



CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE
**WATER CONSERVATION
PROGRAM**

Volunteer Residential Water Metering FAQ's

Q. How many volunteer residential water meters is the City providing as part of the 2016 program?

A. The City will be providing 100 meters in 2016.

Q. Where does the meter go?

A. The water meter is installed inside your home, next to the water shut off valve.

Q. Will my yard be dug up at all to install the meter?

A. No. Winter temperatures in Prince George make it necessary to install meters inside the home, rather than in pits as are used in more southern municipalities. There is therefore no reason to dig up the yard.

Q. How is the water meter attached to the water line?

A. The water line is cut just after the shut off valve inside your home. The meter is installed inline with the pipe at this point, so that every drop of water going into your home passes through the meter first.

Q. Who pays for the meter?

A. The City of Prince George will cover the cost of the water meter and the plumbing permit in 2016. All other costs are the responsibility of the homeowner.

Q. Can I install my own meter?

A. No. A certified plumber must install the water meter with all costs covered by the homeowner.

Q. If I change my mind about having a meter, can I have it removed?

A. No, once a meter is installed it cannot be taken out and you will be charged based on volume used after a period of one year.

Q. What if I sell my house and the new owner doesn't want a water meter, can it be removed?

A. No, once a meter is installed it cannot be taken out and will be part of the sale package.

Q. Does the City have any objectives to move toward mandatory metering in all residential homes?

A. There are no plans at this time to move toward universal metering.

Q. Why is the City running a voluntary water meter program?

A. Residents in the City of Prince George currently use more water than both the provincial and the national average, so there is clearly a need to move toward more conservative water use. The rationale behind the water meter program is education. It allows residents to be able to more accurately track their water use, and to become more conservative as a result.

Q. Can I read my own meter?

A. Yes, although meters will be read remotely by City staff, the meter will be installed in such a way so that it is readable from the inside to allow the volunteers to be able to track their own water use.

Q. How much water goes to residential use in Prince George?

A. 14,632,948 Litres per year (2012)

Q. How many houses in Prince George are connected to the municipal water supply?

A. over 22,000 houses

Q. How much water does the average Prince George resident use?

A. 524 Litres per day

Q. How much do I currently pay (flat rate) for my water?

A. All single family residential customers currently pay \$41.61 per month (2016)

Q. How much will I pay for my water if I have a water meter?

A. You will pay a capacity charge of \$54.42 per quarter (2016) plus a consumption charge.

Q. If my bills are the same with a water meter, what are the benefits of having one?

A. If you use less water than the average Prince George household, you will pay less on your water bill.

There are other benefits too, such as:

- You will be able to immediately detect leaks in your water system. If all the taps are off and the water meter indicates water is still flowing, you have a leak in your system somewhere.
- You will be able to better gauge your water conservation habits.

Q. How much will my water bill be if I use less water than the average?

A. The consumption-based part of your water bill will decrease in proportion to the amount of water you use.