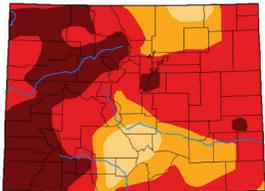


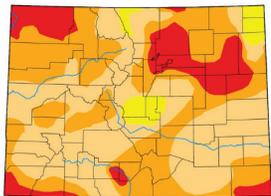
A Dry Normal

Drought often gets talked about like other types of weather events that come and go over the course of a few weeks or months. Our reality in Colorado, and throughout the western United States, is that drought is now more the norm than the exception. Take 2021 as a prime example. At the beginning of the year, the vast majority of the state was in an advanced stage of drought. A wet spring provided relief for the Front Range and eastern plains, but by the end of the year drought conditions had returned to every part of the state.

This underscores the importance of water efficiency and conservation year-round. The drier-than-normal, hotter-than-normal weather we've experienced the past two years could very well repeat in 2022. While ECCV's water supply is designed to be drought resistant (*see story inside*) there are no guarantees on the duration and intensity of droughts. Saving water whenever we can, as often as we can, is a way our community and those throughout the west can continue to thrive in an increasingly dry area.



December 2020



December 2021

U.S. Drought Monitor maps of Colorado. All of Colorado ended the past two years in some level of drought. The darker the colors, the more intense the drought conditions.

Get Garden Ready



Sure it's January, the doldrums of winter, but why not think warm thoughts and start making plans for spring and summer gardening? ECCV will once again partner with Resource Central in 2022 to offer a select amount of discounted, water-efficient Gardens In A Box. These expertly curated gardens come with suggested planting diagrams. Come spring, all you'll need to do is order with a few clicks, pick-up, and plant.

Gardens go on sale in March and tend to sell out quickly. Head to ResourceCentral.org/gardens/shop today to sign up for email reminders so you'll be the first to know when gardens are available. Also, look for more information on Nextdoor in the coming months about free sprinkler system audits from Resource Central. Find more on how these audits help your system save water at ResourceCentral.org/SlowTheFlow/Sprinklers/.



Water & Sanitation District

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January 2022

WATER WHYS

The Latest from ECCV

Sustaining our community by providing safe, reliable water

In This Issue:

- 2022 Rates & Fees
- Your Water System
- A Dry Normal
- Get Garden-Ready



The ECCV water system pulls and processes water from an area extending more than 30 miles, and reaching depths near 2,000 feet below the surface. A majority of the community’s water supply comes from renewable sources: rivers that are replenished by snowmelt and rain. Nearly all of this water first flows through the newly expanded Northern Water Treatment Plant near Brighton.

Starting last year, the plant now has the ability to produce about 14 million gallons of drinking water a day. This water is then pumped 31 miles south (and gradually uphill) to ECCV customers.

While renewable water is the most dependable source of water in the long-term, it can be impacted by drought. That’s why ECCV also operates deep aquifer wells both in our service area and in the Highlands Ranch area. Deep aquifers don’t refill quickly, so once water is removed, it’s essentially gone for good. However, by using these wells to supplement its renewable supply in dry periods, ECCV can better meet customer demand without putting too much strain on the aquifer. The result is a drought resistant water system that is positioned to deliver reliable water service now and well into the future.



Reverse osmosis filtration units (called “skids”) inside the expanded ECCV Northern Water Treatment Plant.

The ECCV Board of Directors sets rates and fees each year to reflect the costs associated with operating and maintaining the community’s water and sanitary sewer systems. Some of these rates, such as sewer fees, are based on costs determined by other entities such as the City of Aurora and Metro Wastewater Reclamation District which transport and treat, respectively, wastewater from ECCV. Others are set to reflect inflationary costs and maintain reserves.

Water rates in 2022 will increase by about four percent across the various usage tiers. This is consistent with rate adjustments from previous years. The Board of Directors has historically opted for smaller year-to-year increases to avoid situations where a substantial increase becomes necessary. As the calculation below the water rates chart illustrates, the new rates translate to a \$1.25 monthly increase for a household using 10,000 gallons of water in a billing period.

WATER SERVICE RATES			
TIER	MONTHLY USAGE <i>(Gallons)</i>	2021 RATE <i>(per thousand gallons)</i>	2022 RATE <i>(per thousand gallons)</i>
1	0—5,000	\$4.40	\$4.50
2	6,000—20,000	\$6.30	\$6.55
3	21,000—30,000	\$9.35	\$9.60
4	31,000+	\$12.50	\$12.75
<i>Example water charges calculation for a household using 10,000 gallons of water:</i>		2021 $5 \times \$4.40 + 5 \times \$6.40 = \$54.00$	2022 $5 \times \$4.50 + 5 \times \$6.55 = \$55.25$

MONTHLY FLAT FEES		
2021	2022	PURPOSE
\$25.00	\$25.00	Sustainable Water Assurance Fee A fixed fee reflecting costs associated with developing, maintaining, and delivering a renewable water supply for ECCV customers.
\$36.00	\$38.75	Sewer Fee Pays for delivery and treatment of wastewater. Increase reflects increased costs assessed to ECCV by Aurora Water which receives and transports wastewater from ECCV’s system.
\$7.00	\$7.00	Administration Fee Covers the costs of meter maintenance and replacement, printing and mailing of monthly statements.