

COG'S REGIONAL STORMWATER UTILITY FEE AND TAX UPDATE - DRAFT

Water Resources Technical Committee

Katie Dyer, COG

May 8, 2026

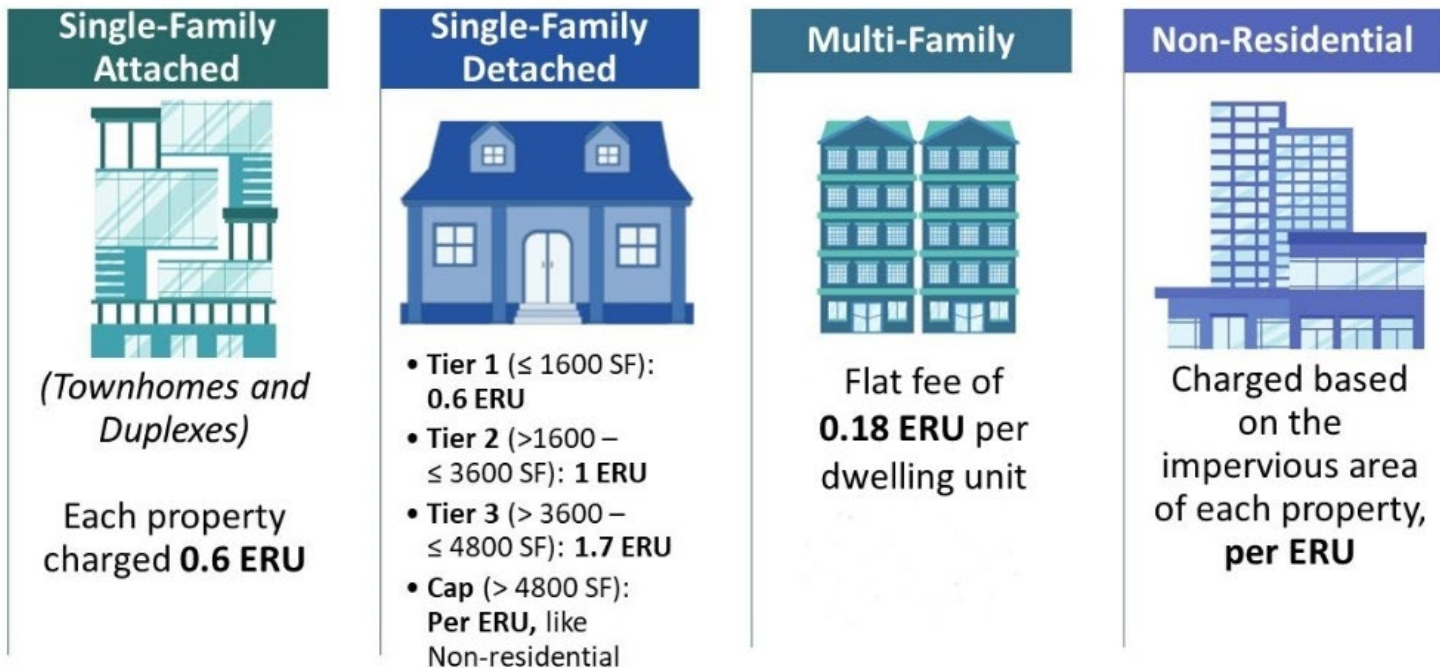
What is a stormwater utility fee/tax?

- A stormwater utility fee/tax is a dedicated funding source for local governments to fund existing and planned stormwater management activities and projects
- Funds are used to support Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit activities and requirements
- The fees/taxes fund activities to reduce the impact of stormwater runoff pollution into water ways
- Each locality uses their own *unique* calculation for the fee/tax
 - Typically, the fee/tax is a calculation based on the stormwater runoff impact generated by the total area of impervious surface on a property
- For how a fee is determined, local governments use various ways to calculate the fee/tax including: rate structures, calculations, and/or flat fees

Example Calculations

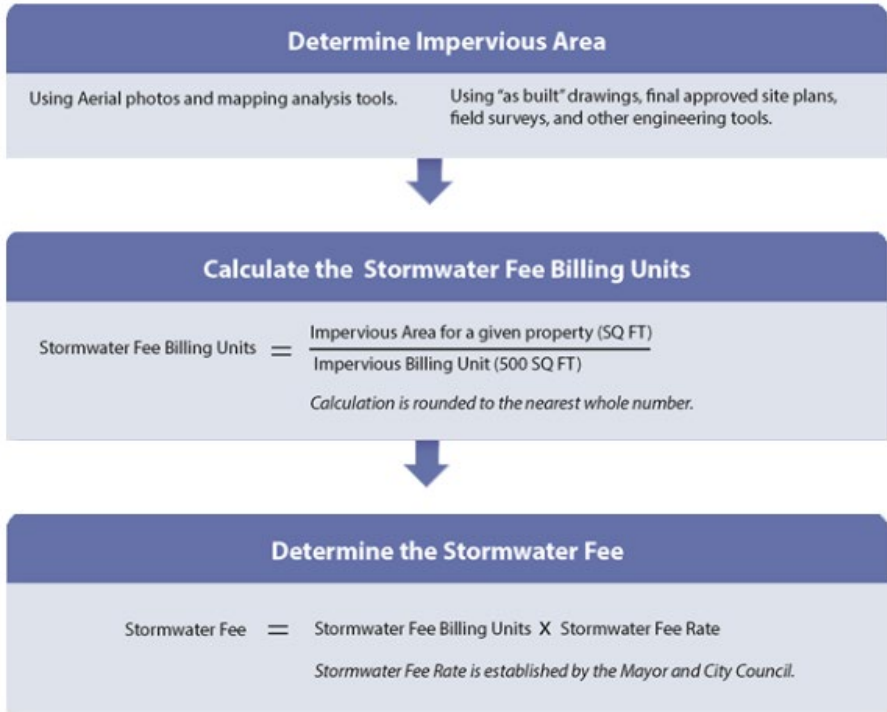
Stormwater Utility Fee Structure for Each Property Type

Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) = 2,400 sq. Impervious Area (IA)



Stormwater Utility Fee Structure from Arlington County's Website

Example Calculations



CALCULATION INPUTS	
Impervious Area on Property	2,200 sf
SWPF Billable Unit (BU)	500 sf
Total Billable Units (BU) (BU = Impervious Area/500 sf) (2,200 sf/500 sf = 4.4 BU)	4.4 BU
Rounded Billable Units*	4 BU
Fee per Billable Unit (For example purposes only)	\$22.44
Total Fee for SFH Property (Total Fee = 4 BU * \$22.44)	\$89.76
<small>*Note: The billable unit calculation is rounded to the nearest whole number</small>	

Stormwater Utility Fee Calculation from the City of Gaithersburg's Website

COG Tracks Stormwater Utility Fees/Taxes For The Region

- Since 2009, COG has provided a summary of local government stormwater utility charges
 - Document is updated every 2-3 years
 - Previous update was in 2023
 - FY26 numbers unless otherwise indicated
- Based on MS4 annual report information, annual budget documentation and individual member responses
- The draft document for distribution was provided to COG members for review and comment

Why Track Stormwater Utility Charges?

- *Why is this important?*
 - Practicable to have one central document for the region's taxes/fees
 - Limited accurate survey information available nationally
 - Long-term tracking is helpful for internal planning purposes
- *What this document is NOT doing*
 - Making comparisons or assumptions regarding fees/taxes amongst local governments
 - Arguing for increase or decreases in stormwater fees/taxes

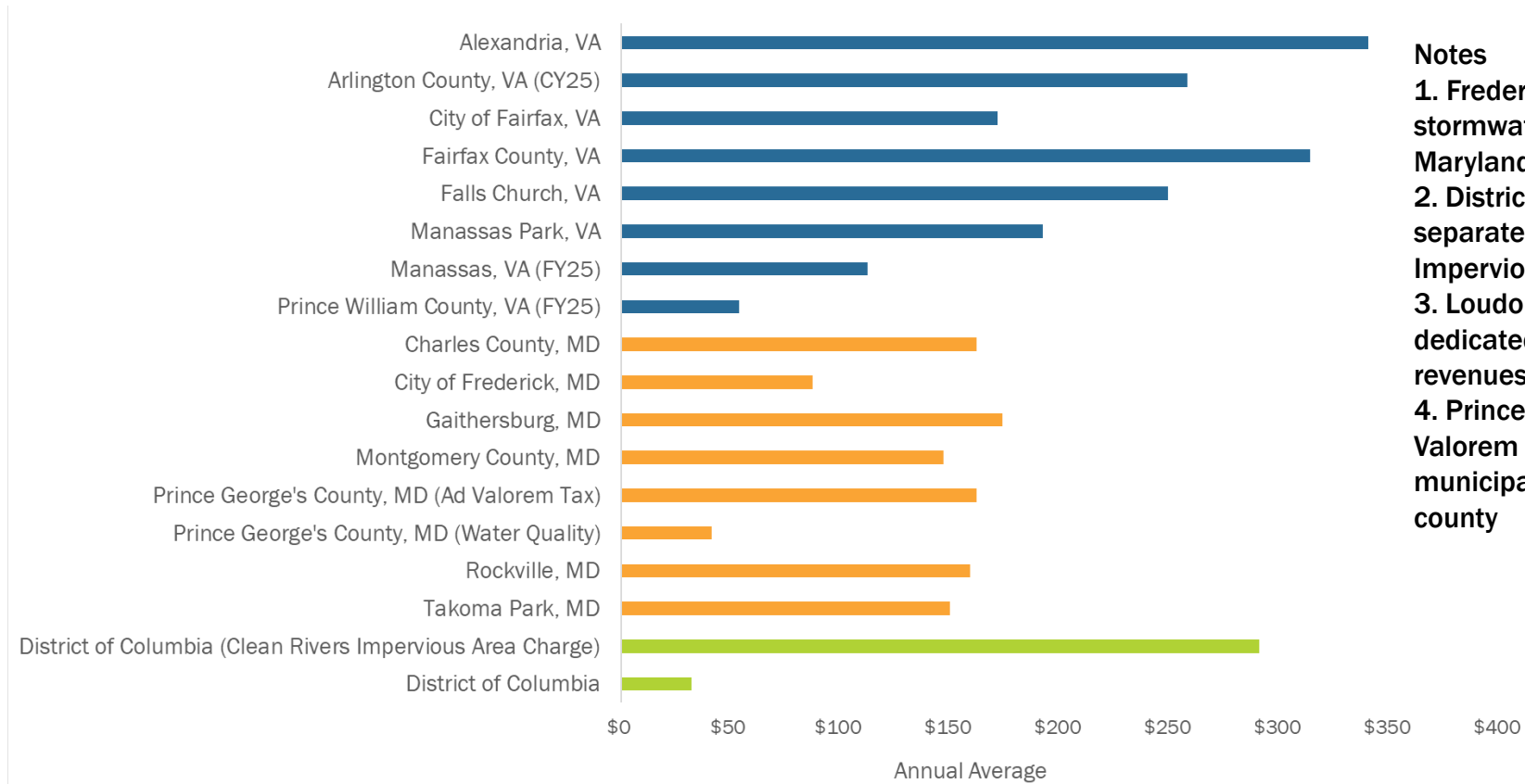
2026 Stormwater Utility Fee and Tax Rates Document

- The document provides detailed information on fee and tax rates
- Provides details on how fees/taxes are calculated within each local government depending on impervious surface area and type of property
- Funds produced by the fee/tax
- Not actively tracking program costs

Jurisdiction	Tax/ Fee	Annual Amount			Avg. Single Family structure Pays Annually	Funds Produced by fee/tax	Crediting Program for Homeowners Y/N
		Single-Family	Multi-Family	Commercial			
Virginia							
City of Alexandria 1 ERU=2,062 sq ft ¹⁶		1 ERU - Typical Single-Family Home 1.67 ERU - Large Single-Family Home	0.28 ERU - Condo 0.42 ERU - Townhouse	Based on impervious area of property divided by 2,062 sq ft to calculate the ERUs	\$340.30/ERU	\$19.58M	Y

Jurisdiction	Tax/ Fee	Annual Amount			Avg. Single Family Residence Annual Amount ²	Funds Produced by fee/tax ³	Crediting Program for Homeowners Y/N
		Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial			
Maryland							
Charles County ⁶ Flat rate FY 26	Fee	\$162	\$162	\$162	\$162	\$8.66M	Y
Frederick County ⁷ FY25	Fee - Nominal, primary funding source is General Fund Revenue	\$01	\$01	\$01	\$01	\$590.77	N

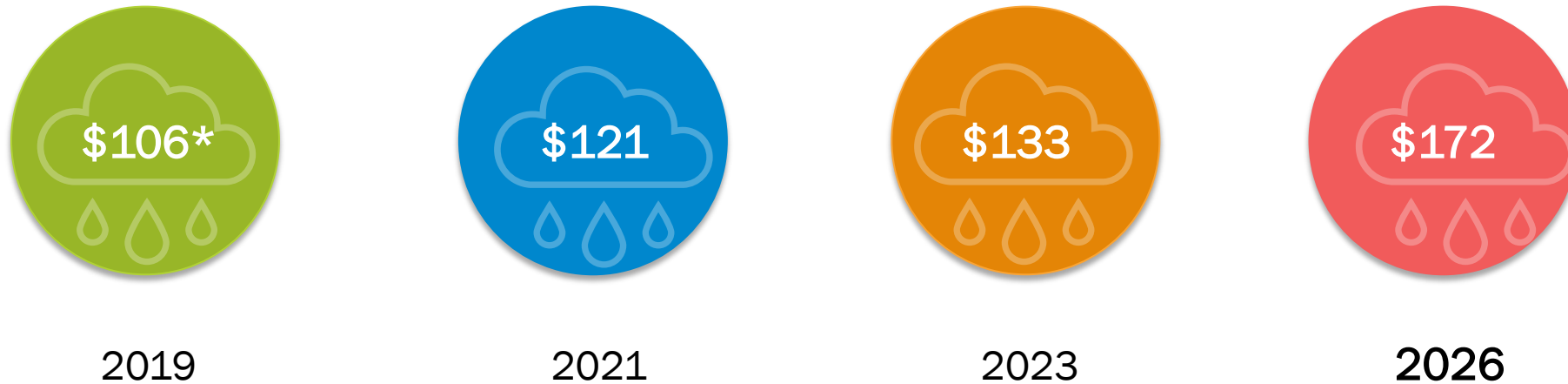
2026* Stormwater Utility Fee and Tax Rates for SFR



Notes

1. Frederick County has one cent nominal stormwater fee to meet the requirements of Maryland law
2. District of Columbia stormwater fee is separate from DC Water's Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge
3. Loudoun County does not have a fee or a dedicated tax. The county relies on general fund revenues for stormwater
4. Prince George's County has two fees; Ad Valorem and the Clean Water Act Fee, COG municipalities within PGC pay a few through the county

COG Region Average Annual Cost for SFR

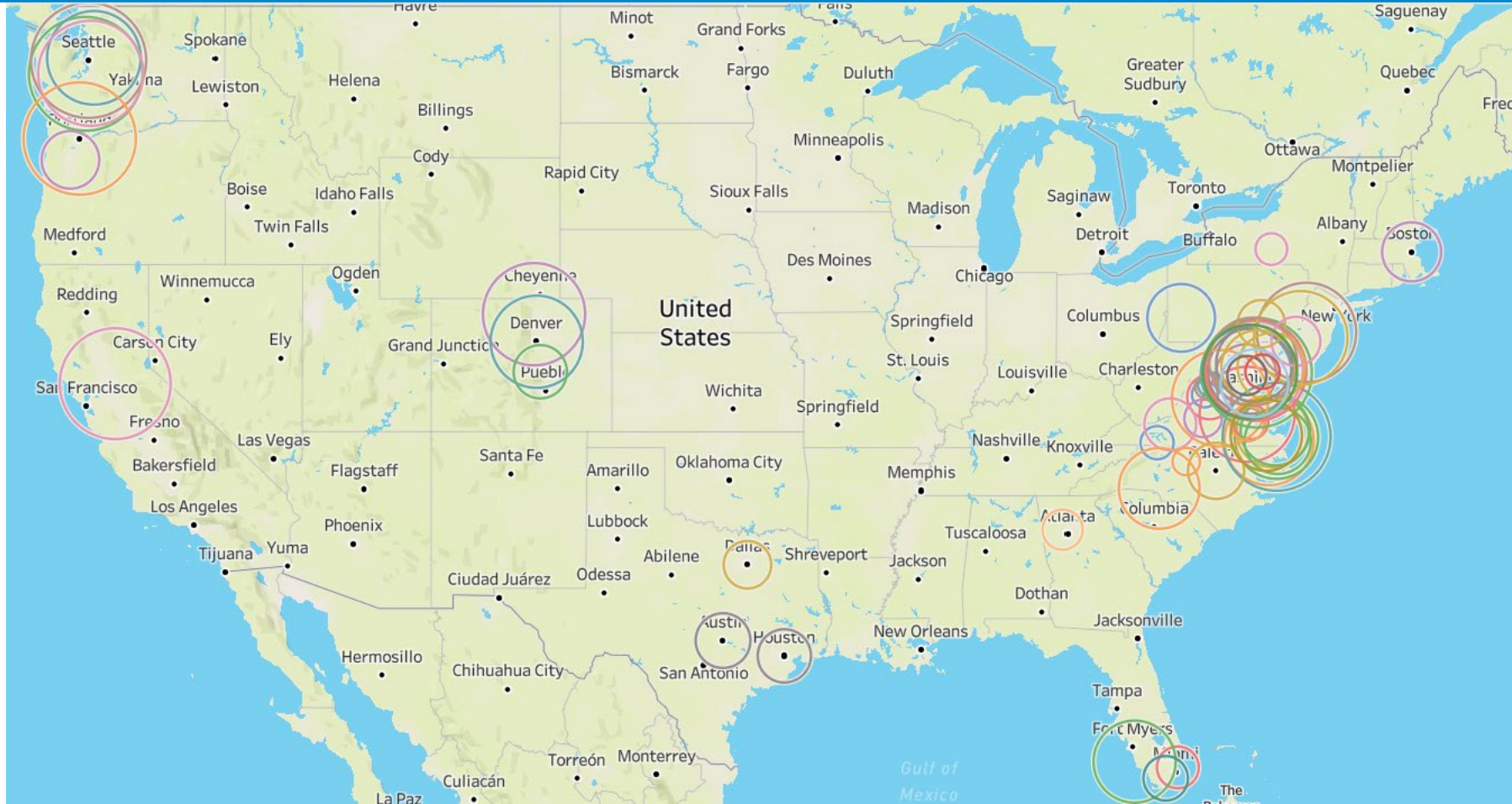


1. Rising program costs are driving increases in stormwater fees/taxes
2. Stormwater fees/taxes are a sustainable revenue source to fund stormwater activities
3. *2019 does not include every COG jurisdiction due to limited data
4. Average amount is for COG tracking purposes only – not reflective of averages within a jurisdiction

Stormwater Utility Funds – Annual Revenue as of 2026 Update

Year	DC (DOEE)	Maryland	Virginia
2026	\$13M*	\$152M	\$156M* <i>Additional 3 jurisdictions will be added</i>
2023	\$13M*	\$136M	\$144M
2021	\$13M*	\$123M	\$119M*

Stormwater Utility Funds National View – A few examples



Contact Information

Katie Dyer

Environmental Planner

kdyer@mwkog.org

Sushanth Gupta

Environmental Planner

sgupta@mwkog.org