

Understanding Your Utility Bill: What You're Really Paying For

Medicine Hat residents and businesses pay for utilities through monthly bills and through taxes. Yet many charges on your utility bill reflect overhead and infrastructure that are already funded. Here's a breakdown of what you're paying — and where we believe advocacy is needed to stop double-dipping:

Charge Type	Description	Can Advocate Against?
Electric - Service Charge	Flat fee for having electric service available, regardless of usage	✗
Electric - Default Energy Charge	Rate per kWh used (e.g., \$0.0700/kWh)	✗
Electric - Admin Fee	Administrative overhead charged by City	✓
Electric - Capacity Charge	Fixed rate per kWh to cover system capacity	✗
Electric - Demand Charge	Charged per kVA, based on peak demand (commercial)	✓
Electric - Environmental Conservation	Fee to support conservation/environmental initiatives	✓
Electric - Facilities Usage	Facility cost recovery, seen on rural bills	✓
Electric - Going Green	Fee to support renewable or green programs	✓
Electric - MCAF (Municipal Consent Access Fee)	Charge for using infrastructure outside city (e.g., Cypress County)	✓
Gas - Service Charge	Flat fee for access to gas service	✗
Gas - Commodity Charge	Per gigajoule usage (varies monthly)	✗
Gas - Admin Fee	Administrative overhead for gas service	✓
Gas - Delivery Charge	Cost to deliver gas to end user	✗
Gas - MCAF (Municipal Consent Access Fee)	Charge for using roadways/infrastructure (Medicine Hat)	✓
Water - Service Charge	Base charge to supply water to property	✗
Water - Commodity Charge	Charge per cubic meter of water used	✗
Sewer	Base sewage service charge	✗
Solid Waste	Waste removal fees	✗
Late Payment Fees	Applied after due date	✓

GST	5% GST on most charges	✗
Other Charges (e.g., Disconnect Warning)	Fees like disconnection warnings	✓

✓ Indicates charges that should be scrutinized or eliminated, especially if they duplicate services already paid through taxes.

✗ Indicates core charges required for essential service delivery.

Visit: eutility.medicinehat.ca to monitor your account and compare usage.

Want to take action? Join MHURA today. Together, we can demand fairness, accountability, and transparency.