
Department of Public Utilities

Department Description

The Department of Public Utilities protects surface water quality, promotes public health and safety and sustains economic development. The department is responsible for collecting and treating wastewater generated within the City of Columbus and 22 suburban communities, and those unincorporated areas of Franklin County. The department provides abundant, safe and reliable drinking water within the City of Columbus and 20 suburban communities.

The Department of Public Utilities also manages stormwater to mitigate flooding and water quality impacts, educates the public on watershed stewardship and water conservation, and regulates industrial water pollution discharged to sewers.

The department also supports fire suppression activities with reliable fire hydrants, provides and maintains street lights for vehicle safety and pedestrian security, and offers dependable electrical power at a competitive price.

Department Mission

To enhance the quality of life, now and into the future, for people living, working and raising families in central Ohio through the economic, efficient and environmentally responsible stewardship of superior public utilities.

Strategic Priorities for 2011

From the Columbus Covenant:

Customer Service

- The “Project Dry Basement” program will continue. The intent of this program is to cover the cost of approved backflow prevention devices for Columbus single and two-family homes prone to sewer backups during wet weather and from blockages.
- The department will annually update its portion of the city’s website to provide residents with timely, important information on capital projects, such as status, location and projected completion date.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its comprehensive plan for Columbus’ sewer system to mitigate the city’s wet weather overflows and basement backup problems. Committing to a \$2.5 billion, in 2005 dollars, investment over the next 40 years, the Wet Weather Management Plan (WWMP) will bring Columbus into full compliance with two Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) consent orders. In 2011, the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue implementation of the WWMP. The Division will also continue construction on the single largest capital project ever implemented by the City, a 20-foot diameter tunnel through the downtown area.

Neighborhoods

- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue its neighborhood-focused stormwater program to mitigate flooding in residential areas. As part of this program, many localized stormwater capital improvements are planned for 2011, a list of which can be found in the capital summary section of this document.
- The department will use the Stormwater Drainage manual to promote “green” stormwater management systems. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue to safely and responsibly manage stormwater runoff in the construction, expansion or redevelopment of residential subdivisions, industrial sites, commercial developments and roadway construction. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will further seek ways to encourage the use of green infrastructure in new and existing properties.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue to rehabilitate and replace aging sanitary and combined sewer infrastructure to increase the level of service in neighborhoods while continuing to reduce overflows in our rivers and streams.
- The Division of Power and Water and the Division of Sewerage and Drainage will improve and refine their respective programs to identify and prioritize projects that are geared towards the maintenance of a solid infrastructure in residential areas.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue to pursue removing the 5th Avenue Dam, contingent on sufficient funding from other sources.

Safety

- The Division of Power and Water will continue the design and construction of projects for enhanced security, the recommendations for which arose from a vulnerability assessment that was undertaken to ensure a secure and safe drinking water supply.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue to work with neighborhoods that apply for decorative street lights through the petition and assessment process.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue its neighborhood lighting program.

Economic Development

- The department will continue to be a key partner in major development projects that enhance neighborhoods and downtown.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue major water treatment plant expansion projects to ensure an adequate water supply for growing populations in the central city and outlying areas. Construction of the upground reservoir project will begin in 2011. At the same time, DPU will continue to encourage responsible water conservation practices.
- The Division of Power and Water will renovate a portion of the Dublin Road power substation to improve service reliability for the downtown area in 2011 pending availability of funding.

- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will continue collaboration with the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) and Kurtz Bros. to implement a new process or processes to promote the beneficial reuse of organic wastes, including but not limited to, bio-solids, livestock manure and yard waste to produce clean renewable energy.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue the Children's Water Festival educational initiative. 2010's event brought 400 grade school students during National Drinking Water Week in May and will be expanded in 2011.
- The department will continue to promote the "GreenSpot" program, which inspires, educates and recognizes residents, businesses and community groups on the methods and benefits of conserving and protecting water consistent with the Mayor's Get Green Columbus initiative.
- The department will participate in Neighborhood Pride and other public events, promoting both department programs and projects and its role in the Mayor's Get Green Columbus initiative.
- The department will continue its source water and stormwater protection services to include the We All Live Downstream public education program and the stormwater and watershed management programs.
- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will notify the public about overflow events through local newspaper ads, signs and its website. Education efforts include informational fact sheets and inserts in water and sewer bills once a year.

Peak Performance

- The department will continue implementation of an asset management program (AMP) begun in 2008 to continually focus on affordably meeting customer service level expectations at the lowest overall long-term financial, social and environmental cost. A more rigorous and defensible capital decision making process will be implemented prior to asset creation. New technology will be utilized to better assess existing asset conditions to determine risk levels associated with aging infrastructure assets. Resources and efforts will be prioritized and focused on the most critical assets to lower risks and overall utility ownership costs based on that data. Monitoring and analysis of key performance indicators will continue to focus on adapting operations to achieve peak performance.
- The Division of Power and Water will continue a valve exercise and replacement program to improve distribution system reliability. The division will also continue to replace meters and identify and repair leaks in an effort to lower the percent of water that is not accounted for annually.
- The department will continue to work to develop leadership among staff members by improving communication throughout the department. The goal is to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of all staff members.
- The department will continue participation in the city wide effort to utilize internet and electronic contract bidding of its construction contracts in order to improve existing bid procedures and reduce bid costs.

- The Division of Sewerage and Drainage will begin implementation of the solids treatment and utilization master plan with emphasis on sustainability, greenhouse gas emissions and beneficial reuse where applicable. In 2011, the division will begin a more detailed engineering analysis and design of a land application program for the beneficial reuse of biosolids as fertilizer. The division will also seek ways to increase utilization of biogas both internally and potentially externally.
- The department will continue implementation of the Environmental Management System to support all employees in performing day-to-day work activities in a manner so as not to harm the environment and to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements.

2011 Budget Notes

Director's Office

- The Sewer and Water Advisory Board (SWAB) will recommend to Columbus City Council adjustments to water and sanitary sewer rates that will increase revenue to the funds by 7.5 and 6.0 percent, respectively. No rate increase is being recommended for the storm sewer fee in 2011.
- The recommended funding for the Public Utilities Director's Office supports 95 full-time and 10 part-time employees.

Water

- The recommended funding for the Water enterprise section of the Division of Power and Water funds 551 full-time and 33 part-time employees.
- Funding is maintained in the 2011 budget for maintenance and security of grounds, buildings and dams at Griggs, O'Shaughnessy and Hoover reservoirs, the three primary sources of water for the Columbus metropolitan area.
- Funding is continued for the operation of the division's three water treatment plants in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Approximately 161 positions are funded to undertake this activity in 2011.
- Funding is also continued for the distribution maintenance function. These employees maintain the integrity of the water infrastructure by repairing taps, valve leaks and main line breaks. This section is also responsible for fire hydrant maintenance.
- The recommended 2011 debt service budget is over 12 percent higher than in 2010. This is due to a recent increase in bond sale and capital loan activity, undertaken to finance the division's growing capital improvements program.

Power

- The Power enterprise section of the Division of Power and Water's recommended 2011 budget supports 99 full-time and 10 part-time positions in

the Division of Power and Water-Power. This assumes a moderate level of employee turnover and resultant vacancy savings.

- A total of \$65 million is budgeted for the purchase of wholesale electric power in 2011.

Sewerage and Drainage

- Current service levels are maintained in 2011 in the Division of Sewerage with the funding of 522 full-time and 16 part-time budgeted positions.
- Funding is maintained to continue the efficient operation of the division's two wastewater treatment plants within the limits and conditions set forth by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit.
- Funding is maintained in 2011 to allow sewer maintenance operations staff to continue to monitor the integrity of the wastewater collection system with periodic inspection and telemonitoring of sewer lines at current levels. Problem areas within the system will be scheduled for repair or upgrade. Additionally, this staff will continue to address emergency calls regarding sewer system overflows, water-in-basements and other related emergencies.
- Debt service estimates are based upon the most recent interpretation of the sequencing and costs of capital projects related to the consent order. The recommended 2011 debt service budget is over 10.5 percent higher than in 2010. This reflects a recent increase in bond sale and capital loan activity, undertaken to finance the division's growing capital improvements program.

Stormwater

- Twenty-three full-time and two part-time positions are funded in the Stormwater Management Section.
- Since its creation in 1994, this division has been involved in many neighborhood storm sewer capital improvement projects which have provided flooding relief for residents. In 2011, over \$13.7 million in debt service will be spent for capital improvement projects to mitigate flooding throughout the city.
- In 2011, the stormwater utility fund will continue to pay the cost of street cleaning and snow and ice removal, since such efforts protect water quality and minimize the burden on the sewer system from ice, snow and surface debris. These two programs are expected to total \$6.9 million in 2011.

Budget and Program Summary

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
DIVISION SUMMARY	2008	2009	2010	2010	2011
Actual	Actual	Original	Estimated	Proposed	
Public Utilities Director	\$ 37,153,703	\$ 8,837,183	\$ 10,827,135	\$ 9,858,967	\$ 10,983,556
Sanitary Sewers	207,164,706	213,448,927	226,245,950	216,322,794	235,639,836
Electricity	83,088,996	93,006,378	94,973,303	89,497,855	92,770,219
Water	140,240,849	147,478,224	153,558,568	150,773,179	159,275,876
Storm Sewers	40,063,594	31,926,050	33,670,100	33,087,031	34,064,616
TOTAL	\$ 507,711,848	\$ 494,696,762	\$ 519,275,056	\$ 499,539,826	\$ 532,734,103

DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
ADMINISTRATION	2008	2009	2010	2010	2011
EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	Actual	Actual	Original	Estimated	Proposed
			Appropriation	Expenditures	
Personnel	\$ 8,132,390	\$ 8,026,297	\$ 8,826,420	\$ 7,882,431	\$ 9,148,792
Materials & Supplies	265,503	204,287	247,585	225,093	274,988
Services	1,145,412	597,380	1,753,130	1,741,116	1,549,776
Capital	11,193	9,200	-	10,327	10,000
Transfers	27,599,205	19	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 37,153,703	\$ 8,837,183	\$ 10,827,135	\$ 9,858,967	\$ 10,983,556

DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
WATER	2008	2009	2010	2010	2011
EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	Actual	Actual	Original	Estimated	Proposed
	Actual	Actual	Appropriation	Expenditures	Proposed
Personnel	\$ 43,129,106	\$ 42,224,377	\$ 45,833,860	\$ 42,811,620	\$ 46,988,003
Materials & Supplies	19,613,325	24,913,734	24,598,885	23,228,812	21,144,821
Services	28,735,886	27,593,630	29,369,138	31,040,731	30,643,587
Debt Principal	24,555,175	29,063,692	28,466,115	28,566,500	33,074,338
Other	132,927	223,155	104,000	591,936	100,000
Capital	2,004,613	537,235	643,862	638,301	1,440,000
Interest	14,341,839	13,911,663	17,617,375	17,722,331	25,885,127
Transfers	7,727,978	9,010,738	6,925,333	6,172,948	-
TOTAL	\$ 140,240,849	\$ 147,478,224	\$ 153,558,568	\$ 150,773,179	\$ 159,275,876

DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
SANITARY EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 41,402,118	\$ 39,752,214	\$ 44,525,704	\$ 41,738,720	\$ 45,952,595
Materials & Supplies	7,034,620	7,457,957	7,782,716	8,183,263	8,547,959
Services	48,724,007	46,060,136	48,789,202	48,812,980	51,727,510
Debt Principal	50,826,157	59,024,295	60,075,428	58,886,332	63,068,948
Other	105,235	186,665	377,000	496,743	228,500
Capital	3,411,857	898,991	2,928,500	2,302,696	2,040,600
Interest	32,184,079	35,557,539	41,040,837	37,378,248	43,267,161
Transfers	23,476,633	24,511,130	20,726,563	18,523,813	20,806,563
TOTAL	\$ 207,164,706	\$ 213,448,927	\$ 226,245,950	\$ 216,322,794	\$ 235,639,836

DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
STORMWATER EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 1,754,627	\$ 1,330,946	\$ 1,876,468	\$ 1,413,316	\$ 1,683,101
Materials & Supplies	26,197	18,482	83,843	66,344	40,500
Services	24,734,270	17,686,400	18,305,628	18,079,514	18,514,349
Debt Principal	7,547,000	7,268,649	7,537,200	7,542,200	8,064,200
Other	-	19,773	80,000	357,520	80,000
Capital	45,000	32,989	-	-	26,600
Interest	5,956,500	5,568,811	5,786,961	5,628,137	5,655,866
TOTAL	\$ 40,063,594	\$ 31,926,050	\$ 33,670,100	\$ 33,087,031	\$ 34,064,616

DIVISION SUMMARY BY CHARACTER					
ELECTRICITY EXPENDITURES SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Personnel	\$ 9,075,222	\$ 8,611,593	\$ 9,522,823	\$ 8,709,362	\$ 9,819,897
Materials & Supplies	58,099,283	63,093,308	68,414,033	64,942,574	66,496,181
Services	7,514,567	7,393,547	9,483,216	9,356,757	9,542,234
Debt Principal	5,127,183	5,528,245	4,622,996	4,631,090	4,199,980
Other	222,682	159,646	221,520	50,199	84,680
Capital	1,474,178	848,965	1,464,600	560,547	1,530,000
Interest	1,575,881	1,371,074	1,244,115	1,247,327	1,097,247
Transfers	-	6,000,000	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 83,088,996	\$ 93,006,378	\$ 94,973,303	\$ 89,497,855	\$ 92,770,219

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY BY FUND					
FUND SUMMARY	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Original Appropriation	2010 Estimated Expenditures	2011 Proposed
Sewer Operations	\$ 238,331,295	\$ 217,263,339	\$ 230,955,764	\$ 220,630,383	\$ 240,411,982
Water Operations	143,680,809	150,964,884	157,759,475	154,568,974	163,532,394
Electricity Operations	83,281,665	93,475,534	95,633,787	90,107,732	93,439,422
Stormwater Management	42,418,080	32,993,005	34,926,030	34,232,737	35,350,305
TOTAL	\$ 507,711,848	\$ 494,696,762	\$ 519,275,056	\$ 499,539,826	\$ 532,734,103

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL SUMMARY					
DIVISION	FT/PT*	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Budgeted	2011 Budgeted
Public Utilities Director	FT	89	88	95	95
	PT	5	5	10	10
Sanitary Sewers	FT	487	482	522	522
	PT	9	8	16	16
Electricity	FT	88	86	99	99
	PT	5	6	10	10
Water	FT	515	505	551	551
	PT	20	20	33	33
Storm Sewers	FT	18	18	23	23
	PT	1	2	2	2
TOTAL		<u>1,237</u>	<u>1,220</u>	<u>1,361</u>	<u>1,361</u>
*FT=Full-Time PT=Part-Time					

**2011 Operating Budget
Department of Public Utilities**

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed	2008 FTEs	2009 FTEs	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs
Utilities Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Department of Public Utilities.	\$ 10,246,073	\$ 10,713,410	\$ 10,827,135	\$ 10,983,556	95	95	95	95
Water Supply	To maintain an adequate quantity and quality of raw and finished water for the citizens of Columbus.	\$ 35,917,289	\$ 44,030,870	\$ 45,596,889	\$ 44,257,162	160	160	161	161
Customer Service	To support managers of the other division by providing timely and accurate information related to the core business functions of the utility for daily operational decisions and long term strategic planning.	\$ 18,644,157	\$ 18,759,359	\$ 16,878,376	\$ 16,979,526	192	192	192	193
Water Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Division of Water.	\$ 66,337,915	\$ 67,814,409	\$ 67,122,732	\$ 73,533,785	12	12	10	9
Water Distribution	To ensure the residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area have an uninterrupted distribution of safe, reliable water, and that the infrastructure of the utility is maintained.	\$ 22,544,735	\$ 25,076,547	\$ 23,960,571	\$ 24,505,403	187	187	188	188

2011 Operating Budget
Department of Public Utilities

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed	2008 FTEs	2009 FTEs	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs
Sanitary Sewer Engineering and Maintenance	To ensure the integrity and maintenance of the existing sewer infrastructure and to expand this infrastructure to serve the Columbus Metropolitan Area without detriment to the community.	\$ 30,855,434	\$ 31,736,288	\$ 30,418,109	\$ 31,625,415	271	271	272	272
Wastewater Treatment	To promote the health and safety of residents of the Columbus Metropolitan Area through the effective treatment of wastewater.	\$ 47,146,116	\$ 50,732,253	\$ 47,808,777	\$ 49,636,622	240	240	239	239
Sewer Administration	To provide administrative support services for the Division of Sewers and Drains.	\$ 149,797,793	\$ 159,719,832	\$ 148,019,064	\$ 154,377,799	11	11	11	11
Stormwater Management	To provide effective stormwater collection services to the community within the corporate limits of Columbus.	\$ 35,099,855	\$ 37,017,054	\$ 33,670,100	\$ 34,064,616	23	23	23	23
Electricity Distribution	To ensure that customers receive safe and reliable electric power and that neighborhoods receive modern street lighting.	\$ 7,545,294	\$ 8,424,323	\$ 8,865,538	\$ 8,914,603	51	51	51	55

Utilities

2011 Operating Budget
Department of Public Utilities

Program	Mission	Financial History by Program				Personnel by Program			
		2008 Budget	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed	2008 FTEs	2009 FTEs	2010 FTEs	2011 FTEs
Street Lighting	To promote public safety through the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of an efficient and reliable street lighting system.	\$ 3,056,805	\$ 2,827,782	\$ 2,796,892	\$ 2,788,012	19	19	19	15
Electricity Administration	To support the operations of the Division of Electricity.	\$ 73,657,501	\$ 79,372,579	\$ 83,310,873	\$ 81,067,604	29	29	29	29
		\$ 500,848,967	\$ 536,224,706	\$ 519,275,056	\$ 532,734,103	1,290	1,290	1,290	1,290