



# *Berkeley County Government*

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## **New Stormwater Utility Fee to be reflected on tax bills, out October 1**

*Residential properties unchanged, Non-Residential land uses now calculated by impervious surface*

**MONCKS CORNER, S.C.**- (Thursday, September 27)- Berkeley County Council adopted an amendment to the Stormwater Management Utility Ordinance (Ordinance No. 18-05-21) in May 2018 that established a permanent Stormwater Utility Fee through an assessment of impervious surface areas. The implementation of the Permanent Utility Rate will be reflected on the 2018 annual tax notice that will be sent out, starting October 1, 2018.

The amendment will use an impervious surface model to calculate the annual stormwater utility fee for commercial, industrial, institutional, HOA community center, and multi-family properties (to include duplexes and townhomes not subdivided by parcel lines), tax-exempt and non-profit, boat slips, and properties whose primary function is not a single-family residence. Impervious surface area is the most common stormwater utility rate method throughout the United States and it is the most effective indicator of the amount and quality of stormwater runoff that a specific land use contributes to the system.

Stormwater fees for residential properties will not change from the current rate of \$36 annually. Mobile homes will increase from \$18 per unit to \$36 per unit. Berkeley County fee payers will have the lowest stormwater utility fee in the Tri-County area.

The stormwater fee improves management of stormwater runoff through, maintenance of infrastructure, stormwater plans review, analytical testing, illicit discharge tracking, and watershed plans that are all viable components to help mitigate flooding, pollutants, siltation, sedimentation, and system inflow. It is important that pollutant loads in the County are reduced prior to discharge to receiving waters that residents drink from, swim in, and utilize for recreational activities.

More information can be found at <https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/dept/engineering/storm/swfee>, by calling the Berkeley County Stormwater Management Program at 843-719-4195, or by email at [webswmp@berkeleycountysc.gov](mailto:webswmp@berkeleycountysc.gov).

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