

# NEW WATER RATES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETZDORF



## COST-COVERING WATER RATES

Nowadays, it is taken for granted that you can simply turn on the tap at home to draw water for drinking, cooking, washing and cleaning. Yet this service comes at a considerable cost and has a negative impact on our environment. For this reason, Europe has set the goal of instituting a common water policy to minimise the impact of human intervention in the natural water cycle and to ensure the impeccable quality of our water in Europe. One of the instruments of this provision is the 'polluter pays' principle,

according to which **consumers must bear the economic and ecological costs** of intervening in the water cycle.

On **January 28th, 2022** the municipal council **agreed to new water rates** that would fully cover the costs of the municipal water service, as stipulated in the National Water Act.

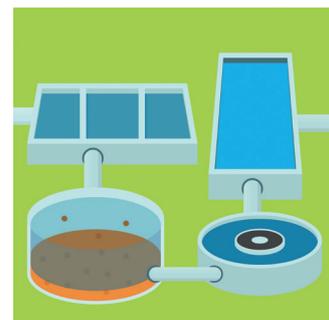
The widespread idea that spring water is free is no longer true. As a result of intensive and harmful human intervention in the natural water cycle, the quality of water in its natural environment has deteriorated considerably in Europe and also here in Luxembourg.



In order to drink tap water, it must be clean. **Therefore, part of the price of managing water covers preventive and sustainable protection of our drinking water resources, with the aim of avoiding complex and cost-intensive water treatment.** This applies to the spring water in our municipality, as well as to groundwater and the river water from the water syndicate SEBES (Syndicat des Eaux du Barrage d'Esch-sur-Sûre), which provides part of our drinking water supply.

**These measures are factored into the price just as much as the costs of the infrastructures and the work of the people who control, operate and maintain these structures ;** all these infrastructures not only had to be built, they must now be continuously maintained or improved.

Waste water from human consumption processes has to be transported via piping to sewage treatment plants. There it is purified before release into the region's streams and rivers.



## TIPS FOR SAVING WATER

As a consumer, you can adjust your behaviour to pay less for your water.

- ✓ If you **take a shower instead of a bath**, you not only save water, but also the energy that is needed to heat the water.
- ✓ In the kitchen, **washing up should not be done by hand**. Washing dishes by hand uses considerably more water and energy than a modern dishwasher. **Only use washing machines and dishwashers that have been filled to capacity**.

- ✓ To prevent unnecessary water evaporation when **watering in your garden in summer**, you should wait one to two hours **after sunset** until the air and soil temperatures have dropped.

**The lawn should not be watered at all**, as the grass grows back quickly with the first rain after a dry period.

- ✓ Vehicles should not be washed at home and certainly not outdoors, since water going into street drains is often discharged directly into streams. **Car washes are much more efficient and use less water**.

- ✓ Furthermore, we encourage you **to drink tap water** instead of bottled water. Tap water is a consumable that is strictly controlled. **Tap water is a hundred times cheaper than bottled water** and produces much less waste.

### CARWASH



## NEW WATER RATES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BETZDORF

Contrary to the national law on using water rates that cover costs, the price of water in the municipality of Betzdorf **has not been adjusted to the price index over the last nine years**, as a result of which municipal policy is no longer compliant and consumers have enjoyed a discounted rate for years.

**In order to prevent our municipality from being ineligible for government subsidies in the water sector, the municipal council had to adjust rates.** When the costs were recalculated, it was discovered that the previous calculation was based on incorrect data. This error has now been corrected and has led to a further increase in rates.

**The new rates are broken down into four different sectors**, as required by the National Water Act. The rates reflect costs specific to the behaviour of individual consumers, i.e. their respective use and pollution of water.

**For households, the price of 1,000 litres of drinking water has risen by 70 euro cents excluding VAT.**

**The connection fee for houses has been increased by €8.80 excluding VAT per mm of connection.**

**These prices apply since 1 May 2022.**

We are providing you, as a resident of our municipality, with this information so that you can prepare for this price increase and **start implementing water savings solutions** over the summer months. This approach is necessary so that we can protect our environment and **you can control your energy costs**.

