The City of Victoria has introduced a new stormwater utility.

Property owners will now receive an annual stormwater utility bill. Previously, stormwater fees were collected through your property tax. This new utility is a user-pay system, connecting the impact a property has on the stormwater system directly to the bill.

Stormwater is rain that lands on hard surfaces then flows into drains and pipes. The stormwater system helps to manage the rain and runoff in our City, reducing flooding by moving excess stormwater away from properties. It also separates some of the oil, metals, sand and soil that would otherwise flow into our waterways and ocean.

Along with being more fair and equitable, the new utility also allows the City to offer incentives for managing rainwater more sustainably through the Rainwater Rewards program.

The stormwater utility does not generate new revenue for the City. The City’s stormwater budget remains the same in moving from property taxes to a utility system.

Learn more at victoria.ca/stormwater.

Important: Your stormwater utility account number is listed at the top of the bill. If paying through online banking, please remember to set up a new account; do not use your water and sewer utility account number. Pre-authorized payment options will be available starting in 2017.

Understanding the Charges on Your Bill:

- **Impervious Area**: Rainwater flows off these hard surfaces (e.g. roof or driveway) and is diverted into the stormwater management system. These areas have been measured by building plans and mapping technology.

- **Rainwater Rewards Program**: The new utility offers financial incentives for sustainable rainwater management, including rain gardens, cisterns and permeable (absorbent) paved areas.

- **Street Cleaning**: Keeping our streets clean goes a long way to keeping pollutants out of our stormwater system. Rates are based on the frequency of street cleaning and street frontage length, measured by mapping technology.

- **Intensity Code**: The impact a property has on the stormwater system, based on the property type assigned by BC Assessment.

- **Codes of Practice**: A program to clean stormwater before it leaves the property, to preserve and protect our local waterways and ocean. Properties with 10 or more parking spaces and certain business or property uses are registered in this program.