

Billing Questions

What is an ESU?

An ESU (equivalent service unit) is a measure of impervious surface on a property. The City of Adel has established one ESU as 3,000 square feet of impervious surface.

How are storm water management fees calculated?

Property owners are charged storm water management fees based on the total impervious surface area on the property. Each 3,000 square feet of impervious surface area is one Equivalent Service Unit (ESU).

Storm Water Utility—Basic Rates.

Each customer whose property lies within the corporate limits of the city shall pay to the City, through its collection agent, at the same time payment for City water is made, the following charges associated with the customer's property:

- 1) Undeveloped: Zero dollars (\$0.00) per month;
- 2) Developed: Three dollars (\$3.00) per month for those properties which impervious coverage is less than two (2) times the average impervious coverage, or 6,000 square feet; or
- 3) Developed: Three dollars (\$3.00) per equivalent service unit (ESU) of impervious surface for those properties which impervious coverage is equal to or greater than two (2) times the average impervious coverage, or 6,000 square feet.



Billing Questions

When will I receive my first bill?

You will receive your first bill April 1, 2010.

When does this take effect?

The Ordinance was approved by the City Council on November 10th, 2009 and will take effect when published.

How are fees charged to multi-family dwellings?

Service fees are based on the square footage of impervious surfacing on a property; therefore the more impervious surfacing the higher the service fee.

How are fees charged to business, industry, schools?

Fees are calculated based on the total amount of impervious surfacing a facility has. For example:

Area Table	
Lot Area	47,493 sf
Impervious Area	7,321 sf
% Impervious Area	15.41
Total ESUs	2

In the example above, this property owner would be billed a service fee of \$6.00 (2ESUs x \$3.00).

Who do I contact if there is an error on my bill?

You may contact the utility billing department or the City Administrator at the contact information listed in this brochure.

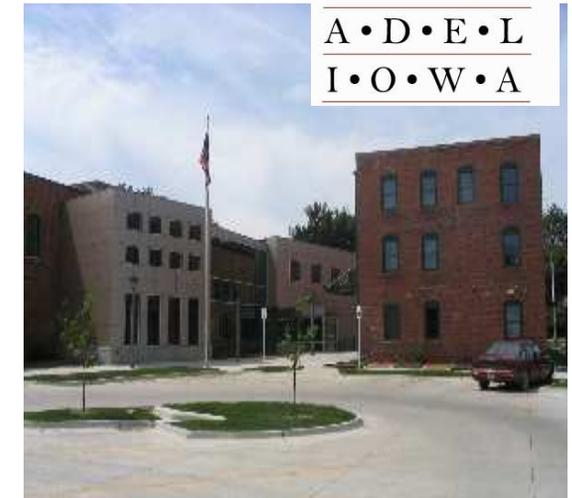
Is there an appeal process if I think that the amount of my impervious surface is in error?

Yes, the Ordinance provides for an appeal process to check the calculations and application of the fees.

The City of Adel's Storm Water Utility Frequently Asked Questions



A • D • E • L
I • O • W • A



To Manage Storm Water Quality and Quantity...

Adel City Hall
301 South 10th Street

Phone 515-993-4525 Fax 515-993-4527

www.adeliowa.org

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Why is there a need for Storm Water Management?

Storm water runoff in the form of rainfall or snow-melt flows from saturated permeable surfaces like roofs and paved driveways, sidewalks, parking lots and streets. It can create drainage and flooding problems and picks up pollutants such as oils, grease, fertilizers, pesticides, litter and metal. This



Storm water is captured from streets and discharged to local streams and rivers.

runoff is then collected and conveyed by ditches, culverts, intakes, catch basins and storm sewers that discharge directly into creeks, rivers, streams and lakes without being treated to remove the pollutants.

The contaminants in storm water can impact the quality of our local streams, lakes, and rivers. Increased runoff can cause flooding. Storm water management best practices are needed to prevent pollution and minimize flood impacts.

What is an impervious surface and how does it affect storm water runoff?

An impervious surface is any surface area that does not readily absorb water. Because water cannot be absorbed adequately, it runs off these surfaces and must be managed through well planned, constructed and maintained storm water facilities to prevent flooding and pollution of the receiving waters.

A storm water management fee is based on the amount of total impervious surface on your property. This amount of impervious surface is a gauge of how much each property is contributing to the overall need for storm water management facilities in our community.

Why do we have storm water management fees?

Storm water management fees are being implemented and billed to you because the City needs to raise revenues to fund its storm water management program and facilities. This management program safeguards our community directly through infrastructure improvements, improved inspection and maintenance of critical storm water facilities—and indirectly through such programs as public education and outreach. Storm water utility charges to properties are based on that property's contribution to the need for storm water management and facilities, this includes tax-exempt properties, which generally do not pay property taxes.

How are storm water management fees used?

The storm water management fees pay for operations and maintenance costs of the storm water management program.

Some of the services tied to the storm water management program include the following:

- Storm sewer system maintenance, repairs and construction
- Addressing cross connections with the sanitary sewer systems which may cause sewer backups in basements
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Flood prevention and improving water quality
- Pollution prevention
- Public education and outreach

Who pays the fees?

Owners of all developed land in the City pay the storm water utility fees. This includes residential properties, commercial properties, industrial properties, churches, schools, County owned properties, and other non-profit organizations. Undeveloped land is not charged storm water utility fees because it does not have impervious surfaces.



Storm sewer improvements.

If I have a detention or retention facility on my property, am I eligible for a credit?

It is the City's intent to encourage sound technical design practices that reduce the negative impact of development on the storm water drainage system through a credit system. Properties whose impact on the drainage system is significantly limited or has been effectively reduced through specific controls shall be entitled to a credit adjustment that may be applied to its service charge.

How is a storm water utility fee different from a tax?

The storm water utility fee is a user fee, much like the fee that you pay for your water utility or sanitary sewer utility services. Users of these services are charged for the demand they place on the system. The storm water that flows off your property places a demand on a vast system of storm water infrastructure, which is costly to operate and maintain.

Existing water utility fees do not pay for storm water management. However, the problem of water pollution has called attention to the need for greater safeguards in the management of storm water. The city must minimize the impacts of flooding and storm water pollution from the runoff generated from rooftops, yards, sidewalks, parking lots, and streets.



City of Adel

For Utility Billing, Public Works,
or General City Administration:
Phone: 515-993-4525
Fax: 515-993-4527
City website: www.adeliowa.org



Visit: www.iowastormwater.org

For more information on storm water in Iowa.