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Study: Water Rates Continue To Rise

1/13/2012

VISTA, Calif. -- A study of water use in U.S. businesses reveals that the average business district/commercial water user saw water rates rise 5.5 percent in 2011 when compared to 2010.*

However, in several American cities, water and sewer rate increases were considerably higher. For instance:

- * Indianapolis, Indiana, business owners were paying 12 percent more for water now compared to 2010.
- * Kansas City, Kansas, saw a 15.3 percent jump.
- * Atlanta, Georgia, charges went up 12 percent.
- * Seattle, Washington, prices were up 11 percent.
- * Portland, Oregon, had a 9 percent increase.
- * New York City experienced a 7.5 percent uptick in water charges.

The study also identified those cities with the most expensive and the least costly water and sewer rates. The five cities with the highest water/sewer rates in the United States in 2011:

- * Atlanta, Georgia
- * Seattle, Washington
- * Newport, Rhode Island
- * San Francisco, California
- * Portland, Oregon

And the lowest:

- * Biloxi, Mississippi
- * El Paso, Texas
- * Memphis, Tennessee
- * Chicago, Illinois
- * Greenville, South Carolina

"There does not appear to be a specific reason why some [business customers] in certain cities pay more for water or experienced bigger cost increases than others," says Klaus Reichardt, Founder and CEO of Waterless Co., LLC. <<http://www.waterless.com/>> who first posted the information on his blog <<http://waterlessco.wordpress.com/>> . "However, what we do know is this: water/sewer charges are on an upward climb with no end in sight."



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water charges is to simply look for places where water is being wasted-for instance, faucets that leak-and repair them.

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"One leaky faucet can waste 3,000 gallons of water per year," he says. "That's costly and wasteful. [We] have to get much more water careful and responsible about our water use."