

Proposed Drought Surcharge

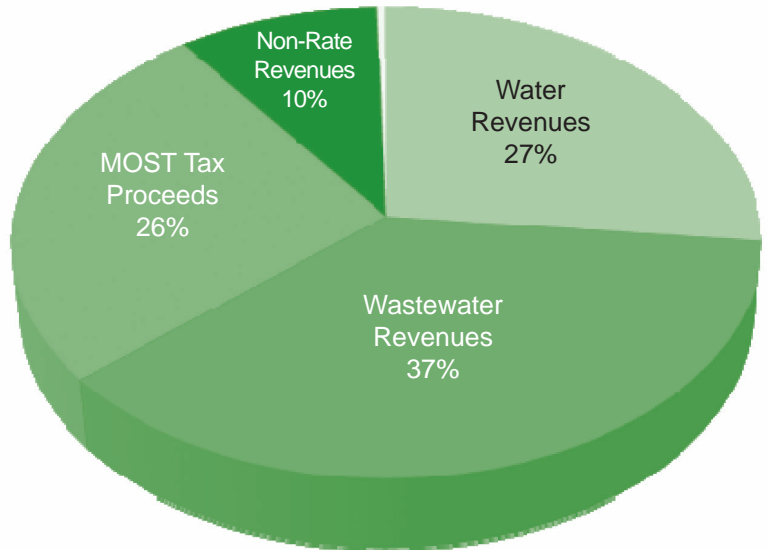
DWM has submitted legislation to Atlanta City Council that would apply a temporary 15 percent drought surcharge while the City is in a Level 4 Drought. The surcharge would make up for the water/sewer revenues that will be lost this year due to State-mandated reductions in water use.

This pie chart (see graphic) illustrates DWM's revenue sources – notice that water and sewer fees are the largest sources of revenue. While funding from the Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST) is significant, it only provides a fourth of DWM's operating budget. Money generated through a drought surcharge would help DWM continue to fund its federally mandated Clean Water Atlanta projects and other obligations.

The 15 percent drought surcharge would not be applied to those who use 3 CCF or less, which includes many seniors, as well as people who are practicing strict water conservation. The drought surcharge will apply to all

commercial, industrial, and residential customers who use more than 3 CCF per billing cycle. (1 CCF = approximately 750 gallons of water).

Sources of Funds



Stimulate the Economy with a Low-flow Toilet

If you're undecided about how best to spend your 2007 economic stimulus rebate check, consider spending a portion of it on a new, low-flow toilet. You'll conserve water and reduce your monthly water bill.

To take advantage of the City of Atlanta's toilet rebate program, visit www.atlantawatershed.org.



Get Your Free Water Conservation Kit

Representatives from DWM distribute free indoor water conservation kits each Wednesday, from 11 am – 1 pm at City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, in the Atrium. For more information, contact Kim Davis, 404-546-1264, kcddavis@atlantaga.gov.



Important Numbers to Remember

Customer Service: 404-658-6500
Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
Customer Service E-mail: watershedhelp@atlwater.com



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The Drought and Atlanta's Trees

Extreme drought can weaken trees, leaving them more vulnerable to disease, insect infestations and rot. Fortunately, there are some steps you can take to help your trees stay healthy.

Try these suggestions:

- Place a layer of organic mulch 3-4 inches deep around the base of the tree (roughly 3 feet in diameter around newly planted trees, wider for large established trees.)
- Remove weeds and grass in the tree's drip line.
- Use collected rainwater to water plants when possible.
- Plant native species that are suited to the local climate.

- Don't over-fertilize trees.
- Don't prune trees to reduce their need for water.



For more information about tree care, visit the Department of Planning & Community Development's web site at www.atlantaga.gov.

Senior Citizen's Ball Scheduled for May 27

The 16th Annual Mayor's Ball for Senior Citizens will be held on Tuesday, May 27, at the Hyatt Regency Downtown. City of Atlanta residents who are 55 and older are welcome. To reserve your spot, send your name, address, phone number and request for 1-2 tickets to Kimberly Davis, Constituent Services, City of Atlanta, 55 Trinity Avenue, Suite 1920, Atlanta GA 30303. You may also fax your information to 404-658-7088.

Save the Date

You can have fun and protect the Chattahoochee River at the same time. Party with Collective Soul at the River Revival or kayak with friends at the Back to the Chattahoochee River Race & Festival. Funds raised through both events support the Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper, a nonprofit river protection organization.



- **12th Annual River Revival**, May 15 at Park Tavern at Piedmont Park.
- **Back to the Chattahoochee River Race & Festival**, June 14 at Riverside Park in Roswell.

For tickets or more information, call 404-352-9828, ext. 12, or visit www.ucriverkeeper.org.

Super Water Saver

Mr. and Mrs. Jorg Voss, devoted gardeners living in Roswell, are this month's super water savers. A retired engineer, Mr. Voss created a rain barrel system that is both affordable and easy to build. The Vosses currently have 27 rain barrels that supply water to their extensive shade garden. DWM has partnered with Mr. Voss and his associate, David Klepinger, to create an online rain barrel workshop that will be available on www.atlantawatershed.org. Look for the workshop next month.

Doing Our Part

City Departments are taking water conservation seriously. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DPRCA) has made the following changes at the Atlanta Civic Center:

- Retrofitted 94 sinks from 2.5 gallons-per-minute (gpm) flow to .5-gpm flow
- Retrofitted 28 showers from 2.5 gpm to 2.0gpm
- Replaced 103 4.5 gallons-per-flush (gpf) toilets with 3.5 gpf models
- Replaced 20 45 gpf urinals with 1.6 gpf models

On average, each toilet is used five times per show; each urinal is used four times per show. The new toilets and urinals save roughly 515 and 232 gallons of water respectively per show.