

Philadelphia Adopts a New Rate Plan with Monthly Payment Plan for Households Near or Below the Poverty Line that is linked to How Much They Earn: The program will go into effect on July 1. It will be the country's first water rate based on income. According to Philadelphia Water Department figures, some 86,000 household accounts – one in five in the city – have had water shut off at least once since April 2012. The income-based rates follow federal poverty guidelines. Philadelphia's plan sets monthly water bills as a percent of income. A household making zero to 50 percent of the poverty line will pay two percent of monthly income for the water bill, which includes sewer and stormwater charges. A household between 51 percent and 100 percent of the poverty line will pay 2.5 percent of monthly income; a household between 101 percent and 150 percent will pay three percent. The minimum bill will be \$12 per month ([Philadelphia](#)).