

May 2025 Utilities and Community Announcements

Proposed rate changes effective July 1, 2025 - The City of Palo Alto Utilities (CPAU) works hard to keep rates low. However, rate increases are necessary this year to continue to provide safe and reliable utilities for all Palo Altans. Under this year's proposal, rates would rise for electric, gas, wastewater, and water. Learn about your utility rates at [paloalto.gov/ratesoverview](https://www.paloalto.gov/ratesoverview). For more information on ways to keep utility bill costs low or financial assistance, call Utilities Customer Service at (650) 329-2161 or visit [paloalto.gov/utilitiescustomerservice](https://www.paloalto.gov/utilitiescustomerservice).

Reduce single-use plastics... for good! The City adopted a Disposable Foodware Ordinance, that means food service establishments such as restaurants and cafés are no longer allowed to offer single-use plastic utensils, produce bags, and stir sticks. While dining out or ordering in, make sure you are receiving compostable foodware items instead. Better yet, bring your own reusable items to stop the waste! For more information on these requirements, visit [paloalto.gov/foodware](https://www.paloalto.gov/foodware) or call (650) 496-5910.

Need to drain your pool, spa, or fountain? Always drain to your sanitary sewer cleanout. Draining water from these sources to storm drain systems is prohibited and can pollute creeks with copper, chlorine, sediments, and other contaminants. Learn more at [cleanbay.org](https://www.cleanbay.org).

The City of Palo Alto transitioned its official website URL www.cityofpaloalto.org to www.paloalto.gov on April 9, 2025. The change complies with California State Assembly Bill 1637, which was passed in 2024 and requires local municipalities to have a .gov domain name by or before January 1, 2029. This transition will provide enhanced cybersecurity, reinforce confidence and trust in the City's online presence for residents, businesses, and visitors, and increase the website's visibility and ranking in search engines.