

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Bill Signed Into Law, Advances PFAS Protections for the Occoquan Reservoir



Delegate David Bulova, who represents the 11th District in the Virginia House of Delegates (center), receives a commendation from Phil Allin, Chairman of the Fairfax Water Board (left), and Jamie Hedges, Fairfax Water's General Manager/CEO (right).

We are pleased to share that House Bill 2050, introduced by Delegate David Bulova, has been signed into law by Gov. Youngkin, marking a major milestone in the effort to reduce PFAS pollution in the Occoquan Reservoir.

This new law takes an essential and proactive approach to safeguarding our region's drinking water by requiring industrial users to monitor and remove harmful PFAS chemicals from one of Northern Virginia's most critical drinking water sources. It represents meaningful progress toward maintaining the safety and quality of our drinking water supply.

Fairfax Water is grateful to Delegate Bulova for his leadership in advancing House Bill 2050 into law.

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Important Water Rate Information for 2026

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, the Fairfax Water Board will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to the schedule of rates, fees, and charges. Proposed revisions include a change to the commodity charge from \$4.03 to \$4.35 per 1,000 gallons, effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2026. See page 2 for a list of some of the proposed changes.

The public hearing will be held at Fairfax Water's main office at 8570 Executive Park Avenue in Fairfax. Visit fairfaxwater.org/rates for a copy of the proposed changes and directions to the main office. To speak at the hearing or to obtain a hard copy of the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges, call 703-698-5600, TTY 711.

Even with this increase, Fairfax Water's commodity rates will remain the lowest in the Washington metropolitan region. The chart on page 2 compares regional utilities based on current commodity rates and service charges.

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Important Rate Information for 2026

The following tables show some of the proposed revisions to Fairfax Water's rates, fees, and charges. If approved, the revisions will be effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2026. Visit fairfaxwater.org/rates for a complete list of the proposed revisions.

Charge	Description of Rate, Fee, or Charge	Current	Proposed
Commodity Charge	The charge per 1,000 gallons of water used in the previous three months.	\$4.03*	\$4.35*
Quarterly Service Charge	Based on meter size, it offsets the cost of meter repair and replacement, and service repairs, and includes a portion of distribution system and general administrative costs.	\$16.55**	\$17.55**
Peak Use Charge	The charge per 1,000 gallons of water applied to established accounts during billing periods from June through November for water consumption that is 1.3 times the winter quarter consumption or 6,000 gallons above the winter quarter consumption, whichever is greater.	\$4.15*	\$4.20*
Turn Off/Turn On Charge	Charge to restore water service that has been disconnected due to nonpayment or noncompliance; must be paid before water service can be restored.	\$58.00	\$61.00

* Fees for the use of Fairfax Water fire hydrants would also change to include the proposed increase in the commodity charge and peak use charge.

** Charges reflect fees associated with standard 5/8 inch residential meters. Charges for larger residential and commercial meters are proposed to increase and are reflected in the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges, available on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates.

New Connection Charges	Description of Rate, Fee, or Charge	Current	Proposed
Availability Charge	For service to be furnished through each new separate service connection.	\$4,930.00	\$5,090.00
Local Facilities Charge	For each new service connection to an existing water main.	\$24,290.00	\$24,850.00
Service Connection Charge	For each new service connection and meter installation prior to the approval of the application.	\$1,840.00	\$1,960.00

Comparison of Local Water Rates

This comparison is based on rates as of July 1, 2025, and on the average residential customer usage of 15,000 gallons over a three-month period. The amount shown for each jurisdiction/utility includes the service charge and the commodity charge, which is the rate charged for a certain number of gallons.

Jurisdiction/Utility	Quarterly Water Charge
City of Manassas Park, VA	\$222.96
Town of Leesburg, VA (outside town limits)	\$184.36
Virginia-American Water Company (Prince William County, VA)	\$175.10
Virginia-American Water Company (City of Alexandria, VA)	\$173.90
DC Water	\$159.53
City of Rockville, MD	\$157.28
WSSC Water (Montgomery/Prince George's counties, MD)	\$145.71
City of Bowie, MD	\$145.09
Town of Leesburg, VA (inside town limits)	\$142.72
Town of Vienna, VA	\$135.45
Arlington County, VA	\$101.30
Town of Herndon, VA	\$93.09
City of Manassas, VA	\$92.61
Loudoun Water	\$90.21
Prince William Water	\$86.25
Fairfax Water (proposed rate effective April 1, 2026)	\$82.80
Fairfax Water (current rate)	\$77.00

Please note: Fairfax Water does not provide your sewer service, but we do assist Fairfax County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax with sewer billing. This is a cost-saving measure and a convenience for our customers. Your sewer rates and associated billing methodology are established by your sewer service provider. Sewer rates are a combination of a base charge and usage and may include taxes and/or other fees. Visit fairfaxwater.org/sewer-charges to learn more.

Source Water Protection: Be 'Winter Salt Smart' This Winter



What's the problem?

In the winter, salt keeps us safe while we are on the move, but it also leads to higher levels of salt in the region's drinking water supply, including the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir.

What is winter salt?

Winter salt is rock salt (sodium chloride) or ice melt (a blend of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, and other salts). These materials are used in the winter to prevent the icing of sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways.

Why is increased salt in the drinking water supply a problem for water utilities?

Salt cannot be removed via traditional drinking water and wastewater treatment processes. It can also be corrosive to plumbing and may have health impacts for those on low-sodium diets.

What can I do to help?

- Shovel early. Remove snow from pavements before it turns to ice.
- Use less salt. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Spread salt evenly. Try to not distribute in clumps.
- Watch the temps. When it is colder than 15°F, do not apply winter salt; it will not work.

To learn more, visit: bit.ly/WinterSaltFW or use the QR code.



Murray Facility Earns LEED Certification



We're thrilled to share that the Murray Maintenance Facility has officially earned LEED Certification, an internationally recognized mark of excellence in sustainable building! A special plaque is now displayed inside the building to celebrate this significant achievement.

Our Murray Administration Building has achieved LEED Silver Certification, and the Warehouse Building has also received its own LEED Certification.

LEED, which is short for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, sets the standard for designing and building healthy, energy-

efficient, and environmentally friendly spaces. These certifications are a direct reflection of our commitment to sustainability and smart design. A huge thank-you to [Anne James, Engineer](#), and our outstanding team for turning this vision into reality.



Kids' Corner

We Love the Water Cycle!



We Want To Know . . .

If you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please send an email to pr@fairfaxwater.org, call us at 703-289-6291, or write to us at this address:

Straight From the Tap Editor
Fairfax Water
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

Important Numbers

Fairfax Water Services

Info on water service and billing:

703-698-5800

After hours/emergencies:

703-698-5613

To report a water main break:

703-698-5613 or email

watermainbreak@fairfaxwater.org

All other Fairfax Water departments:

703-698-5600

Sewer Services

Fairfax County

Department of Public Works Wastewater

Trouble Response Center:

703-323-1211

fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater

City of Falls Church

Department of Public Works:

703-248-5350

fallschurchva.gov

City of Fairfax

Department of Public Works:

703-385-7810

fairfaxva.gov

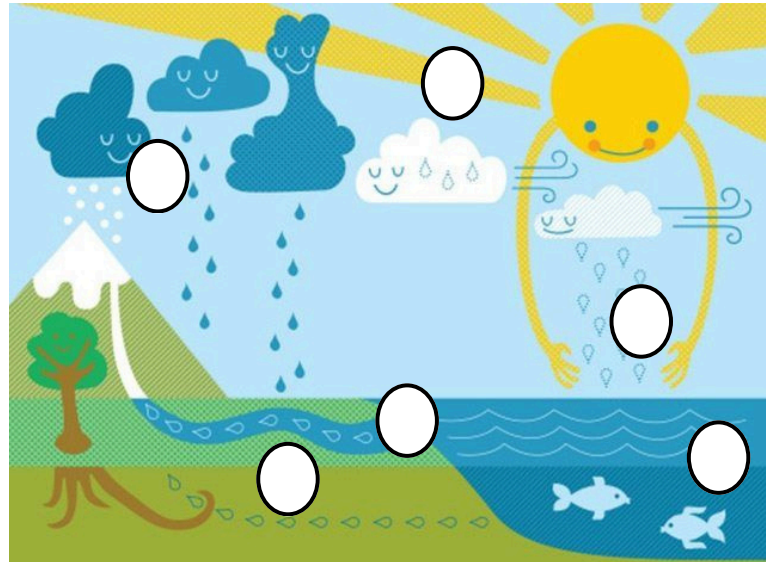
Dig With C.A.R.E.

Miss Utility at 800-552-7001 or 811

va811.com/how-to-when-to/

Use TTY 711 (Virginia Relay)

for all numbers unless stated otherwise.



Fairfax Water doesn't make fresh water—the Earth has been recycling it for over 4 billion years through the water cycle! Help us define the parts of the water cycle.

Write the letter for each item below onto the map.

- (A) Evaporation--Water turns into vapor and rises.
- (B) Condensation--Water vapor in the air changes to liquid water.
- (C) Precipitation--Water falls back to Earth.
- (D) Surface runoff--Water on the move, but not in the sky.
- (E) Plant uptake--Plants need water too!
- (F) Body of water--Let's go for a swim!

Want to know when we're closed for holidays?

Check out our website!

fairfaxwater.org/holidaycalendar



Fairfax Water is a public, not-for-profit water authority serving nearly 2.2 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties; Fort Belvoir, Herndon, Dulles, Vienna, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax City.



Know where your emergency shut-off valve is located. Even seconds of uncontrolled water use could be costly. For more tips on saving water, visit wateruseitwisely.com.