

**Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility
Service Charge Adjustment Request Form**

DIRECTIONS: Call the Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater Division at (360) 778-6230 for information about how your current charge was calculated and to ask for assistance completing a service charge adjustment request.

1. Read all pages then complete this form and attach the following supplemental information:
 - a) Written explanation of why you believe this property qualifies for a rate adjustment.
 - b) For adjustments related to impervious area measurement, provide a map drawn to scale showing all impervious area on the property with calculations documenting the total impervious area and photos documenting areas under tree cover as needed.
 - c) For all other types of adjustments, call the number listed above to confirm what supplemental documentation is required. Documentation requirements vary by type of rate adjustment.
2. Mail or submit completed form and supporting documents within 30 days of the date of the bill (property tax statement) to: Whatcom County Public Works Stormwater, Attn: Kraig Olason, 322 N. Commercial St., Suite 224, Bellingham, WA 98225. Office hours Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

APPLICANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

PROPERTY OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION: (if different than above)

Name _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (_____) _____ or (_____) _____

PROPERTY STREET ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY TAX PARCEL NUMBER: _____

TYPE OF ADJUSTMENT: Check the type of adjustment you are requesting. **See descriptions on page 2 -3.**

	<i>Type of Service Charge (Rate) Adjustment Request</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Single-family residence – impervious area footprint designation is incorrect
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other type of developed parcel - impervious area measurement is incorrect
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel contains no impervious area and should not be charged
<input type="checkbox"/>	Entire parcel is developed in compliance with the 2013 Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay code - all runoff is managed with permanent stormwater systems meeting current county code standards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel has a commercial building with a rainwater harvesting system
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel is contiguous (shares a border) with another parcel and combined parcels function as one single-family residence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel is owned by a person approved by the Whatcom County Assessor for a senior citizen or disabled persons tax exemption and should not be charged
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel is taxed as forestland or timberland and should not be charged
<input type="checkbox"/>	Parcel is misclassified

I certify that all of the above information and the statements contained in attachments are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

 APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

 DATE

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
DATE RECEIVED:	DATE OF BILL:	RECEIVED BY:
When requestor is other than owner of the property in question, the OWNER was notified by a staff person of the appeal on the following date:		

Notes

- (1) Whatcom County Code Chapter 16.30 Lake Whatcom Stormwater Utility Service Area is available at www.codepublishing.com/WA/WhatcomCounty/.
- (2) **Applying for a Service Charge (Rate) Adjustment Request does not change your property tax due date** (WCC 16.30.080(A)). If your request is approved and your annual charge is reduced, a credit will be applied to your next property tax bill.
- (3) Annual rates per equivalent service unit (ESU) are \$73.76 in 2020 and \$147.52 beginning in 2021.

Adjustment Type Descriptions

(1) Single-family residence – impervious area footprint designation is incorrect 16.30.050(N) & 16.30.080(B)(1)

Initial charges for single-family residential properties were based on average impervious area footprints calculated from a sample of residential properties in the service area. You may apply for a lower rate based on documentation of the actual impervious area on your parcel. See WCC 16.30.050(H) for definition of impervious surfaces. Gravel driveways/parking areas are considered impervious.

Impervious Footprint Tier	Rate
Small Footprint less than or equal to 2,500 ft ² of impervious area	0.75 ESU
Medium Footprint > 2,500 – 8,400 ft ² of impervious area	1.0 ESU
Large Footprint >8,400 ft ² of impervious area	2.0 ESU

(2) Other type of developed parcel - impervious area measurement is incorrect 16.30.080(B)(2)

Initial charges were based on the amount of impervious area measured from an aerial photograph rounded to the nearest whole equivalent service unit (ESU) of 4,200 ft². You may apply for a lower rate based on documentation of the actual impervious area on your parcel. See WCC 16.30.050(H) for definition of impervious surfaces. Gravel driveways/parking areas are considered impervious.

(3) Parcel contains no impervious area and should not be charged 16.30.080(B)(3)

If your parcel contains no impervious area as defined in WCC 16.30.050(H) or the only impervious area is associated with a county or private road as defined by WCC 16.30.050(C) or (L), you may apply for the service charge to be removed. Documentation of on-the-ground conditions or a site visit from Whatcom County staff may be required.

(4) Entire parcel is developed in compliance with the 2013 Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District code - all runoff is managed with permanent stormwater systems 16.30.080(B)(4)

Properties with permanent stormwater facilities (e.g., dispersion systems, infiltration trenches, filter vaults, etc.) that meet the engineering standards established in the 2013 Lake Whatcom Watershed Overlay District code (WCC 20.51.420) and treat runoff from all impervious areas on the property are eligible for a 35% rate credit. If the building permits for your home were issued after August, 2013, this rate credit may apply to your property. Required documentation includes a report from a licensed civil engineer, Declaration of Covenant and Grant of Easement For Existing Parcel Sited Private Party Operated and Maintained Stormwater Management Facilities that Serve Development on the Existing Parcel, or similar.

(5) Parcel has a commercial building with a rainwater harvesting system 16.30.080(B)(5)

Properties with a new or remodeled commercial building that utilizes a rainwater harvesting system sized to utilize the available roof surface of the building qualify for a 10% rate reduction. Documentation of the system is required.

(6) Parcel is contiguous (shares a border) with another parcel and combined parcels function as one single-family residence 16.30.080(B)(6)

If you own two or more contiguous parcels that function as a single single-family residence and each parcel has been charged separately, you may apply for a rate adjustment to receive a single residential service charge.

(7) Parcel is owned by a person approved by the Whatcom County Assessor for a senior citizen or disabled persons tax exemption and should not be charged 16.30.090

Property owners approved for the senior citizen and disabled persons tax exemption by the Whatcom County Assessor do not receive a stormwater utility service charge. Visit <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/265> for details on this program. If you were approved for this program after the service charges were assigned (usually in September/October), you may apply for a rate adjustment to have your charge removed.

(8) Parcel is taxed as forestland or timberland and should not be charged 16.30.050(G) & 16.30.060(F)(3)

Parcels that meet the definition of forestland or timberland in RCW 84.33 or 84.34 do not receive a service charge. Single-family residential charges still apply for the portion of the property used for a home instead of forestland. You may apply for a rate adjustment to have your charge removed if the entire property is taxed as forestland or timberland.

(9) Parcel is misclassified

Read the following code definitions: WCC 16.30.050(D)(J)(N)(O). If your property has been misclassified you may apply for a rate adjustment to have it reclassified correctly with documentation.