

LACEY LIFE

April 2007

Shaping our community together

City of Lacey Newsletter

A look at tiered water rates...

Like many communities in our state, Lacey's water utility has adopted a consumption-based, tiered water rate structure—meaning that as more water is used, the relative cost applied to additional quantities of water will increase.

How does this affect your water bill?

A typical Lacey household uses approximately 6,315 gallons of water per month during the winter, and 17,190 gallons monthly over the summer (due primarily to outdoor watering). In addition to the base rate, water used by the household will be assessed at the following rates:

Tier 1—A rate of .098 cents per gallon is charged for the first 4,500 gallons of water consumed (about a **penny for 10.2 gallons**).

Tier 2—The next 4,500 gallons are charged at a rate of .23 cents per gallon (4.4 gallons for a penny).

Tier 3—Anything above 1,200 gallons is charged at a rate of .29 cents per gallon (3.5 gallons for a penny).

Tier 4—Beginning in 2008, anything above 2,400 gallons per month will be charged at a rate of .4 cents per gallon (2.5 gallons for a penny).

Water used in the summer months to irrigate the lawn, wash the car and hose-off the driveway is therefore more expensive than water consumed for everyday household uses.

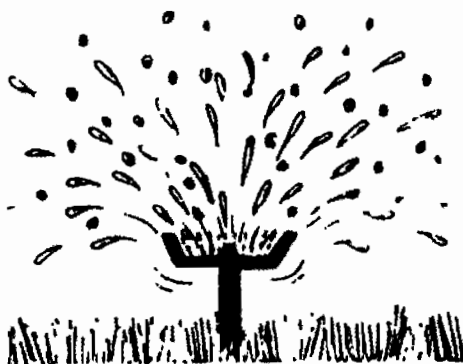
How do Lacey's new rates compare to other cities?

Based on similar consumption, the following table illustrates what a household would pay for water in neighboring jurisdictions:

	Lacey	Yelm	Tumwater	Olympia
Winter (6,315 Gal.)	\$17.42	\$22.26	\$19.43	\$18.59
Summer (17,190 Gal.)	\$47.67	\$54.82	\$48.95	\$44.09

Should you be using less water?

The Lacey Water Utility wants to encourage its customers to use water efficiently, both indoors and outdoors. Our tiered water rates, while competitive with other water utilities, are meant to ensure that this valuable resource is not wasted.



Water-wise practices you can adopt include installing landscaping that requires less water and observing odd/even outdoor watering days. Lacey Water customers can pick-up a **free** outdoor water-saving kit at City Hall. Point your browser to www.ci.lacey.wa.us and click on "Lacey Water Resources" for more great ideas. **For additional information, call City Hall at (360) 491-5600.**

Free Emergency Preparedness Fair...

April is **Disaster Preparedness Month** in Washington State. Are you, your family, your employer and co-workers prepared for the next natural or man-made disaster?

Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater, Yelm, Rainier, Tenino and Bucoda are sponsoring a free **Emergency Preparedness Fair** on **Saturday, April 14**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Saint Martin's University Worthington Center.

Disaster preparedness experts, informational displays and emergency supply vendors will be present throughout the day, with hourly drawings for free door prizes. Special presentations include:

- Household Emergency Preparedness, 9:30 a.m.**
- How to Prepare a 72-hour Emergency Kit, 10:30 a.m.**
- How to Map Your Neighborhood's Resources and Hazards, 11:30 a.m.**
- Exposure to Volcano Hazards in Thurston County, 12:30 p.m.**
- Household Emergency Preparedness, 1:30 p.m.**
- What to do About Bird Flu, 2:30 p.m.**
- Carbon Monoxide & Generator Safety, 3:30 p.m.**

For more information, visit www.co.thurston.wa.us/em or call Vivian Eason, Thurston County Emergency Management, (360) 786-5243.