

# **2024 COLUMBUS UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL**

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# **OUTLINE OF 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

- **THE FORMATION OF CWL & GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE –**
  - ***COLUMBUS UTILITIES (CWL) COMMISSION FORMATION***
    - ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN***
    - **COLUMBUS UTILITIES COMMISSION MEMBERS**
      - **BENEFITS OF A MUNICIPAL UTILITY**
  - **SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION – ELECTRIC, WATER, & WASTEWATER**
- **COLUMBUS UTILITIES RATE COMPARISONS ELECTRIC & WATER VS. OTHER COMMUNITIES**
  - **FUTURE COLUMBUS UTILITIES PROJECTS**
    - **Q & A**

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# **THE FORMATION OF CU** **&** **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

- *THE COLUMBUS WATER DEPARTMENT WAS FORMED IN 1896.*
- *THE COLUMBUS ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT WAS FORMED IN 1898.*
- *THE COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL ESTABLISHED THE WATER & LIGHT COMMISSION IN 1901.*
- *ORIGINALLY THE COMMISSION WAS ASSIGNED THE DUTIES TO MANAGE, CONTROL AND SUPERVISE THE ELECTRIC AND WATER DEPARTMENTS. THE WASTEWATER UTILITY WAS ADDED JANUARY 1, 2024*
- *CITY OF COLUMBUS ORDINANCE 102-56 – 102-62: EXPLAINS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CU COMMISSION, TERMS OF OFFICE, POWERS AND DUTIES, PROCEDURE, REPORTS, ACCOUNTS AND FUNCTIONS.*
- *THE CU COMMISSION OPERATES THE WATER, WASTEWATER & LIGHT UTILITY AS A SEPARATE BUSINESS ENTITY OF THE CITY – AKA – AN **'ENTERPRISE FUND'** OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS.*
- *THE CU COMMISSION CANNOT BORROW/BOND WITHOUT APPROVAL FROM THE CITY COUNCIL*

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# **CU GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

- ***PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN***
- ***THE NATION'S FIRST STATE TO REGULATE UTILITIES BEGINNING IN 1907***
- THE 'MISSION' OF THE PSC IS TO OVERSEE AND FACILITATE ADEQUATE AND REASONABLY PRICED UTILITY SERVICES THAT ARE PROVIDED FOR WISCONSIN UTILITY CUSTOMERS.
- ENSURES FAIR PRICING FOR UTILITY SERVICES AND CUSTOMERS. BASICALLY, THIS STATEMENT MEANS THAT THE PSC HAS FINAL APPROVAL OF ANY PROPOSED RATES – WATER, ELECTRIC OR NATURAL GAS.
- ENSURES RELIABILITY OF UTILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PRESENT AND FUTURE UTILITY CUSTOMERS AT A REASONABLE PRICE.
- UTILITY CUSTOMERS, OF ANY UTILITY CAN 'LOG A COMPLAINT' WITH THE PSC ABOUT THEIR UTILITY SERVICE ONLY, AFTER FIRST TRYING TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE DIRECTLY WITH THE UTILITY.

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## **CU COMMISSION MEMBERS**

- MICHAEL THOM – PRESIDENT
- SANDY CURTIS – VICE PRESIDENT
- BROOK ANDLER – SECRETARY
- REGAN RULE – COMMISSIONER
- MOLLY FINKLER – COMMISSIONER/COUNCIL MEMBER
- JOE HAMMER – MAYOR/COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMISSIONER
- (VACANT 2024/NEW 2025)/JACK SANDERSON – COMMISSIONER

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# BENEFITS OF A MUNICIPAL UTILITY

## ❖ PAYMENT-IN-LIEU-OF-TAXES OR P.I.L.O.T PAYMENT

- 2024 PAYMENTS EQUALED - \$425,031
- ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT SHARE - \$212,958
- WATER DEPARTMENT SHARE - \$212,073
- CU IS THE LARGEST TAX PAYING ENTITY  
WITHIN THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

## ❖ LOCAL CONTROL BY COLUMBUS RESIDENTS

- CU COMMISSION
- ❖ FASTER RESPONSE TIME TO OUTAGES
  - SHARING OF SERVICES
- RUEKERT - MIELKE ENGINEERING
- 48% CITY TREASURER, 48% DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, &  
48% CITY ADMINISTRATOR SALARY  
CONTRIBUTION

2024 AMOUNT = \$279,431.76

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# ENTERPRISE FUND OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS

- *ENTERPRISE FUNDS ARE USED TO ACCOUNT FOR OPERATIONS THAT ARE FINANCED AND OPERATED IN A MANNER SIMILAR TO A PRIVATE BUSINESS OR WHERE THE GOVERNING BODY HAS DECIDED THAT THE DETERMINATION OF REVENUES EARNED, COSTS INCURRED AND NET INCOME IS NECESSARY FOR MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY.*
- *'A SELF SUSTAINING BUSINESS ARM OF THE CITY, THAT GENERATES ITS OWN REVENUES BASED ON SALES OF ELECTRICITY, WATER, AND WASTEWATER SERVICES FROM UTILITY CUSTOMERS / RATE PAYERS WITHIN THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF THE RESPECTIVE UTILITY. THE REVENUES ARE THEN USED TO MEET OPERATIONAL EXPENSES AND MAINTENANCE COSTS FOR THE ELECTRIC, WATER, AND WASTEWATER DEPARTMENTS.'*
- **\*NOTE – CU DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY FUNDING FROM PROPERTY TAXES**

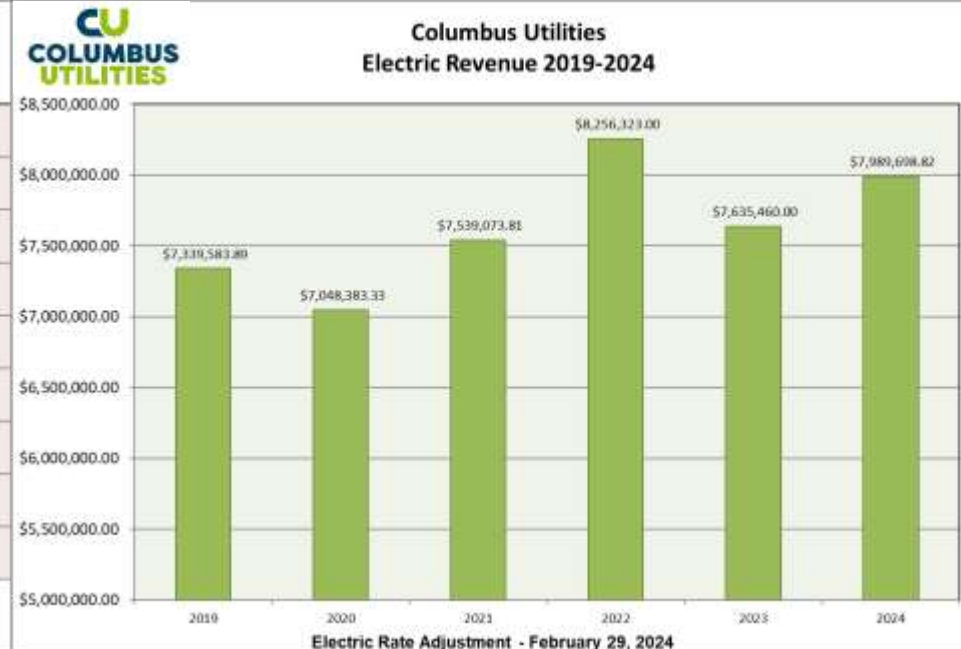
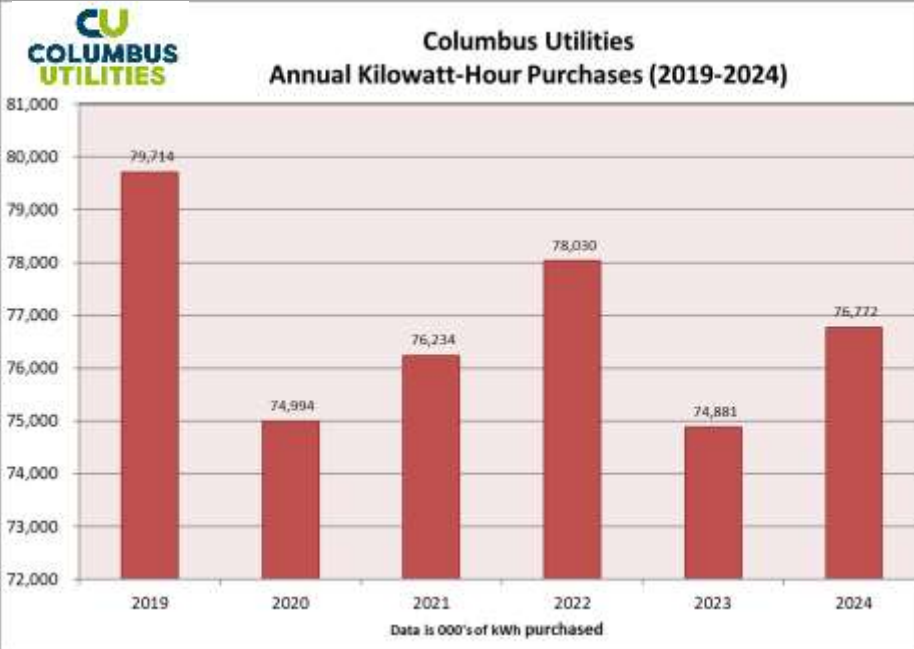
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# SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION

## ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

6 YEAR ELECTRIC SALES  
COMPARISON

6 YEAR ELECTRIC  
REVENUE COMPARISON





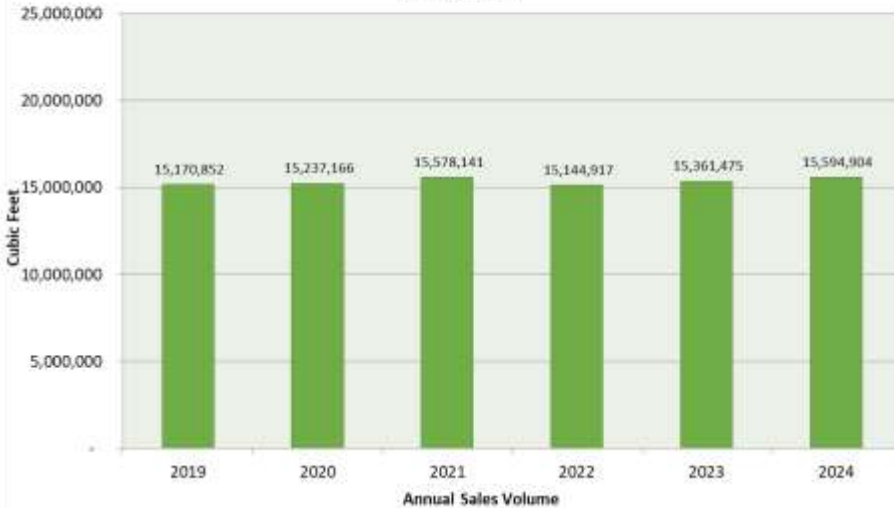
# SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION WATER DEPARTMENT

## 6 YEAR WATER SALES COMPARISON

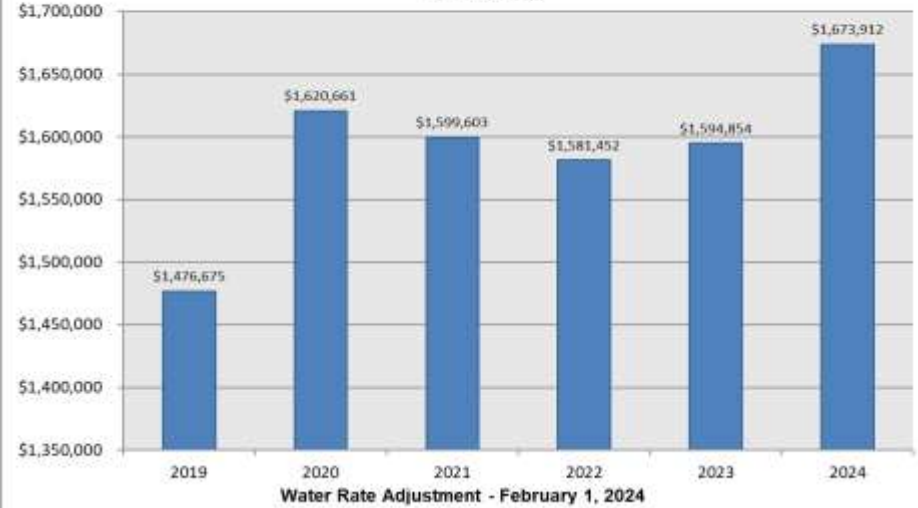
## 6 YEAR WATER REVENUE COMPARISON



Columbus Utilities  
Annual Water Sales  
2019-2024



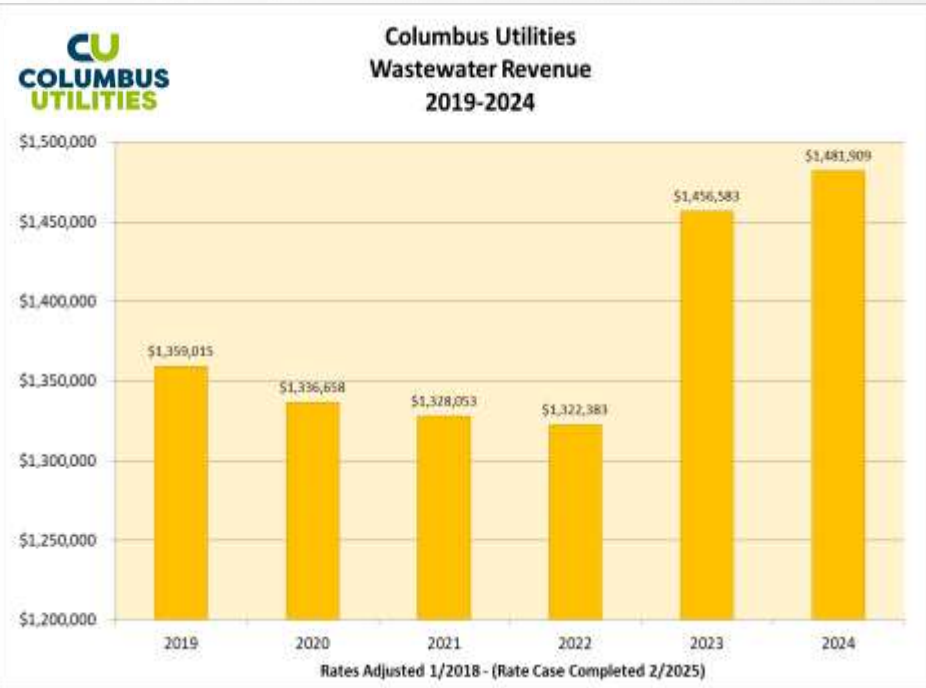
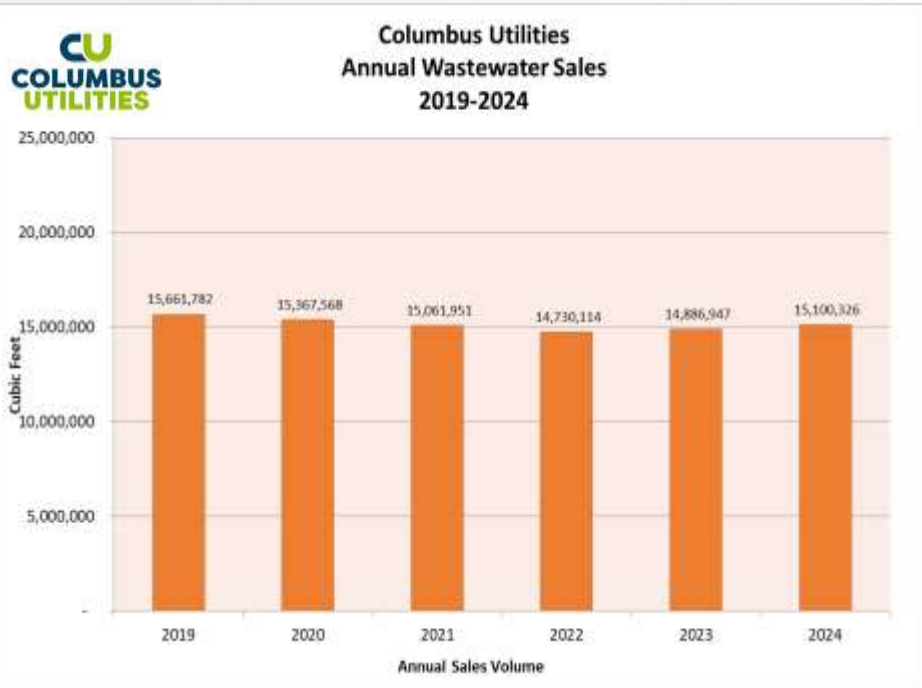
Columbus Utilities  
Water Revenue  
2019-2024



# SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

## 6 YEAR WASTEWATER SALES COMPARISON

## 6 YEAR WASTEWATER REVENUE COMPARISON



# ELECTRIC RATE COMPARISONS

## **ELECTRIC RATE COMPONENTS:**

- FEBRUARY 2024 USAGE MONTH
- AVERAGE OF 600 KWH OF USAGE
  - COMPARISON INCLUDES:
  - MONTHLY METER CHARGE
    - KWH CHARGE
  - PCAC/FUEL CHARGE
    - CU RANKED #  
18 OUT OF 81 MUNI'S

## **ELECTRIC COMPARISONS PSC WEBSITE – FEBRUARY 2024**

- BLACK RIVER FALLS - \$81.26
- HUSTISFORD UTILITIES - \$77.40
- LODI LIGHT & WATER - \$70.64
- OCONOMOWOC UTILITIES - \$76.24
- REEDSBURG UTILITY - \$67.36
- BRODHEAD W&L - \$72.76
- ELKHORN W&L - \$73.80
- COLUMBUS UTILITIES- \$65.53

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# **WATER RATE COMPARISONS**

## **WATER RATE COMPONENTS**

### **PSC WEBSITE - FEBRUARY 2025**

- AVERAGE OF 468 CUBIC FEET / 3500 GALLONS OF USAGE
  - *COMPARISON INCLUDES:*
  - MONTHLY METER CHARGE
- DOES NOT INCLUDE PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION
- COMPARABLE WATER SYSTEMS – SOFTENERS, IRON FILTERS OR A REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEM

### **WATER COMPARISONS PSC WEBSITE – FEBRUARY 2025**

- HUSTISFORD UTILITIES - \$52.98
- FRIESLAND WATER UTILITY - \$44.50
- CAMPBELLSPORT WATER UTILITY- \$51.45
- FOND DU LAC WATER UTILITY - \$43.24
- JOHNSON CREEK WATER UTILITIES- \$52.47
  - COLUMBUS UTILITIES- \$48.19
  - ELKHORN LIGHT & WATER - \$57.76

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# RATES – KEY TAKE AWAYS

- RATES DO NOT CHANGE VERY OFTEN. AVERAGE HAS BEEN ~6 +/- YEARS.
  - THERE IS A PROCESS –
    - FROM CU COMMISSION REQUEST TO PSC APPROVAL CAN BE 9 TO 12 MONTHS OR MORE
    - STARTS WITH A LOCAL DECISION – CU COMMISSION BASED ON NEED FOR THE UTILITY
      - PSC HAS FINAL APPROVAL OF RATES TO ENSURE THAT RATES ARE FAIR FOR ALL CUSTOMERS
      - CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION OF RATE HEARING, LOCATION, DATE AND TIME
        - NEW RATES ARE APPLIED DURING NEXT BILLING CYCLE
      - PSC REGULATIONS DO NOT APPLY TO WASTEWATER UTILITIES

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# FUTURE UTILITY PROJECTS

## ELECTRIC UTILITY PROJECTS

- 4160 VOLTAGE TO 12.47 VOLTAGE CONVERSION – CITY WIDE
- PRAIRIE RIDGE HOSPITAL EXPANSION AND UTILITY LOOP
- UPSIZE SUBSTATION #2 TRANSFORMER
- DECOMMISSION SUBSTATION #1
- CIRCUIT 301 CONVERSION TO TRANSMISSION

## WATER UTILITY PROJECTS

- 2025 BROOKSIDE DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT AND UPSIZING
- UPDATING WATER PLANT #2
- INSPECTING AND CLEANING/PAINTING OF THE WATER TOWER
- PREPARE TO IDENTIFY NEW SITE FOR FUTURE WATER PLANT

## WASTEWATER UTILITY PROJECTS

- 2026 BIOSOLIDS FACILITIES UPGRADE
- COLLECTION SYSTEM INSPECTIONS AND REPAIRS
- SCADA AND C.M.M.S. PROGRAM, UPGRADE AND IMPLEMENTATION
- SEPTAGE RECEIVING STATION?/ANAEROBIC DIGESTION?

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# QUESTIONS?

IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

PLEASE SEE MY CONTACT INFORMATION BELOW

Please contact Jacob R. Holbert at 623-5912 or [jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com](mailto:jholbert@columbusutilitieswi.com)

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