



CAIRO SEWER DISTRICT

EDU RATE INCREASE FROM \$100 PER EDU TO \$115 PER EDU CAIRO SEWER DISTRICT & EDU EXPLAINED

There have been many questions and confusion regarding the EDU charges, what they pertain to and when they might end. This is a brief explanation of our sewer system and the EDU assessment, history, present and future.

In 1999, the Town of Cairo Sewer District was established in order to protect our environment, our water sources and to comply with state and federal regulations. The district decided to build a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and collection system. Essentially, household and commercial sanitary sewers (toilets, kitchens, showers etc.) would leave the building and into a septic tank on the owner's property. As the septic tank digests the waste, the "graywater" flows out of the tank and into our collection system (instead of going to a leach field). Traveling through over 12 miles of pipe, the gray water flows by gravity to pump stations, which then pump the gray water into pressurized force mains which leads to our WWTP on county route 41. At the WWTP, the graywater is treated by activated sludge process, filtering and ultra-violet disinfection before it is released back into the environment. The filtered solids (sludge) is hauled to Albany for further treatment.

Septic Tanks - Periodic preventive maintenance is required to remove solids that remain and gradually fill the tank, reducing its efficiency. The sewer district maintains the septic tanks, the tanks are periodically pumped by the sewer district to remove the solids.

Loans - In order to pay for the design and construction of the system, in 2000 the district borrowed approximately \$3.54 million interest free for 20 years (current annual payment of \$200,000 *GPL increasing about \$5,000 per year). As actual construction costs went over the initial projected amount the district borrowed an additional \$351,600 at about 4.5% stretched over 35 years (current approximate annual payment of \$18,138). In order to payback these loans, the plan was to assign an "Equivalent Dwelling Unit" (**EDU**) charge to property owners within the sewer district.

As it became evident that the WWTP was taking on more than it could treat, and that the collection system needed to be enlarged. In 2013 the district borrowed another \$783,415 interest free over 25 years (current approximate annual payment of \$26,637).

Accounts were assigned an EDU; first as per possible occupancy and second, as per water usage. That is, a single family home would pay one EDU unless their water average usage exceeds 150 gallons per day. A multiple unit occupancy is assigned one EDU per unit, i.e. a building with four apartments is charged four EDU's (even if vacant). If those 4 combined apartments exceed the usage (4 x 150gpd) the EDU assignment will increase.

Dissimilarly, **Sewer Use** charges are applied to pay for the operating costs (approximately \$150,000 per year) of the system. **Sewer Use** charges are generally based upon water meter usage and are applied to pay the operating costs of the system. Sewer use is currently charged at rate of \$8.00 per thousand gallons, with an 8,000 gallon (\$64.00) minimum charge.

With reductions in our number of EDU's, combined with the increased loan payments it is necessary to raise the EDU rate through 2020. As the number of EDU's can fluctuate, in January 2017 the town board has passed a resolution raising it to \$115.00 per EDU.

LOAN	INITIAL LOAN	PAYMENTS END	2017 PAYMENT	2020 PAYMENT	2021 PAYMENT
2000 – 20YR	\$ 3,540,000	2020	\$200,000	\$210,000	0
2003 - 35YR	\$ 351,600	2037	\$ 18,138	\$ 18,119	\$ 18,114
2013 – 25YR	\$ 783,415	2038	\$ 26,637	\$ 28,203	\$ 28,726
TOTAL	\$ 4,675,015		\$244,775	\$256,322	\$46,840
Based 4Q of * 580 EDU's		EDU	\$105.50	\$110.48	\$20.20

* 580 is our current number of EDU's. The total number of EDU's will fluctuate based on water use and adjustments from construction and/or property use alterations.