

# COG'S REGIONAL STORMWATER FEE AND TAX RATES

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## Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

November 19, 2021



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# 2022 Update to Stormwater Fee and Tax Rates

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- COG has provided a summary of jurisdictional stormwater charges since 2009
  - Updated about every 2 years
  - Previous update was in 2019
- Based on MS4 annual report information, annual budget documentation and individual member response
  - The 2022 draft was reviewed by the WRTC in September
- The full document provides detailed information on fees and tax rates
  - Average annual cost per single family
  - Funds produced by the tax
  - Overall program cost



# Stormwater Fee and Tax Rate Document Format



## Metropolitan Washington Region Stormwater Fee/Tax Rates FY 2022 COG staff draft (as of November 2021)

Note: Most utility fee systems include features such as providing rebates or credits for property owners who install stormwater controls on their property. Both utility fee and tax-based systems may provide full or partial exemptions for non-profits and religious-based property owners, and/or credits for impervious surface reductions.

Stormwater Fee/Tax Rates Year
2022
2021
2020

Jurisdiction	Tax/ Fee	Annual Amount			Avg. Single Family Pays Annually	Funds Produced by fee/tax	Annual Program Cost
		Single-Family	Multi-Family	Commercial			
District of Columbia <sup>1</sup> ERU = 1,000 sf	Fee	\$32.04 per ERU	\$32.04 per ERU	\$32.04 per ERU	\$32.04	\$13.0 million	\$15.0 million
<b>Maryland</b>							<b>Annual program cost</b>
Charles County	Fee	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$115	\$5.95 Million	\$6.1 Million
Frederick County <sup>2</sup>	Fee	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$0.1	\$536	\$8.7 Million
Gaithersburg Billable unit = 500 sf	Fee	\$32.28/ billable unit	\$32.28/ billable unit	\$32.28/ billable unit	\$145	\$5.2 Million	\$6 Million
Montgomery County <sup>3</sup> ERU = 2,406 sf	Tax	\$35.87 - \$322.80 based on ERU and SF.	Tiered tax based on total ERU divided by the number of units.	\$35.87- \$322.80 base on ERU and SF.	\$107.60	\$38.8 million	\$59.7 Million

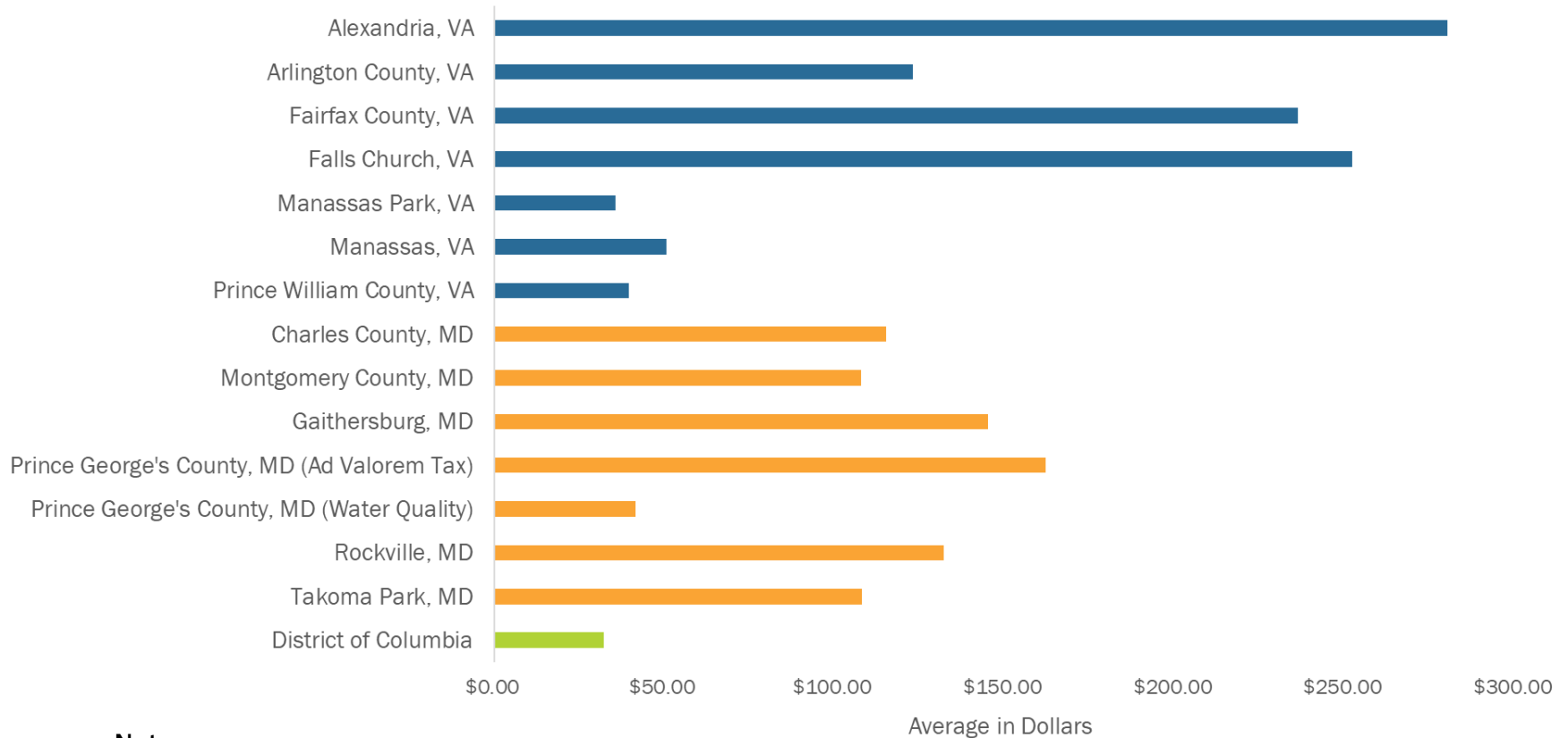
<sup>1</sup> DOEE's stormwater fee is collected by DC Water on behalf of DOEE. This stormwater fee is separate from DC Water's Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge. DOEE provides \$1 million of its fee revenues to DC Water for various services.

<sup>2</sup> Frederick County funds its stormwater program with general fund revenues. It has a nominal stormwater fee to meet the requirements of Maryland law.

<sup>3</sup> Montgomery County charges single-family homeowners by tier. The Tier's are based on square feet.



# COG Region – Average Annual Cost per Single Family



## Notes

1. Frederick County has one cent nominal stormwater fee to meet the requirements of Maryland law
2. District of Columbia stormwater fee is separate from DC Water's Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge
3. Loudoun County does not have a fee or a dedicated tax. The county relies on general fund revenues for stormwater



# COG Region Stormwater Program Costs

Year	DC	Maryland	Virginia	Total
2022	(TBD)	\$180M	\$138M	\$318M
2017	\$12M	\$165M	\$91M	\$267M

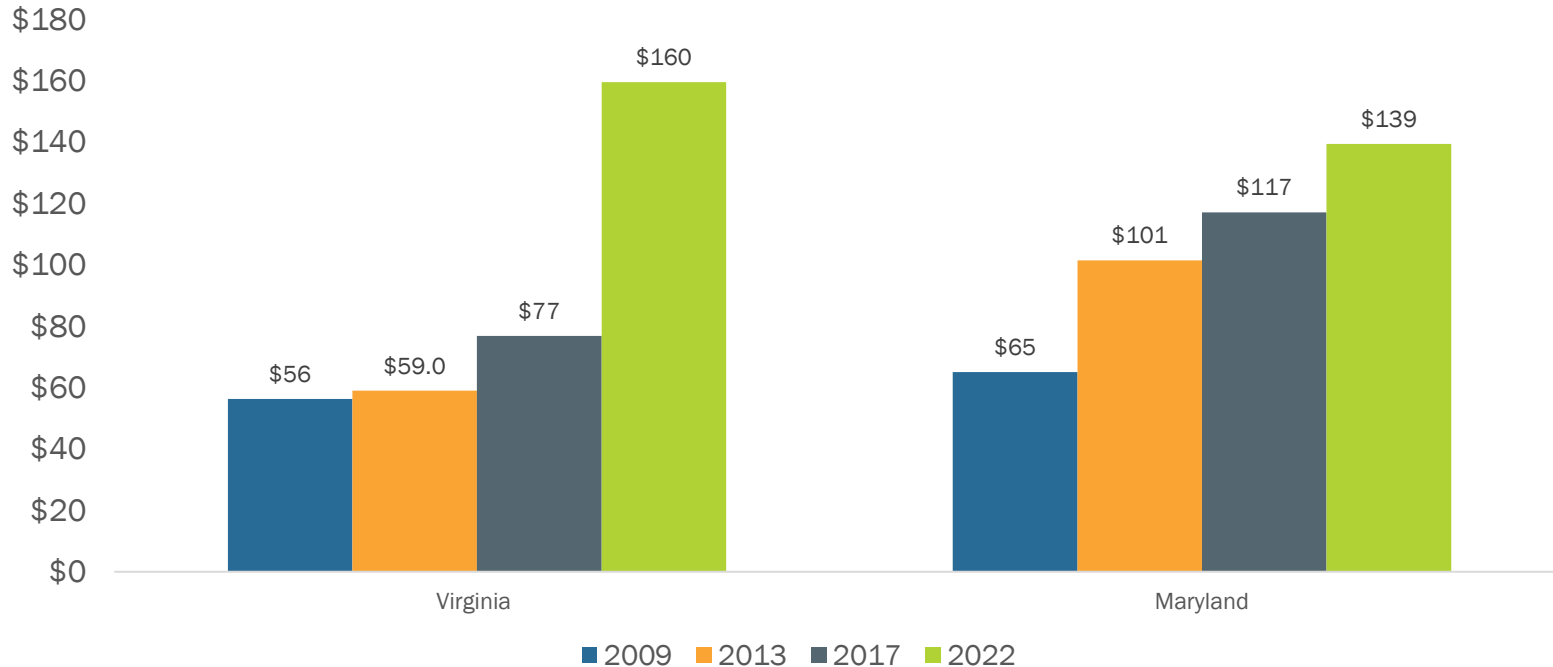
- Rising program costs are driving increases in stormwater fees/taxes in many jurisdictions
  - Increases in stormwater permit requirements
  - Increasing cost of maintenance
  - Increasing cost of addressing flooding issues

## Notes

1. The regional program costs are rough numbers. The COG Region does not have a standard definition of “program costs”. Certain activities that are considered stormwater program costs in one jurisdiction may fall within another department in another jurisdiction.



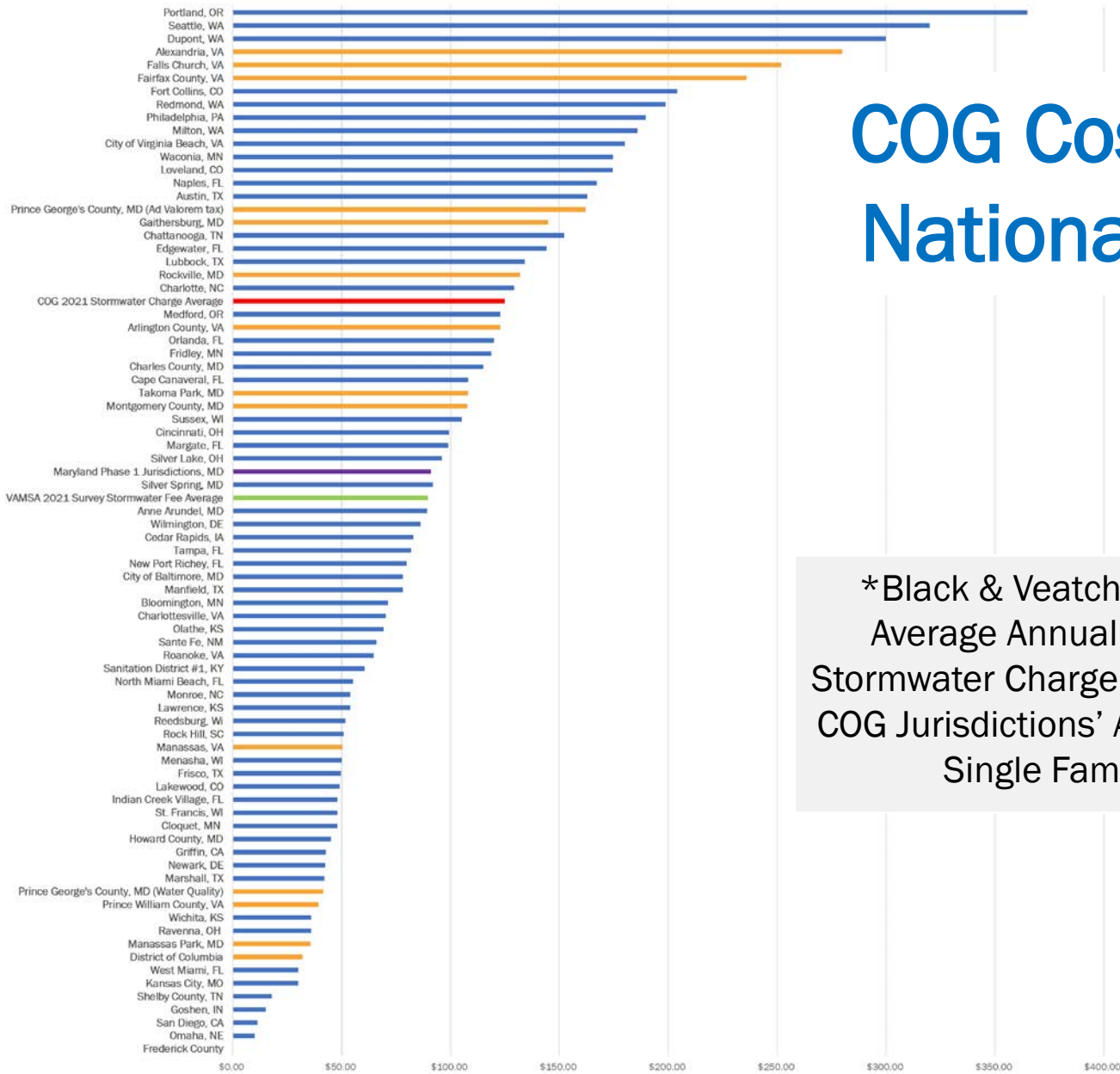
# Change in COG Average Stormwater Charges 2009 – 2022



## Notes

1. The Virginia average is calculated using four jurisdictions: Arlington County, Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Prince William County
2. The Maryland average is calculated using four jurisdictions: Charles County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Rockville

# COG Costs within National Context

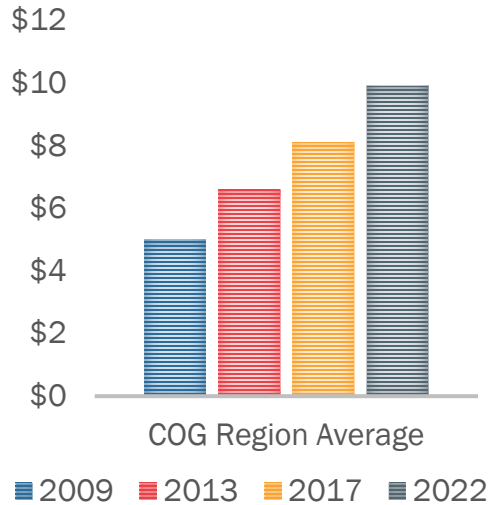


\*Black & Veatch Study 2021  
Average Annual Residential  
Stormwater Charge Combined with  
COG Jurisdictions' Average Annual  
Single Family Cost



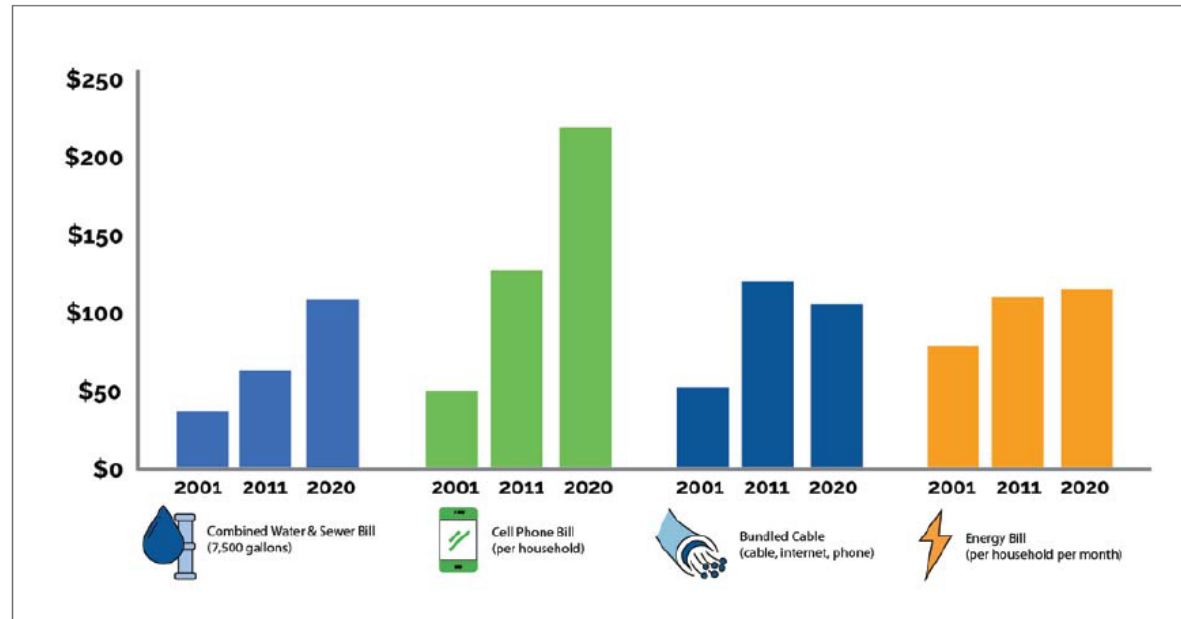
# Cost Comparison to Other Utilities

## REGIONAL STORMWATER MONTHLY COSTS



Data derived from various Metropolitan Washington Region Stormwater Fee/Tax Rates summaries.

## AVERAGE MONTHLY UTILITY BILLS IN THE UNITED STATES



Data derived from Black & Veatch's "50 Largest Cities Water and Wastewater Survey Report"



# Next Steps

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- Continue to update this information on periodic basis
  - Fees/taxes continue to increase in response to increasing program costs
- Continue to provide comparisons of local costs to those in the Bay region and nationwide
  - Comparisons provide context for reasonable rates of increase
  - Important in MEP analysis for MS4 permit negotiations
- Document the increasing costs of:
  - Operation and maintenance & stormwater quantity/flood resilience
    - Both categories are driving significant increases in costs



# Contact Information

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