LowCity. News: Loveland Water and Power (LWP) recently reviewed its rates, including utility services at competitive prices. A non-profit municipal utility, LWP benefits more than 30,000 residents and businesses through its service, and on the phones each day to provide exceptional customer service at a price that will not break the bank.

LWP performs a cost of service study on a three year cycle to ensure that power, water and wastewater usage is appropriately charged. In 2016, LWP comprehensively reviewed several major rate classes in the water and wastewater utilities, including the residential and commercial classes.

In 2018, LWP comprehensively reviewed single-family residential customers are paying appropriately for the maintenance costs incurred by water usage. Water rates will not increase for that rate class in 2019. The study showed single-family customers are keeping costs down by employing water conservation measures and reducing home water consumption. However, commercial and multi-family residential customers will see an increase in rates due to changes in all rates classes through the cost of service study. In other words, the larger increase is due to keeping costs low and reliability high. These are the reasons why every four years from these studies.

LWP staff presents the findings to the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and City Council for review and final approval. The most recent study revealed single-family residential customers are paying appropriately for the maintenance costs incurred by water usage. Water rates will not increase for that rate class in 2019. The study showed single-family customers are keeping costs down by employing water conservation measures and reducing home water consumption. However, commercial and multi-family residential customers will see an increase in rates due to changes in all rates classes through the cost of service study. In other words, the larger increase is due to keeping costs low and reliability high.

Utilities identify rates based on cost of service while keeping customer needs and the community’s objectives front and center.

As community-owned utilities, they do not answer to remote shareholders and are not driven by a profit motive. Revenues are invested back into the utility and community.

RATES-SETTING TYPICALLY FOLLOWS A 5-STEP PROCESS...
Loveland’s new snow plan reflects the efficient use of resources for the benefit of all residents. Here’s how:

1. **Collaborative effort** - While Loveland Public Works crews are up to small, medium and large-scale challenges, it takes the collaboration of city departments and mobility work groups to ensure the plan comes to fruition. That means shoveling. Residential sidewalks are the responsibility of homeowners or, in some cases, homeowners’ associations, and they must be clear of snow within 24 hours of a storm’s end. Loveland, like all others on Colorado’s Front Range, does not allow snow on residential streets in case of mounds of 6 inches or less. If storm totals top that, feet of City trash trucks are lifted with plow blades to clear single-lane passages in all Loveland neighborhoods.

2. **Large pick-ups now allowed** - Residential areas with recently passed ordinance allow large pick-ups now. More than 6,000 pounds (empty weight) are now allowed to park for more than one hour on residential streets. A second pick-up can also be parked for more than one hour on residential streets. 

3. **Plows** - In order to keep streets or gutters clear, please do not shovel snow into them.

4. **Artisan demonstrations** - Local artisans will also be featured at the event.

5. **Artists** - Local musicians and dance troupes, Kevin Cook’s Light Life and Santa Claus’ Night Lights in Loveland.

6. **Businesses** - More than 6,000 pounds (empty weight) are now allowed to park in residential areas.

7. **Cultural events** - Local cultural events such as the arts and crafts fair will be featured.

8. **Emergency assistance** - Emergency utility or other emergency assistance are exempt from the one-hour time limitation.

9. **Renaming the routes** - 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 - in keeping with industry standards that apply in most cities.

10. **Efficiency and a shift away from** - These route changes provide more flexibility to those with special needs.

Library’s Loveland Lights celebration is a great way to kick-off the season. Get into the holiday spirit at the annual Loveland Light holiday kick-off at the Loveland Public Library, Saturday, December 1st and 2nd. Some highlights of this weekend-long event includes a bake sale, bake local, local demonstration such as carving, gingerbread workshops, spinning, weaving and pottery demonstrations. The Library will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m., with the exception of Monday.

There will be a children's scavenger hunt, performances by local musicians and dance troupes, Kevin Cook’s Light Life’s and Santa Claus’ Night Lights in Loveland. The Loveland Lights celebration is sponsored by the Friends of the Loveland Library.
New, more efficient and user-friendly transit routes go into effect Nov. 5

The Loveland Public Works Department is migrating two 100 feet-long routes as part of a recent overhaul to the City’s transit system. The changes, scheduled to take effect Nov. 5, will require only minimal changes to the existing bus-stop structure throughout the area.

What that means:
• Large vehicles such as truck and bus will be prohibited from parking for more than an hour in residential areas.
• Unattached trailers are still prohibited from parking for more than one hour in residential areas.
• The change to the City’s Municipal Code allows for the possibility of large trucks like the City’s snow plow, pictured here, and others that provide emergency or other assistance, from the one-hour time limit.

The Loveland Public Works Department is migrating two 100 feet-long routes, the City’s most efficient and circular feeder routes, as part of a recent overhaul to the City’s transit system. The changes, scheduled to take effect Nov. 5, will require only minimal changes to the existing bus-stop structure throughout the area.

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Call to action

The City’s mechanized snow crew got started when the storm dumped another 4 to 6 inches of snow on Loveland, the third snowfall since Oct. 15. The public works crews worked around the clock to get Loveland a little further along in the recovery process, and they expect some heavy lifting yet to come.

The City’s Public Works crew members stand in front of three wing plows, mainstays in the City’s snow-fighting equipment fleet.

Large pick-ups now allowed in residential areas with recently passed ordinance

The Loveland Public Works Department manages snow removal and other Large pick-ups now allowed in residential areas with recently passed ordinance

The Loveland Public Works Department manages snow removal and other large-scale challenges, but there’s a focus on saving smaller, more urgent tasks, such as clearing streets in residential neighborhoods.

New, more efficient and user-friendly transit routes go into effect Nov. 5

The City of Loveland’s transit system, known as COLORADO LINE (COLT), has undergone a significant overhaul that includes a new connector route between north and south Loveland.

The result of the sessions: An extensive and hiring effort for bus drivers and auxiliary staff is underway.

Large pick-ups now allowed in residential areas with recently passed ordinance

The Loveland Public Works Department is working on a plan that includes an expansion of the City’s COTL route system, which would add three new routes and extend existing ones.

Large pick-ups now allowed in residential areas with recently passed ordinance

The Loveland Public Works Department is working on an emergency plan for the City’s snow-fighting equipment in case of severe weather conditions.
Loveland Water and Power (LWP) comprehensively reviewed general use of service for each class and compared them to resources and maintenance costs incurred by water and wastewater. This family would see an increase in 2019. Analysis of all rate classes through the cost of service study ensures that no rate class does not subsidize another class’ usage.

As community-owned utilities, they do not answer to remote shareholders and are not driven by a profit motive. Revenues are invested right back into the utility and community.

Rates are calculated with the customer in mind. Loveland Water and Power is a non-profit utility that takes pride in providing accurate information at an affordable price.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. FIRST</td>
<td>We don’t get tons. Average storm duration in Loveland is about 41 inches, less than 3½ feet, and it arrives over the course of about 25-or-so snowy days from October and it continues into April.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. SECOND</td>
<td>It doesn’t stay long. Even the most lingering winter storms usually contain only a foot to a foot-and-a-half of snow. Typically, snow has melted by the time we get to the flip-flops and summer solstice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. THIRD</td>
<td>Snow is spread fairly evenly throughout the year, making that happen. The newly set rates go into effect on customers’ monthly bills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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It takes a city, and it wage’s winter war

It’s been a long, hard winter for Northern Colorado from the Upper Midwest and New England states for those who grumble occasionally about the pace of life in the Pacific Coast, on the other hand, those who are engaged in fine-tuning its snow-removal strategies are guided by our individual perspectives. Regardless of where we are from or where we live, there is a fierce amount of winter storms plaguing us for as much as five months of the year, with the most extreme cases lasting for a year. Those are the events we prepare for. The Loveland Public Service Department is continuously engaged in fine-tuning the snow-fighting capacity so that the efforts of major snowfall events become as little as possible.
the Loveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and the Loveland City Council for review and final approval.

The most recent study revealed single-family residential customers are paying appropriately for the maintenance costs incurred by water usage. Water rates were set for that rate class in 2019. The study showed single-family customers are keeping costs down by employing water conservation measures and reducing home water consumption.

However, commercial and multi-family residential customers will see an increase in 2019 (see all rate classes through the cost of service study ensues that no rate class does not subsidize another class usage). City Council has approved modest rate increases for power and wastewater in 2019. For a monthly bill, the average single-family home uses 75% of electricity and produces 320 gallons of wastewater. This family would see an increase of 84¢ for the electricity (summer rates) and 10¢ for wastewater on their monthly bill. Water service rates will remain the same for single-family homes. These average estimates, individual bills will vary based on customer usage.

LWP retains one of the lowest-cost municipal utility providers in Colorado. In fact, the 2019 rate increases are reduced from the approved rate track due to strategic but limited borrowing. In other words, the larger increase scheduled to hit Loveland early next year was thwarted by utility staff and community leaders who are committed to keeping costs low and reliability high.

Learn more about your city’s utility services at www.cityofloveland.org/utilityinfo.

Read more about how to conserve energy and save money on your utility bill at www.cityofloveland.org/efficiency.

How Public Utilities Set Rates...

Rates are calculated with the customer in mind. Loveland Water and Power is a non-profit utility that takes pride in providing reliable services at an affordable price. As community-owned utilities, they do not answer to remote shareholders and are driven by a profit motive. Revenues are invested right back into the utility and community.

1. BACK HQ IN THE STREET... utilities identify rates based on cost of service while keeping customer needs and the community’s objectives front and center.

2. OVERHEAD REVENUE REQUIREMENTS... utilities present the suggested rate design at a board meeting. The community’s response to the proposed rates is then considered when arriving at the final rate structure. The board then approves the new rate structure.

3. FACTORS... a utility’s board of directors establishes a formula that determines any revenue requirement. The board then approves the formula. Loveland’s revenue requirement is based on 2018 data for淄博, which is projected to change over the next three years.

4. BALANCE... instead of increasing or decreasing the utility’s rate structure, the revenue requirement is balanced so that the utility can keep the rate structure at the same level.

5. INVOLVE CUSTOMER FEEDBACK... rates are approved by theLoveland Utilities Commission (LUC) and laid out a strategy for how rates should be implemented over the next three or five years. The plan ensures components (customer, use, demand) should vary over time.

HOW PUBLIC UTILITIES SET RATES...

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