



Durham County

Residential Stormwater Utility Fee

What is the Stormwater Utility Fee?

- State water quality requirements prompted the need for DCo to implement this fee in 2020
- It will be used to fund projects used to reduce pollutants in our waterways to meet State requirements
- It is estimated that it may cost up to \$70 million over the next 20 years to meet the reduction goals
- Due to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the County adopted the initial Fee at 1/3 of the rate needed to fully fund compliance
- In FY2023, the County is raising the rates to more adequately fund its program

What do Residential Properties Pay?

- Three-tier billing system based on the amount of impervious surface on your property
- The fee is shown on your annual tax bill
- Impervious surfaces include roofs, driveways, sidewalks, patios, and more
- Using this rate structure, the majority of average-size homes fall under the middle tier
- More impervious surface has a larger impact on water quality, and a higher fee



What will the Fee pay for?

- Durham County is responsible for meeting the unfunded requirements of the Neuse, Jordan, and Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategies
- The County must reduce the amount of nutrient pollution that goes into our creeks, streams, and lakes
- The fees will be used to pay for:
 - new stormwater control measures
 - retrofits to existing systems
 - public education
 - identifying land conservation opportunities
 - assisting landowners with implementing measures that will reduce stormwater runoff

How much will I pay per year?

ERU: Equivalent Residential Unit

1 ERU = 4,300 square feet of impervious area, \$48 per ERU per year



Tier 1 Single Family Residential Properties (SFR)



400 to 2,700 square feet of impervious area – 0.5 ERUs (\$24)



Tier 2 Single Family Residential Properties (SFR)



2,700 to 6,000 square feet of impervious area – 1 ERU (\$48)



Tier 3 Single Family Residential Properties (SFR)



Greater than 6,000 square feet of impervious area – 2 ERUs (\$96)



Visit our website or email stormwaterutility@dconc.gov for more information.