitary Sewer User Rates, with a combined increase of 5 per cent, or approximately \$5.24 per month for an average household.

This increase supports accelerated infrastructure needs to meet provincial housing targets, ongoing maintenance and operation of the water supply and sanitary sewer systems, and several major projects including upgrades and expansion of the Whitby Water Supply Plant, and upgrades at the Corbett Creek and Courtice Water Pollution Control Plants.

The approved user rates will take effect on January 1, 2026. Continued investment in the aging municipal water system is required to protect public health and the water environment to meet obligations under the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Ontario Water Resource Act.

Durham water and sanitary sewer rates are below the average rate for large Ontario municipalities and are reviewed on an annual basis, with recommendations made to Regional Council in December. For more information on Durham Region's water and sanitary sewer user rate increase and the 2026 consolidated water supply and sanitary sewerage systems business plans and budget, visit durham.ca/budget. Information about Durham Region's water and sanitary sewer system is available at durham.ca/WaterAndSewer.

"Safe drinking water and the protection of our water environment are essential to daily life. Continued investment in these efficient and effective Regional services ensures we deliver safe, reliable, and financially sustainable solutions for our residents and growing communities as mandated by the Province of Ontario in the Clean Water Act."

- John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, Region of Durham

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***** THE MAYOR'S TALE *****
 'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
 AND ALL OF COUNCIL WAS THERE.....
 A short story written by Dean Hickey

One night in December, as the snow did fall
I found myself with councillors, one and all.
We sat round the chamber on Christmas Eve
To discuss a matter you must surely believe
Was important enough that we had no choice
But to do as a council, what no-one enjoys;
To remain together long into the night
To consider that which to me seemed right!
What follows is as much as I can recall
Of the contributions made by us all
As we argued, debated and got worked up
Like actors on the stage of a drama club.
But in the end as you will soon see
Council would in fact agree with me.
So without further ado, I will recount
Those obstacles we came to surmount.

MAYOR DAN CARTER

Please find your seats, my councillor friends
For there's miles to go before this night ends.
I trust you're all well, and I have to say
The fact most are here has made my day!
I see Councillor Neal has again stayed home
To join in our quest, on his telephone,
But that is his loss, for he is not near
To enjoy the punch I have brought to cheer
Those who have acted on a different scale,
By venturing to where friendship prevails.
And now that you've each taken your seat
I'll move a motion that's an absolute treat.
It's a sort of pledge on the part of us all,
To take stock of ourselves, and to stand tall
As we show the world who we really are
By casting away old habits to places afar,
And in taking on a fresh state of mind
The likes of which is often hard to find.
Therefore with the power I now possess,
I as Mayor do here and now profess
To offer up a motion by myself alone
Without a seconder, as may be shown
By the Strong Mayors legislation
I do willingly use without hesitation.

COUNCILLOR NICHOLSON

Mr. Mayor, I do object to what you say,
For I have been here many a day
And never have I seen a Mayor so keen
To ride all over that which even he
Must surely admit is our democracy.
I rise on a point of order to firmly object
To the methods being used to project
Whatever has brought us all down here,
On this most precious night of the year.
I have served for forty years now,
And never have I seen just how
This type of unilateral action
That seems to now be in fashion,
Could possibly help us in our quest
To make decisions that are the best.

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