

PRESS RELEASE

NEW WCS WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2013

- Penang's new water conservation surcharge (WCS) has been officially gazetted in accordance to the Water Services Industry Act (WSIA) 2006.
- From 1 November 2013, the water conservation surcharge (WCS) will be RM0.48 per 1,000 liters for domestic consumption above 35,000 liters per month.
- 72% of 460,966 domestic water consumers not affected.
- Only 28% of high volume domestic water consumers will be affected. However, they can choose to reduce consumption and avoid the WCS.
- The WCS does not affect trade water consumers, and hence, should not affect the price of goods and services.
- Its primary purpose is to promote water conservation.
- It encourages the public to participate in the State's overall water conservation programme.

PENANG, Thursday, 31/10/2013: Penang's new water conservation surcharge (WCS) of RM0.48 per 1,000 liters, for domestic consumption above 35,000 liters per month, will be implemented from 1 November 2013.

Perbadanan Bekalan Air Pulau Pinang Sdn Bhd (PBAPP) General Manager Ir. Jaseni Maidinsa said PBAPP had waited until the new WCS had been gazetted before implementation. "As a licensed and responsible water operator, we operate in compliance to the Water Services Industry Act (WSIA) 2006," he said.

He reminded all domestic water consumers that the WCS would only affect them if they used more than 35,000 liters of water per month.

"The majority of domestic water consumers in Penang (332,103 of 460,966 domestic water consumers) did not pay the WCS in 2012. If you are amongst the 72% of domestic consumers who use less than 35,000 liters of water per month, you will not be affected by the WCS," he said.

"If your bi-monthly water bill is RM21.40 or less per month, you are not paying the WCS," he added.

However, Ir. Jaseni said, high volume domestic water consumers will see the new WCS rates in their water bills from December 2013 onwards.

“Only 28% of domestic water consumers will be affected by the new WCS. However, they have a choice – they can choose to reduce their consumption to 35,000 liters or less per month to avoid the WCS,” he added.

Ir. Jaseni said high volume domestic water consumers had pushed Penang’s per capita domestic consumption up to an all-time high of 302 liters/capita/day (l/c/d) as at 30 June 2013. The national average is 212 l/c/d according to the Malaysia Water Industry Guide 2013.

“In Penang, domestic water supply coverage is almost 100%, the water is clean and tariffs are subsidised for the benefit of underprivileged households. However, we cannot continue to use too much water because it is not sustainable,” he said.

He reiterated, “the WCS is a domestic water conservation surcharge.”

“The primary objective is to conserve water. Water conservation was the only way for PBAPP to sustain continuous good water supply and reasonable water tariffs in the future. This is the essence of water demand management to ensure sustainable water supply,” he said.

“It may be the wet season now but we need to ensure that we have enough water at all times, even during the long dry seasons. Moreover, we need to think of the future,” he added.

“If you wish to continue to enjoy continuous good water supply as well as reasonable tariffs, please conserve water at home. Avoid the WCS. Please visit www.pba.com.my for water saving tips,” he said. “We need to have enough water for all in Penang towards 2020.”

(ends)

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Domestic Water Consumption (Litres / Capital/ Day)

NATIONAL AVERAGE = 212 l/c/d

Sources: Malaysia Water Industry Guide 2013 and the latest Internet statistics
Penang domestic consumption – June 2013

