
Utilities

MISSION STATEMENT

The goals of the County Government relating to utility consumption are to:

- achieve energy savings by the elimination of wasteful or inefficient operation of building systems;
- continue improvements in energy efficiency in all County operations; and
- obtain required energy fuels at the most favorable cost to the County.

HIGHLIGHTS

This budget funds the utility costs for 235 (General Fund) facilities with approximately 5,184,578 total square feet, and over 65,225 streetlights and 756 traffic controlled signalized intersections.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The FY09 Approved Budget for the tax supported Utilities non-departmental account (NDA) is \$25,866,880, an increase of \$1,456,130 or 6.0 percent from the FY08 approved budget of \$24,410,750. Allocation of these utilities expenditures is approximately: electricity, 86.9 percent; natural gas, 9.0 percent; water and sewer, 3.6 percent; and fuel oil, 0.5 percent. The total increase is due to unit rate cost increases, and from new or annualized facilities, streetlights, or traffic signals.

The FY09 Approved Budget includes County government utilities expenditures for both tax and non-tax supported operations. Tax supported utilities expenditures related to the General Fund departments are budgeted in the Utilities NDA, while utilities expenditures related to special fund departments are budgeted in those funds. Some of these special funds, such as Recreation and portions of the Department of Public Works and Transportation, are tax supported. Other special funds, such as Solid Waste, are not supported by taxes, but through user fees or charges for services.

Utilities expenditures are also found in the budgets of other County agencies: Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Montgomery College, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). The total budget request for these "outside" agencies is \$77,201,270 which includes the entire bi-county area of WSSC.

The FY09 Approved tax supported budget for Utilities Management, including both the General Fund NDA (\$25,866,880) and the other tax supported funds (\$2,209,920), is \$28,076,800, an increase of \$1,458,130 or approximately 5.5 percent from the FY08 Approved utilities budget. The FY09 Approved Budget for non-tax supported utilities expenditures is \$4,640,640, a decrease of \$31,950 or - 0.7 percent from the FY08 Approved budget.

In both the tax and non-tax supported funds, increased utilities expenditures result primarily from higher commodity unit costs due to market price fluctuations; greater consumption due to new facilities or services; and in some cases, a more precise alignment of budgeted costs with actual prior-year expenditures by utility type. Energy conservation and cost-saving measures (e.g., new building design, lighting technology, energy and HVAC management systems) help offset increased utility consumption or unit costs.

LINKAGE TO COUNTY RESULT AREAS

While this program area supports all eight of the County Result Areas, the following are emphasized:

- ❖ ***A Responsive, Accountable County Government***

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND INITIATIVES

- ❖ *This budget funds the utility costs for 235 facilities with approximately 5,184,578 total square feet, and over 65,225 streetlights and 756 traffic controlled signalized intersections.*
- ❖ *The Division of Operations is the lead agency to conduct electricity procurement activities for the County's big six agencies plus twelve municipalities including Prince George's County and the Town of College Park. Since 2000 Montgomery County and the rest of the aggregation group members, have been successful in cost avoidance savings for the purchase of electricity supply.*

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Contact Bryan Hunt of the Office of Management and Budget at 240.777.2770 for more information regarding this department's operating budget.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Utilities (for All General Fund Departments)

The Utilities non-departmental account provides the General Fund utilities operating expense appropriations for the Department of General Services and the Department of Transportation. The utilities expenditures for other non-tax supported operations and other agencies are appropriated within their respective department or agency.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY07	Budget FY08	Estimated FY08	Approved FY09	% Chg Bud/App
COUNTY GENERAL FUND					
EXPENDITURES					
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0	0	—
Employee Benefits	0	0	0	0	—
County General Fund Personnel Costs	0	0	0	0	—
Operating Expenses	23,619,090	24,410,750	24,409,050	25,866,880	6.0%
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0	—
County General Fund Expenditures	23,619,090	24,410,750	24,409,050	25,866,880	6.0%
PERSONNEL					
Full-Time	0	0	0	0	—
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	—
Workyears	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—

FY09 APPROVED CHANGES

	Expenditures	WYs
COUNTY GENERAL FUND		
FY08 ORIGINAL APPROPRIATION	24,410,750	0.0
Other Adjustments (with no service impacts)		
Increase Cost: Combination of rate and consumption changes	1,456,130	0.0
FY09 APPROVED:	25,866,880	0.0