

Brightwater: sewer hookups, septic systems and who pays

Who pays for Brightwater?

Brightwater will be funded largely by a capacity charge and monthly sewer rates from new connections to the system throughout King County's wastewater service area. That area stretches from north Pierce County to Mill Creek; it's not just the portion that Brightwater directly serves.

Brightwater will protect public health and the environment by treating wastewater from south Snohomish County and north King County. The wastewater that will flow to Brightwater now flows to regional plants in Seattle and Renton. Building Brightwater will free up capacity in the existing facilities to treat wastewater from the growing population in other parts of King County's service area.

If I am not on sewers but live in the Brightwater service area, will I have to pay for Brightwater?

No. Residences and businesses that are not connected to sewers in King County's wastewater service area are not charged fees for King County's wastewater treatment service.

With the building of Brightwater, will I be forced to remove my septic system and hook up to the sewer system?

Property owners do not connect directly to King County's regional wastewater system. Local sewer agencies collect wastewater and contract with King County to convey and treat it at one of our regional treatment plants. Local sewer agencies decide where and when to build or extend service lines.

Wastewater treatment service is provided only within designated urban growth areas, with few exceptions. These areas are designated as part of the state's Growth Management Act and local comprehensive plans. Because of those plans, we expect most homes and businesses within the urban growth boundary will likely have sewer service within the next two decades. But the exact timing would be up to the local agencies.

Local agencies may not require a home to hook up to the sewer system if the septic system is working properly. Depending on individual circumstances, hooking up to the sewer can be less expensive than building a new septic system or replacing a failed system. Contact your local government or sewer district to find out more about what is planned for your area.

You can get more information on King County's capacity charge and sewer rate at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/capchrg/> and <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/homepage/rate/>.

You can get a fact sheet on the funding of Brightwater at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/library/docs/Regional_Funding0604.pdf.

For more information or to be added to our mailing list, please contact us: Phone: 206-684-6799

Email: brightwater@kingcounty.gov , Web site: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/>

This information is available in alternative formats on request by calling 206-684-1280 or Relay Service 711



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division