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## Fees Decline in 2011

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA –The Environmental Services Fee and Residential Collection Fee are both going down in 2011, saving Airdrie residents money on their utility bills. As well, thanks in part to reduced water consumption by Airdrie residents, the flat rate charged for water will not increase even though City of Calgary rates have increased.

The bi-monthly Residential Collection Fee is recommended to decrease from \$20.48 to \$19.69, or - 3.86 per cent. The decrease comes as a result of a new residential collection contract.

“The waste collection contract came in less than expected and we are happy to pass on those savings to our residents,” says Suzette DeMott, Manager of Assessment, Taxation and Utilities.

“Even with the addition of the Westside depot and an increase in the transfer to reserves, the Environmental Services fee is also going down due to a number of cost reductions,” says DeMott. The Environmental Services fee is recommended to decline from \$13.78 bi-monthly to \$13.44, or - 2.47 per cent.

Residents will benefit from their conservation efforts with no increases in the flat rate charged for water or sewer in 2011. The City of Calgary rate increase for each cubic meter of water is 13.22 per cent and 11.25 per cent for sewer for 2011 which is significant. However, while the number of customers is growing resulting in increased total consumption, the average yearly consumption per customer has been declining due to conservation efforts of the users and to the effectiveness of the leak detection study and leak repairs carried out in 2008 and 2009. This has helped to mitigate the increase from the City of Calgary and as a result, the variable rate will remain unchanged for 2011.

“Despite the increases from the City of Calgary, water and sewer rates will remain unchanged for 2011 thanks to conservation efforts by our residents and the effectiveness of the leak detection studies. It’s great to see how the efforts of residents and City staff make a positive impact on both the environment and residents’ wallets,” says DeMott.

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