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Request for City Council Committee Action From the Utility Billing Department/Finance

Date: November 5, 2004
To: Ways and Means Committee
Referral to: None

Subject: Utility Billing Insert (December 2004)

Recommendation:

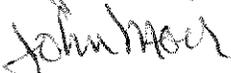
The Communications Department recommends the approval of a utility billing insert providing information regarding the "Use of Direct Payment to Pay Your Utility Bills Automatically." The message will include information about direct billing, its advantages and how to setup direct billing.

Previous Directives

(any past Council actions or directions to staff)

Prepared or Submitted by:

Gail Plewacki, Communications Director, 673-3763

Approved by: 
John Moir, City Coordinator 

Presenters in Committee (name, title)

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):

Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification - Yes

City Goals - Yes

Comprehensive Plan -Yes

Zoning Code

Other - Yes

Background/Supporting Information Attached

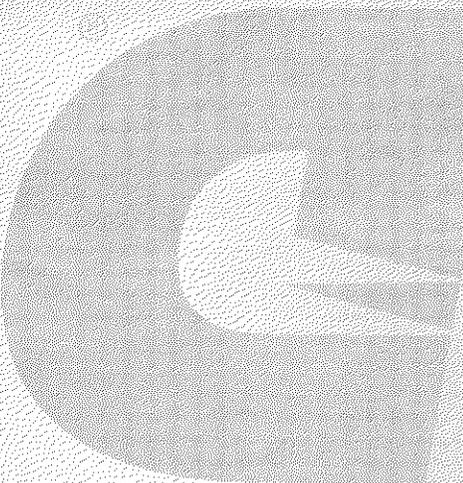


Postage Required Post Office will not deliver without proper postage.

DIRECT PAYMENT PROGRAM MN/WI
CUSTOMER SERVICE DEPARTMENT
PO BOX 359
NOVELTY, OH 44072-0359



Use Direct Payment to Pay Your Bills Automatically
DirectPaymentPlan.com



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Q. What is Direct Payment?
A. Direct Payment is a safe, convenient, and confidential method of...
Q. How do I sign up?
A. Complete all sections of the form on the back, sign and return. Or sign up...
Q. How will my bill be paid?
A. On the date shown on your bill your account will be debited from banking...
Q. When will this take effect?
A. Please continue to pay your bills the old way until you receive a notice on...
Q. What if my account is with a Credit Union or Savings & Loan?
A. We accept institutions nationwide.

Enroll today and let Direct Payment simplify your life by taking the hassle out of paying your bills.
Direct Payment is a safe, convenient, and confidential way to pay your recurring bills. It gives you the peace of mind that your bills are being paid on time, eliminating having to write and mail a check.

SIGN UP FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

Please complete **ALL** sections, sign and return this form:

I authorize the company(ies) indicated to instruct my banking/savings institution to make my payments from the account listed below. I understand that I control my payments, and if at any time I decide to discontinue this payment service, I will notify the biller.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name (as shown on bill) _____ Date _____

Service Address _____ City _____ State _____

SIGNATURE _____ Phone _____ Zip code _____

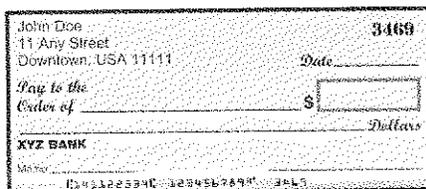
Account Information: (Bank, Savings Institution, Credit Union)

Enter the **Routing Number, Account Number and Financial Institution** name from your check or share draft. (See sample at right.)

Routing Number

Account Number: _____

Financial Institution: _____



Routing Number Account Number (serial #)
Do Not Include

Biller Information: (See Participating Billers listed below)

PLEASE ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS

BILLER #	PRINT NAME OF BILLER <i>(as shown on bill)</i>	ACCOUNT #
123	ABC Company	1-234-5678-9
(EXAMPLE)		

You can also enroll through: www.DirectPaymentPlan.com

Participating Billers In Your Area—Sign Up Today!

BILLER #	BILLER #
Cedarburg Light and Water CoWI400	Time Warner Cable - MinneapolisMN640
Centerpoint Energy Minnegasco.....MN105	SBC (Formerly Ameritech).....WI300
City of ChaskaMN403	Waupun Public UtilitiesWI503
City of Minneapolis Utilities.....MN407	We EnergiesWI102
Evansville Water and LightWI403	We Energies Water Services.....WI505
Kenosha Water UtilityWI500	Wisconsin Public Service CorporationWI103
Madison Gas and Electric.....WI101	Wisconsin Rapids Water and LightWI402
Milwaukee Water WorksWI401	Wood County Telephone.....WI302
Plymouth Utilities - WisconsinWI405	Xcel Energy (Minnesota)MN225
Saint Paul Regional Water Service.....MN505	Xcel Energy (Wisconsin)WI225
Stoughton Utilities.....WI502	

Fold, moisten, seal, affix a stamp, and mail

Watch for a change in your utility bill in early 2005

What's happening?

The City of Minneapolis is changing the way it bills for stormwater services provided to the community. Two of the reasons for the change are:

- State statute changes require the City to change its fee system
- The change will make fees more accurate and equitable

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater, which runs into storm drains and from there to lakes, rivers and ponds. That's why it's important for stormwater to be as clean as possible.

What is the current system?

Currently, the stormwater fee is included in your sewer fee, which is based on the amount of water used (sinks, flushing, showers, etc.). This does not accurately account for stormwater, which is rainwater running off your property into storm drains.

What is the change?

Your current sewer fee will be reduced to reflect only the amount of sewer services used and a new line item, a stormwater charge, will be added to your monthly bill.

Once the new fee is in place, the total, city-wide amount of revenue collected between the two fees (sewer and stormwater charge) will be the same as just the sewer fee in prior years. The difference will be that people/companies will pay for stormwater services based on an estimation

of impervious area (non-absorbent covering of the ground such as asphalt, cement, or buildings) on their property rather than on how much water they use.

What does the change mean for me?

The average single-family home will have a combined bill (sewer and stormwater) totaling the same or slightly less than the current bill. Some homes, however, will see an increased bill.

All other properties (including commercial properties, nonprofits, businesses, parking lots, etc.) will be billed based on the estimated impervious area on the property.

PLEASE NOTE:

this change is separate from the already scheduled 2005 rate increase.

Attention. If you want help translating this information, call 612-673-3737.

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700.

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.



[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater/
what-we-do/StormwaterRate.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater/what-we-do/StormwaterRate.asp)

or John McLain at 612-673-2990
or john.mclain@ci.minneapolis.mn.us