

Halifax

Overview

The population of the Halifax Regional Municipality in 2006 was 372,679 (Statistics Canada, 2006). The Halifax Regional Water Commission (HRWC) is the municipal water utility for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2007a). The HRWC is a fully metered water utility that owns and operates water supply to provide drinking water and fire protection services to about 325,000 residents of the regional district (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2007a). There are two main water sources for the HRM. Pockwock Lake and the J. Douglas Kline Water Supply Plant supply Halifax, Bedford, Sackville, Timberlea, Fall River and Waverley regions of the urban core. The Dartmouth, Cole Harbour, Westphal and Eastern Passage regions are served by Lake Major and the Lake Major Water Supply Plant (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006a). In 2006 HRM water consumption was 365 L per capita per day (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006b).

The HRWC is undertaking a long-term program of upgrading the distribution system pipe network to ensure long-term integrity of the HRWC system (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2007b). The HRWC has adopted the International Water Association (IWA) standard and actively works to minimize leakage and account for all water delivered through the distribution system (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006d).

Residential

HRWC residential water consumers are encouraged to check their homes for leaks by turning off all water fixtures and monitoring their water meter (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006c). The HRWC sells water efficiency products such as toilet dams, displacement bags/toilet tank banks, bathroom aerators, kitchen aerators (swivel), and low flow showerheads at cost to encourage conservation (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006d). As well, the HRWC website provides a list of conservation tips for reducing water use in the bathroom, in the yard, and in the kitchen and laundry room (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2006d).

ICI, Metering, Pricing

HRWC is fully metered. Water charges are comprised of a base charge and a commodity charge (Halifax Regional Municipality, 2007d). Minimum charges apply to accounts that have no usage, or are not metered (there are a few special situations). The consumption rate for water consumed per month or per quarter is \$0.394 per m³. The water bill includes a two-part pollution control charge that is based on water consumption. They are as follows:

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Environmental Protection | \$.8404/m ³ |
| Wastewater/Stormwater Mgmt. | \$.3286/m ³ |

(Halifax Regional Municipality 2007c)

HRWC works to advise businesses of any on-site water leakage they are experiencing, giving them the opportunity to quickly address leaks, reduce their water bills and avoid water

wastage. The Eco-Efficiency Centre at Dalhousie University runs an efficiency audit program for the ICI sector that includes attention to water efficiency.

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