

2024 COLUMBUS UTILITIES ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL

A Community-Owned Utility Since 1896

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 WENT UNDER COMMISSION GUIDANCE IN 2022, AND FULL TRANSITION WAS MADE 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.
- WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ALSO PLAYS KEY PARTS IN PERMIT REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE GOVERNANCE FOR THE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES.

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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**

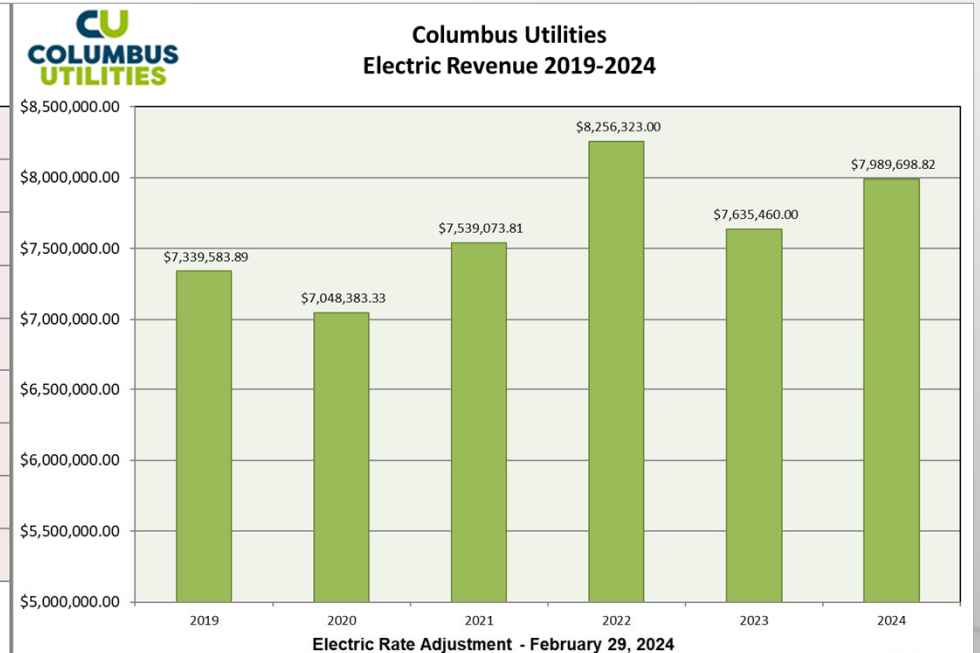
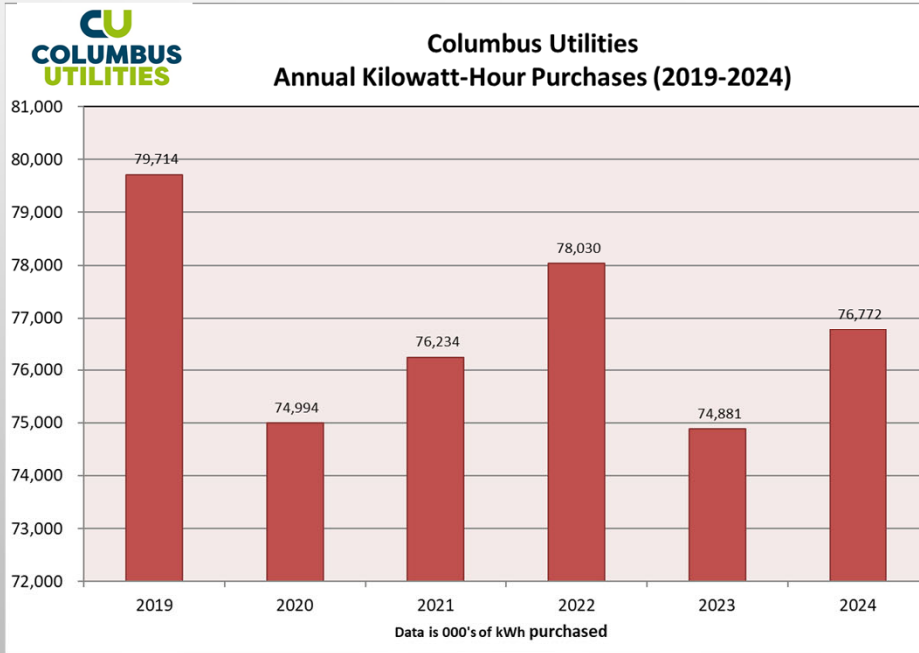
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SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

6 YEAR ELECTRIC SALES COMPARISON

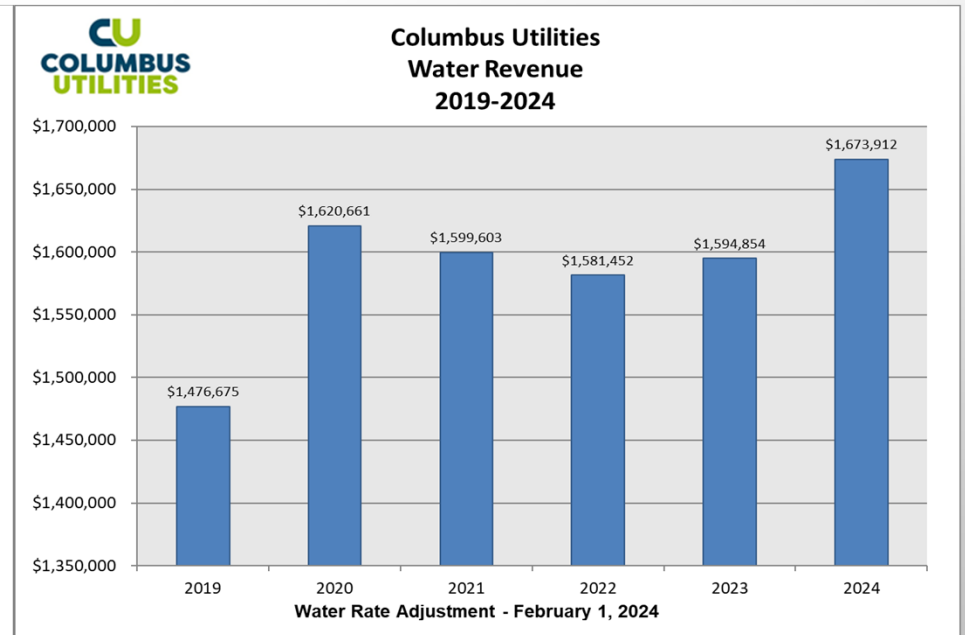
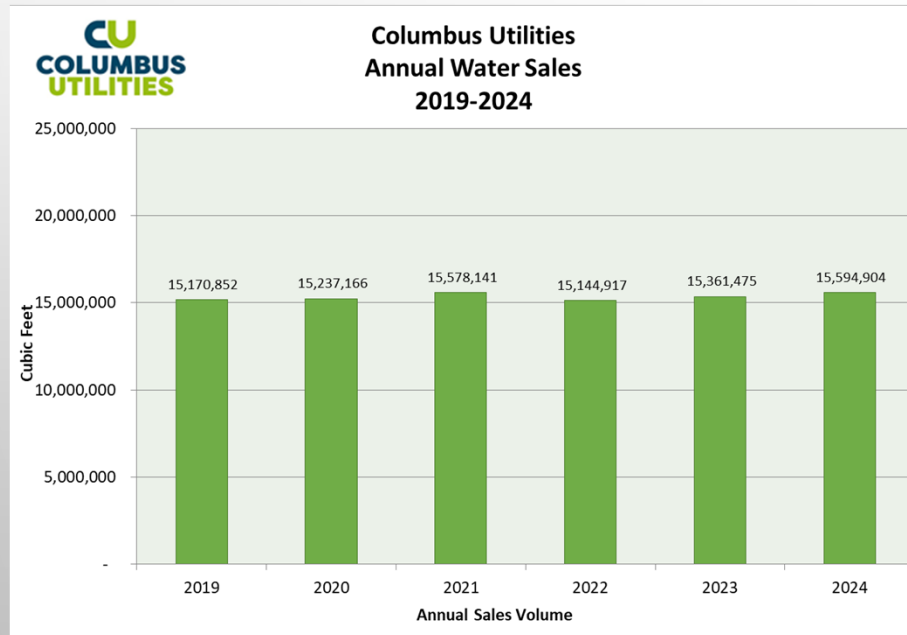
6 YEAR ELECTRIC REVENUE COMPARISON



SALES AND REVENUE INFORMATION WATER DEPARTMENT

6 YEAR WATER SALES COMPARISON

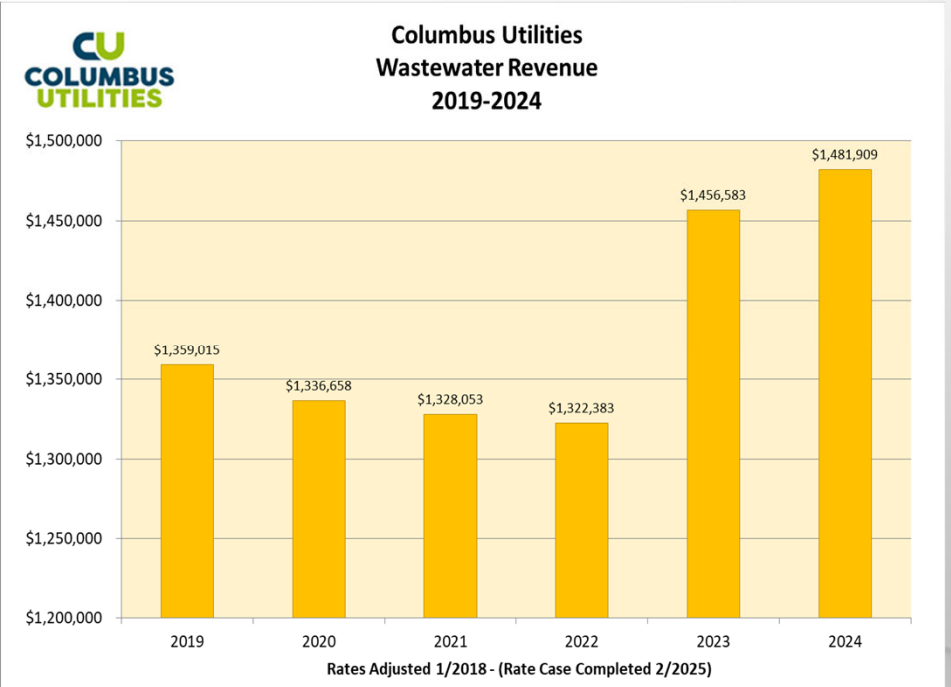
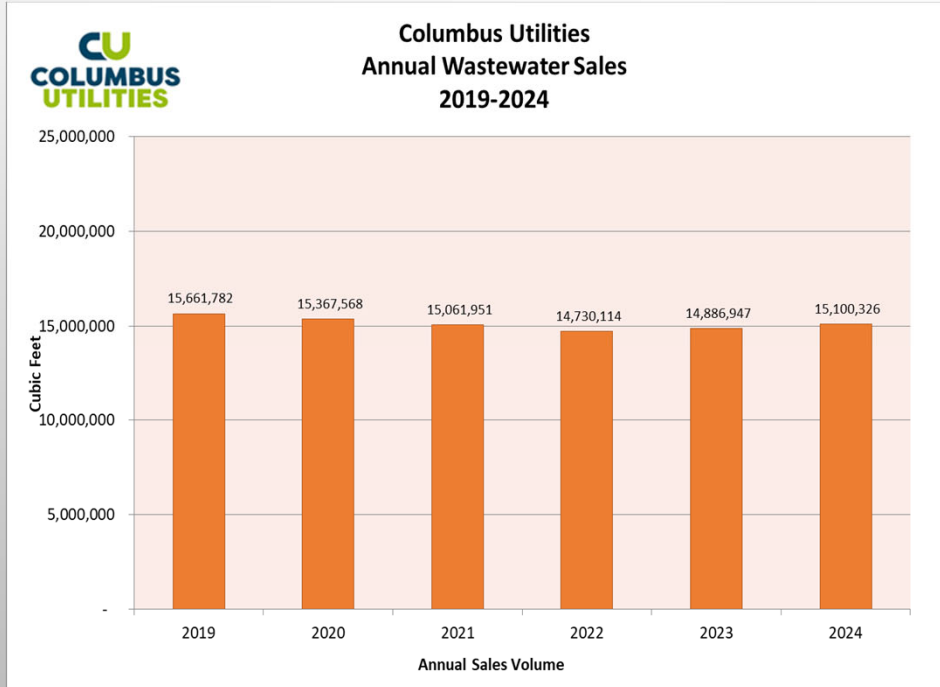
6 YEAR WATER REVENUE COMPARISON



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
- BROADHEAD 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

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