



Goal 10

Provide Efficient Services

Indicator #21—Per capita cost to provide water and sewer systems

Why is this indicator important?

The cost of water and sewer services is related to the density of development within a community. Construction and maintenance costs of infrastructure are lower in communities that have more compact land use patterns, such as homes that are located close together. Lower water and sewer infrastructure costs let taxpayers save through efficiency, and help achieve Regional Growth Strategy (RGS) goals to create compact communities.

What does this indicator tell us?

This indicator tells us how efficient the provision of community water and waste water systems are per person. This is an indication of how compact and dense Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) communities are. Services can be provided more efficiently when more people/homes are located closer together. In higher density communities the per capita costs can be lower because of the greater number of users on a more compact system.

Where do we want to go?

The RGS encourages compact forms of development where residents live close to the services they need on a daily basis. Such an increase in the density of communities decreases the cost of providing services, because existing infrastructure is used more efficiently.

Target: Decrease per capita cost of water and sewer

What is included in this indicator?

This indicator includes the operational costs of providing water services, sewer services and waste water treatment within the RDN and member municipalities. The indicator also uses information about the number of dwelling units or population served by the service area.

Where are we right now?

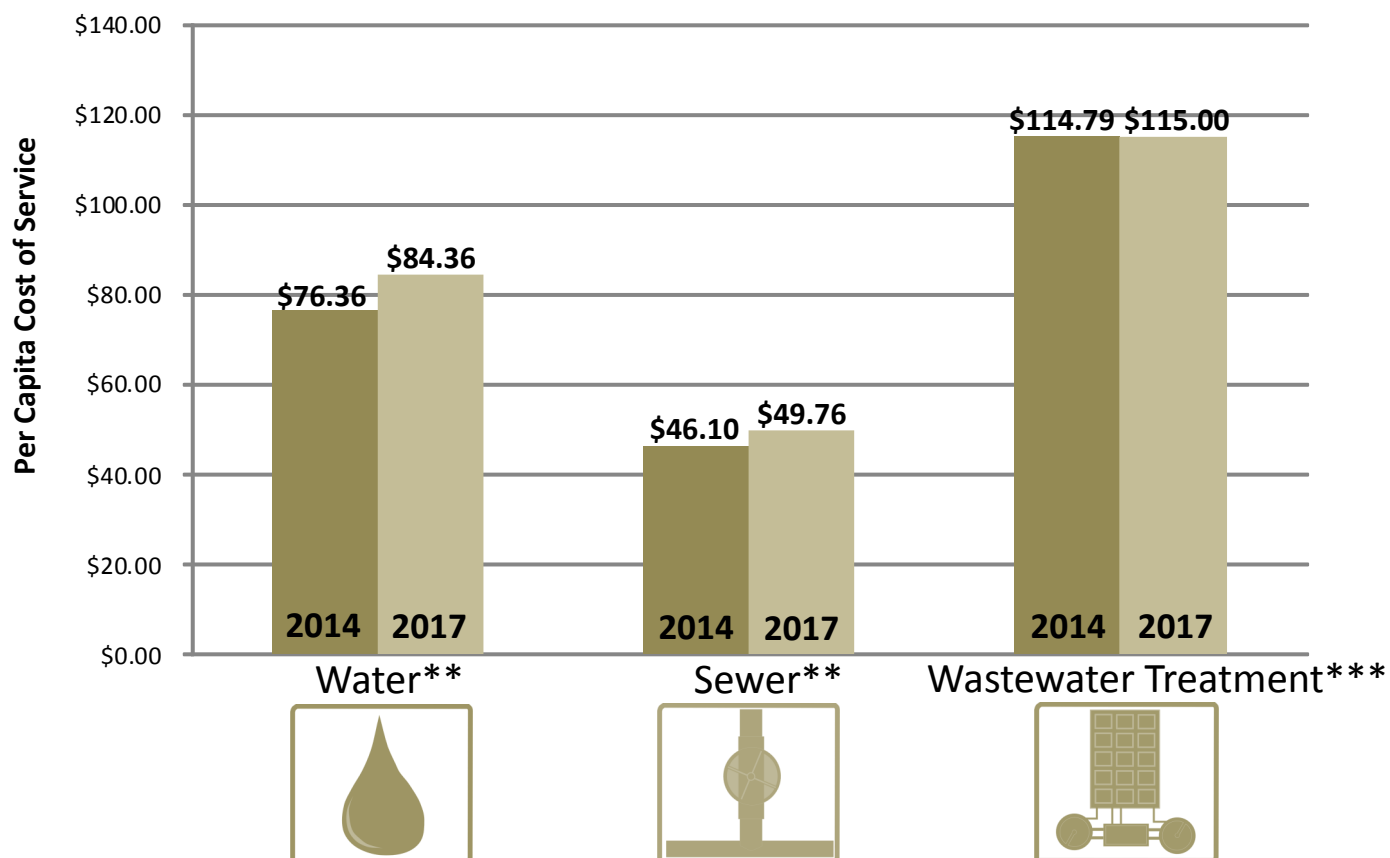
The 2014 per capita cost of water and sewer systems in the table is a baseline cost estimate, and will be used to establish a trend for future updates to this indicator. In 2014, water systems cost \$76.36 per capita and the cost of sewer systems was \$46.10 per capita for the City of Nanaimo and RDN Electoral Areas. In 2014 the cost of wastewater treatment was \$114.79 per capita for the entire RDN. In 2017, the cost of water systems for the City of Nanaimo and RDN Electoral Areas was \$84.36 per capita and the cost of sewer systems was \$49.76 per capita. In 2017 the cost of wastewater treatment was \$115.00 per capita for the entire RDN. Water and sewer costs for 2014 and 2017 are for the City of Nanaimo and RDN Electoral Areas. Costs for wastewater treatment are for the entire RDN for both 2014 and 2017. In 2017, the cost of water systems for the Town of Qualicum Beach was \$145.48 per capita and the cost of sewer systems was \$47.78 per capita. In 2017, the cost of water systems for the City of Parksville was \$139.64 per capita and the cost of sewer systems was \$71.84 per capita.

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Target: Decrease per capita cost of water and sewer

Electoral Areas and City of Nanaimo Per Capita Cost of Services by Water, Wastewater and Sewer Systems, 2014 and 2017



RDN Electoral Areas and City of Nanaimo 2017	Water**	Sewer **	Wastewater Treatment***
Population	105,506	96,614	125,248
Total Cost	\$8,900,628	\$4,708,449	\$14,376,349
Per capita cost*	\$84.36	\$49.76	\$115.00

* Some per capita estimates are based on the number of households and an average of 2.2 persons per household

**Water and Sewer information is only for RDN Electoral Areas and the City of Nanaimo

***Wastewater Treatment information is for entire RDN

Updated August 2018