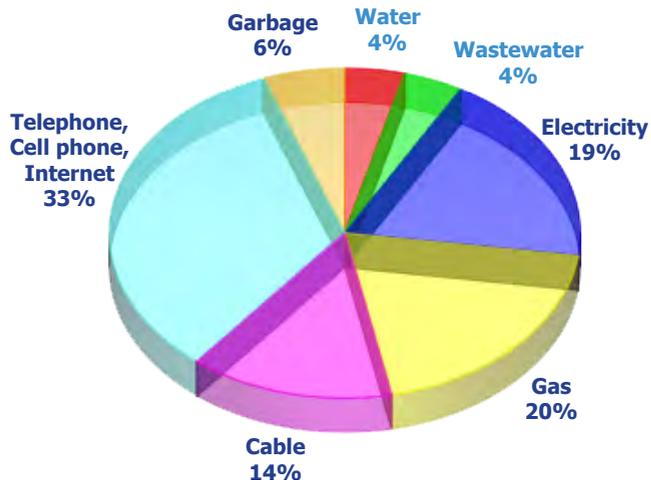


## YOU SHOULD KNOW...

- Drinking water and wastewater services are not free.
- There may be miles and miles of underground pipes in your community delivering water and removing waste.
- Much of our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure is old and deteriorating.
- Water and wastewater main breaks and other disruptions are becoming increasingly common and increasingly expensive to address.
- Significant reinvestment is necessary to prevent:
  - Degraded environmental health and drinking water quality, threatening consumer's health and increasing industrial costs; and
  - Insufficient water for households and industries threatening property values, the communities' economy, and our quality of life.

### Average U.S. Household Monthly Utility Costs



Which one can't you live without?

## STAY INFORMED

Water and wastewater services are a vital part of life. Learn more about your system, and support critical reinvestment in water and wastewater infrastructure by:

- 
- 
- 

# The Value of Water

What's it worth to you and your community?

## MORE INFORMATION

The brochure template is created by the WWEOC. Any views or opinions expressed in this brochure are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the WWEOC.

*Invest in the future of your water and wastewater systems* ○



## WATER IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE

Water in the U.S. is accessible and convenient. Can you imagine a day without water? Every 24 hours, 4,000 children die worldwide from unsafe water.

Our health has improved over the years because of the quality of drinking water and wastewater sanitation provided in the U.S. One hundred years ago, life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years; now it is 78. An important contributing factor is clean water.

## WATER SUPPLY & CONSUMPTION

Water is essential to our everyday lives, but its supply is limited. Our bodies need water to survive, farmers need water to grow food, and the environment needs water to keep recreation and wildlife thriving. Businesses and industry need water to provide goods and services in order to keep the economy functioning.

**According to the Environmental Protection Agency, per year, the average American household spends \$707 on soft drinks and other beverages but only \$523 on water and wastewater charges.**

**Every day, in the U.S., about 408 billion gallons of water are used for all types of purposes (drinking, bathing, farming, business, industry, power generation, etc.).**

## WATER & WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

### Drinking Water

#### Do you know...

- Where your drinking water comes from?
- How much it costs to maintain your community's drinking water system and who pays for it?

### Wastewater

#### Do you know...

- Where your wastewater goes?
- How much it costs to maintain your community's wastewater system and who pays for it?

### Drinking Water and Wastewater

#### Do you know...

- Who runs and maintains your drinking water and wastewater system?
- What training is required for drinking water and wastewater personnel?

**By 2020, over 30% of U.S. drinking water and wastewater professionals are expected to retire. Currently, there are not enough workers being trained to replace them in this highly skilled profession.**

## AGING & IMPAIRED INFRASTRUCTURE

### Do you know...

- How old your drinking water and wastewater system is?
- If your local officials are planning for repairs, infrastructure replacement, and water emergencies?

## THE VALUE OF WATER

Water and wastewater services are delivered to you 24/7/365. A day without water can mean:

- No drinking.
- No flushing.
- No brushing.
- No showers, laundry, or dishwashing.
- No putting out fires.
- No watering lawns and gardens.
- Increased risk of waterborne disease.

