

# 2003 Connecticut Sewer Rate Survey



9 Harmony Street, Danbury, CT 06810 T 203-748-1442 F 203-798-9984  
213 Court Street, Suite 900, Middletown, CT 06457 T 860-704-4760 F 860-704-4775  
1000 Bridgeport Avenue, Suite 320, Shelton, CT 06484 T 203-712-1100 F 203-925-8942

Other offices: Bellows Falls, VT; Pocasset, MA; Westfield, MA; Worcester, MA

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# **SEWER RATE SURVEY CONNECTICUT COMMUNITIES**

## **2003**

Tighe & Bond is pleased to produce our 2003 "Sewer Rate Survey" for communities in Connecticut. Our survey is limited to communities serving a population of 500 or greater. The survey summarizes information from the following sources:

- written survey responses
- telephone surveys
- municipal websites

A variety of different rate structures are used throughout the state. Based on the written survey results, 44% of communities use a flat or uniform rate structure and 44% use a flat fee. Eleven percent incorporate costs for sewerage systems through general taxation. A mere 1% of communities use ascending rates based on consumption levels.

To allow for a comparative analysis, we have calculated the "typical" yearly homeowner's cost assuming consumption of 96 hundred cubic feet (72,000 gallons) of water per year. Based on the information included in this survey, *typical annual sewer costs in Connecticut range from a low of \$100 per household to a high of \$383*. The 2003 average is \$211 per household.

The majority of respondents to the written survey use an annual billing cycle (50%), while 24% use a biannual billing cycle and 24% use a quarterly billing cycle. About 1% reported using a monthly

billing cycle. Of those communities responding to the written survey, 49% indicated that they have a separate rate structure for businesses. Just 4% provide separate elderly discounts and only 4% provide seasonal rates. None provide low income or early payment discounts.

Tighe & Bond would like to thank all communities for their participation in this survey. Comparisons of sewer rate structures and resulting typical homeowner's costs can be difficult given the wide variety of user charge methods in use. If we have incorrectly interpreted information for any community please let us know and we will make appropriate corrections. Questions, comments or suggestions are certainly welcome. Please contact Mary Beth Morris, P.E. at (413) 572-3247 for further information.

Tighe & Bond has been providing consulting engineering services to government and industry for decades. Ever since the federal Clean Water Act of 1972, municipalities have been faced with the challenge of keeping up with changing regulations governing the discharge of wastewater to rivers and streams. With engineering expertise and current regulatory knowledge, Tighe & Bond has helped many communities meet the challenge of wastewater management. Tighe & Bond also provides expertise in residuals management, water resources management, civil engineering and solid and hazardous waste management.

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<b>Community</b>	<b>Typical Annual Homeowner's Cost</b>	<b>Sewer Rate</b>	<b>Billing Cycle</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Separate Business Rate</b>	<b>Seasonal Rate</b>	<b>Elderly Discounts</b>	<b>Estimated Population Served</b>	<b>Last Rate Change</b>
<b>Avon, Town of</b>	\$225	\$225/year	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			7,500	4/03
Notes: Connection charges: \$750 residential (\$1,250 - FY03-04), Commercial rate based on water consumption. Impact fees vary on zone and cost for construction.									
<b>Berlin, Town of</b>	\$156	\$1.62/HCF	Biannually	Enterprise				4,859	NR
Notes: Discharges to the Mattabassett District located in Cromwell.									
<b>Bloomfield, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				19,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad velorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>Bridgeport, City of</b>	\$340	\$2.617/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise				137,000	NR
Notes: Rate determined based on 130 HCF. Service Area: Bridgeport, Trumbull, and small portion of Stratford and Fairfield.									
<b>Bristol, City of</b>	\$172	\$1.3752/HCF	Quarterly	Special Revenue				53,100	7/1/00
Notes: Service charge of \$10.00 per quarter. Connection charges: \$500 or \$700 for new construction.									

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<b>Brooklyn, Town of</b>	\$180	\$180/year	Annually	NR	✓			NR	1996
Notes: Connection charges: \$1,200 per single family.									
<b>Burlington, Town of</b>	\$153	\$153/year	Annually	General				795	6/1/03
<b>Canton, Town of</b>	\$245	\$245/year	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			1,200	4/1/02
Notes: Commercial/Industrial is billed semi-annually at \$2.56/HCF. Connection charges: \$6,950.									
<b>Cheshire, Town of</b>	\$250	\$250/year	Annually	NR				NR	2003
<b>Chester, Town of</b>	\$332	\$332/year	Annually	NR				NR	2001/2002
Notes: Service Area: Chester Center.									
<b>Colchester, Town of</b>	\$265	Ascending	Quarterly	Special Revenue				4,300	7/1/95
Notes: Base charge: \$11.50 includes up to 1,000 gals.; 1,001-5,000 gals. - \$2.85/1000 gals.; 5,001-15,000 gals. - \$3.20/1000 gals.; 15,001-30,000 gals. - \$3.75/1000 gals.; 30,000+ gals. - \$4.60/1000 gals. Connection charges: based on water service/meter size - 1" water service = \$1,200.									

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<b>Coventry, Town of</b>	\$260	\$260/year	Annually	NR				NR	7/1/99
Notes: Service area: Lake Village									
<b>Cromwell, Town of</b>	\$125	\$125/year	Annually	Special Revenue				8,300	4/1/01
Notes: Rate determined based on 62,000 gallons annual consumption. Part of Mattabassett District.									
<b>Danbury, City of</b>	\$102	\$1.58/1000 gals	Quarterly	Enterprise	✓			41,000	7/1/02
Notes: Sewer charge based on 90% of water consumption. O&M charge is equivalent to \$1.30/1000 gals.; debt service charge is equivalent to \$0.28/1000 gals. for residential Class 1 and 1A. Minimum quarterly sewer use charge is \$12.69. Separate rates for unmetered customers, as well as nonresidential and commercial. Connection charges: \$500; Impact fees: based on square footage.									
<b>Darien, Town of</b>	\$307	\$3.20/HCF	Annually	Enterprise				NR	NR
Notes: Actual residential bill is based on lowest two quarters of consumption. Commercial users charge is based on 100% of water use. Connection charges varies on cost of project.									
<b>Deep River, Town of</b>	\$330	\$330/year	Annually	Enterprise	✓		✓	1,000	1996
Notes: Elderly discount applies at housing complex = 10% of rent. Connection charges: \$2,000 for new extensions.									

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<b>Derby, City of</b>	\$189	\$0.30/gpd	Annually	Enterprise	✓			11,300	5/14/01
Notes: There is also a flat fee of \$130 per year. The commercial rate is \$1.43/gpd.									
<b>East Hampton, Town of</b>	\$225	\$225/year	Annually	Enterprise				8,900	11/1/03
Notes: Service Area: East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron.									
<b>East Hartford, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				47,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad velorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>East Haven, Town of</b>	\$130	\$130/year	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			25,600	7/1/96
Notes: \$130 flat rate for 1 family; \$260 flat rate for 2 family.									
<b>East Lyme, Town of</b>	\$288	\$4.00/1000 gals.	Biannually	Special Revenue				12,600	1991
<b>East Windsor, Town of</b>	\$178	\$178/year	Annually	NR	✓			NR	7/1/02

Community	Typical Annual Homeowner's Cost	Sewer Rate	Billing Cycle	Funding	Separate Business Rate	Seasonal Rate	Elderly Discounts	Estimated Population Served	Last Rate Change
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Notes: Bill sent annually however residents have the option of paying in two installments. Connection charges: \$4,994 per unit.

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<b>Ellington, Town of</b>	\$358	\$358/year	Biannually	Enterprise		✓		7,500	10/97
Notes: Rate determined based on 54,750 gallons annual consumption. Service area: Hockanum River Water Shed. Connection charges: Benefit assessment \$1,638/									
<b>Enfield, Town of</b>	\$163	\$2.26/1000 gals.	NR	NR				NR	NR
Notes: Applies to tax exempt properties only. Residents pay for sewer operating cost through real estate taxes. Rates from information collected in 1999.									
<b>Fairfield, Town of</b>	\$144	\$1.50/HCF	Biannually	Special Revenue				43,100	7/01
<b>Farmington, Town of</b>	\$141	\$141/year	Annually	NR	✓			NA	7/1/97
Notes: Rates from information collected in 1999.									
<b>Glastonbury, Town of</b>	\$149	\$1.55/HCF	Annually	Enterprise				17,500	9/02
Notes: Minimum bill/standby charge is \$50. Non-metered accounts are billed \$217.00/annually (140 HCF x \$1.55/HCF). The Town allows special meters for measuring non-sewered use (sprinklers/pools) and deduct this.									
<b>Granby, Town of</b>	\$144	\$0.00247/gal.	Annually	NR	✓			800	1995

Community	Typical Annual Homeowner's Cost	Sewer Rate	Billing Cycle	Funding	Separate Business Rate	Seasonal Rate	Elderly Discounts	Estimated Population Served	Last Rate Change
<p>Notes: \$102.00 per bill includes up to 55,000 gals. annually; \$0.00247/per gallon over. Businesses: \$147 up to 100,000 gals; \$0.00247/per gallon over. Connection charges: permit = \$75; assessment \$850 residential.</p>									

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<b>Greenwich, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	Special Revenue	✓			17,400	NA
Notes: Cost is included in ad velorem tax. Sewer system costs are paid through property taxes. Connection charges: \$100 per unit (300 gallons per day).									
<b>Groton, Town of</b>	\$240	\$20.00/month	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			22,400	7/1/02
Notes: Commercial Rate: \$0.03187/CF.									
<b>Hamden, Town of</b>	\$151	\$1.57/HCF	Quarterly	NR	✓			NR	7/1/03
Notes: Users with private water sources are charged \$156.03 per year per dwelling unit.									
<b>Hartford, City of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				130,000	NA
Notes: Cost is included in ad velorem tax to member towns. (non taxable properties/non member towns are charged \$1.41/HCF)									
<b>Hebron, Town of</b>	\$270	\$270/year	Annually	NA	✓			800	6/1/01
<b>Jewitt City - Department of Public Utilities</b>	\$297	\$3.09/HCF	Quarterly	NA				1,000 users	1994

Notes: Service area: Borough of Jewett City, some areas of Griswold, Lisbon Landing Shopping Plaza, Lisbon, CT. Connection charges: buy in fee: \$3,000; tie-in \$1,000 per edu.

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<b>Killingly, Town of</b>	\$185	\$185/year	Annually	NR	✓			8,600	6/1/03
Notes: Based on 80,000 gallons annually.									
<b>Manchester, Town of</b>	\$228	\$2.38/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise				>50,000	7/1/03
<b>Mansfield, Town of</b>	\$202	\$0.021/CF	Biannually	Enterprise				2,400	4/1/01
Notes: Mansfield sends its wastewater to Windham for treatment and sets its rates yearly to cover the costs; reports annual consumption to be 7,500 cf.									
<b>Meriden, City of</b>	\$182	\$1.73/HCF	Biannually	Enterprise				51,000	1990
Notes: Meter charge is \$7.90 per bill. Rates from information collected in 2001.									
<b>Metropolitan District Commission</b>	\$145	\$1.51/HCF	Quarterly	NR	✓			400,000	1/1/03
Notes: Applicable to non-municipal tax exempt users (hospitals, churches, etc.) and High Flow users (industrial/commercial customers with an average daily sewage discharge of over 25,000 gallons).									
<b>Middlebury, Town of</b>	\$100	\$100/year	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			6,000	1991

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<b>Middletown, City of</b>	\$145	\$15.15/1000 CF	Biannually	Special Revenue			✓	34,800	11/03
Notes: Connection charge: \$2,800. Part of Mattabasset District.									
<b>Montville, Town of</b>	\$252	\$252/year	Quarterly	Enterprise	✓			4,100	7/1/01
Notes: Rates from information collected in 2001.									
<b>Morris, Town of</b>	\$230	\$230/year	Annually	NR	✓			NR	2001
<b>Naugatuck, Town of</b>	\$125	\$125/year	Annually	NR				NR	NR
Notes: Rate is for Beacon Falls residents whose sewerage flows in Naugatuck sewer system. Naugatuck does not have a sewer user charge for its residents. A portion of taxes is used to pay for sewerage system costs. Rates from information collected in 2001.									
<b>New Britain, City of</b>	\$129	\$1.34/HCF	Biannually	Enterprise				70,000	7/1/02
Notes: Part of Mattabasset District.									
<b>New Haven, City of</b>	\$134	\$1.10/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise				200,000	1991

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Notes: Administration fee per billing: \$6.98. Service area: Hamden, East Haven, Woodbridge.

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<b>Newington, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				28,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad velorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>North Haven, Town of</b>	\$142	\$1.9451/1000 gals.	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			17,800	1994
Notes: Rate determined based on 73,000 gallons annual consumption. Service area: North Haven and North Branford. Connection charges: \$500.									
<b>Norwalk, City of</b>	\$175	\$175/year	Biannually	NR	✓			NR	7/2/03
Notes: Commercial and industrial customers: \$250/year for less than 110,000 gal. of water per year. Consumption of more than 110,000 gals. - \$4.95/1000 gals. above the base charge of \$250.									
<b>Norwich, City of</b>	\$297	\$3.09/HCF	Monthly	Enterprise				12,200	7/1/98
Notes: Connection charges: \$2,500.									
<b>Orange, Town of</b>	\$284	\$3.95/1000 gals.	Annually	Enterprise				NR	7/1/00
<b>Plainville, Town of</b>	\$276	\$28.75/1000 CF	Biannually	Enterprise	✓			16,000	1998

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<b>Plymouth, Town of</b>	\$178	\$178/year	Annually	NR	✓			4,000	8/1/03
Notes: Based on 52,000 gals. Annually. Service area: Terryville/Plymouth/Pequabuck. Connection charge: \$1,500.									
<b>Putnam, Town of</b>	\$143	\$35.86/quarter	Quarterly	Enterprise	✓			6,800	1/1/92
Notes: Based on \$35.88 per quarter for in-town residents; Out-of-town residents pay \$44.82 per quarter.									
<b>Rocky Hill, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				16,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad velorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>Seymour, Town of (US Filter Operating Services)</b>	\$269	\$2.80/HCF	Biannually	NA			✓	10,000	3/00
<b>Shelton, City of</b>	\$120	\$120/year	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			18,000	1996
Notes: Residential rate is determined based on assumed consumption of 210 gallons/day.									
<b>Simsbury, Town of</b>	\$200	\$200/year	Annually	Special Revenue				7,000	7/1/02

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Notes: Connection charges: varies - \$450.

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<b>Somers, Town of</b>	\$165	\$165/EDU	Annually	Separate WPCA O&M				500	10/1/02
Notes: Connection charges: \$2,500 assessments plus \$75.00 permit.									
<b>Southington, Town of</b>	\$163	\$1.70/HCF	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			26,500	1/1/94
Notes: For customers not using public water - residential rate of \$50.90/person in household. Restaurant rate is \$4.90/seat; commercial rate is \$16.70/employee.									
<b>South Windsor, Town of</b>	\$210	\$210/year	Annually	Special Revenue				18,000	6/02
Notes: Rate determined based on 93,000 gallons annual consumption. Connection charges: \$850.									
<b>Sprague, Town of</b>	\$316	\$316/year	Quarterly	Enterprise				1,400	7/1/02
Notes: Connection charge: \$100.									
<b>Stafford, Town of</b>	\$200	\$200/year	Biannually	Special Revenue	✓			1500 households	4/4/02
Notes: Based on annual consumption of 65,000 gals. Commercial Rates: \$216/year for up to 65,000 gals.; \$270/year - 65,001 - 100,000 gals.; \$425/year - 100,001 - 200,000 gals.; \$580/year - 200,001 - 300,000 gals.; \$735/year - 400,001 - 500,000 gals.; over 500,001 will be \$1.55/1000 gals. or portions thereof and \$115 per line charge. Connection charges: \$225/unit.									

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<b>Stamford, City of</b>	\$183	\$1.91/HCF	Biannually	NR				>100,000	10/02
Notes: The sewer user charge covers the cost of operating and maintaining the wastewater treatment facility and collection system. The cost was previously included in tax bill.									
<b>Stonington, Town of</b>	\$297	\$3.09/HCF	Biannually	Enterprise				10,600	6/1/02
Notes: Connection charges: if not assessed during construction \$2,195.09 per unit plus frontage, area and land value.									
<b>Stratford, Town of</b>	\$178	\$178/year	Biannually	Enterprise	✓			49,389	7/1/00
Notes: Rates determined based on 95 HCF annual consumption. Industrial users based on flow - \$2.076/HCF billed semi-annually. Connection charges: \$15.00 industrial sewer connection permit fee.									
<b>Suffield, Town of</b>	\$165	\$165/year	Annually	Enterprise	✓			5,800	7/1/00
Notes: Sewer charge is based on 90% of water consumption. Commercial rates are based on water consumption. Connection charges: \$8,000 single/\$5,000 developer.									
<b>Thomaston, Town of</b>	\$205	\$2.85/1000 gals.	Annually	NR	✓			6,300	2001
Notes: Service area: Thomaston - 20,000 gals/day from neighboring Northfield which is part of Litchfield.									

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<b>Torrington, City of</b>	\$155	\$155/year	Annually	Enterprise				31,100	7/1/03
Notes: Rate determined based on 65,000 gallons annual consumption. Commercial rates are based on water consumption. Connection charges: \$2,500.									
<b>Trumbull, Town of</b>	\$366	\$3.01/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise	✓			20,200	1/1/03
Notes: Service charge is \$76.94 a year for Annual Maintenance Unit Charge. Summer consumption is based on an average of winter and fall quarters. The town estimates that annual household water consumption is 30 HCF (\$167/year).									
<b>Vernon, Town of</b>	\$219	\$3.04/1000 gals.	Quarterly	Enterprise				24,900	10/1/00
Notes: Rates from information collected in 2001.									
<b>Waterbury, City of</b>	\$383	\$3.993/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise		✓		104,000	7/1/02
Notes: Service area: Waterbury, Watertown and Wolcott.									
<b>Waterford, Town of</b>	\$190	\$190/year	Biannually	Enterprise	✓	✓		NR	8/1/00
Notes: Commercial rates: \$2.96/1000 gals.									

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<b>West Hartford, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				56,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad valorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>West Haven, City of</b>	\$134	\$134/year	Biannually	Special Revenue	✓			50,600	1994
<b>Wethersfield, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				25,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad valorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									
<b>Windham, Town of</b>	\$225	\$2.34/HCF	Quarterly	Enterprise				13,000	7/1/93
Notes: Flat rate = \$42.12 quarterly - sewer only customers. Connection charge: \$600.									
<b>Windsor, Town of</b>	--	NA	NA	NA				27,000	NA
Notes: MDC member town. Cost is included in ad valorem tax. A portion of taxes goes to the MDC.									

Community	Typical Annual Homeowner's Cost	Sewer Rate	Billing Cycle	Funding	Separate Business Rate	Seasonal Rate	Elderly Discounts	Estimated Population Served	Last Rate Change
Windsor Locks, Town of	\$225	\$3.12/1000 gals.	Annually	Special Revenue	✓			11,300	6/10/03

Notes: Connection charges: \$3,000.

**NOTES:**

Costs based on typical family using 72,000 gallons (96 HCF) per year.

HCF = hundred cubic feet

MDC = Residential users are not billed by The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) directly. The MDC bills each participating community, and the town then bills the average rate which is included in residential property tax.

NA = Not Applicable

NR = Not Reported

gpd = gallons per day