



MUNICIPALITY OF
GREENSTONE

Municipality of Greenstone Policy Manual

Subject: Water and Sewer Rate Relief for Eligible Low Income Persons	
Number: 23-14	Section: Corporate Services / Finance
Original Effective Date: July 1, 2023	Last Revised/Approved Date: February 13, 2023
Approval Authority:	

Purpose:

The Municipality of Greenstone deems it desirable and in the public interest to provide relief of financial hardship to low income persons by way of a utility rate reduction to those residential property owners who qualify under this Policy

Application:

This policy applies to property owners subject to water and sewer utility charges that are receiving payments under the Guaranteed Income Supplement, or the Ontario Disability Support Program.

Policy Statement/s:

The Director of Corporate Services shall provide guidance to property owners on program eligibility.

Applications for the Utility Rate reduction shall be received by the Administration Office to the attention of the Director of Corporate Services for approval by March 1st of each year.

Approved applications will be forwarded to the Manager of Finance & Accounting and the Utility Clerk to apply the rate reduction.

The Director of Corporate Services shall manage the program budget and shall periodically review this policy and may make recommendations for Council's consideration.

Definitions:

"Eligible amount" means an annual reduction of 10% of the standard residential water and sewer rates.

"Low income person" means a person who is in receipt of an increment paid under the Guaranteed Income Supplement, or a person who is in receipt of an increment paid under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act.

"Municipality" means the Municipality of Greenstone.

"Owner" means a person assessed as the owner of a residential real property and includes an owner within the meaning of the Condominium Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.46.

"Personal residence " means the residence ordinarily inhabited by the owner.

"Spouse" means a person:

1. to whom the person is married, or
2. with whom the person is living outside marriage in a conjugal relationship, if the two persons,
3. have cohabited for at least one year
4. are together the parents of a child, or
5. have together entered into a cohabitation agreement under section 53 of the Family Law Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.3.

Policy:

Entitlement to Rate Reduction

The Director of Corporate Services is authorized and directed to allow an owner of residential real property in the Municipality an annual reduction of 10% of the standard residential water and sewer rates imposed by the Municipality in respect of real property provided that:

1. such owner or spouse of such owner or both occupies or occupy the property where utilities are imposed as his, her or their personal residence for the entire year in which the utility in respect of which the owner makes application for the uniform rate reduction become due and payable;
2. such owner or spouse of such owner or both is in receipt of a payment under the Ontario Disability Support Program Act on or before the 31st day of December in the year in which the utilities in respect of which the owner makes application for the aforementioned utility rate reduction become due and payable;
3. such owner or spouse of such owner or both is in receipt of a payment under the Guaranteed Income Supplement Act on or before the 31st day of December in the year in which the utilities in respect of which the owner makes application for the aforementioned utility rate reduction become due and payable;

4. such owner or spouse of such owner or both has or have been assessed as the owner of residential property in the Municipality for a period of not less than one year immediately preceding the date of application for the utility rate reduction;
5. no such utility credit shall be allowed to an owner or spouse in respect of more residential real property than one single family dwelling unit in any year and the residence must solely be classified in the Residential tax classification;
6. no such utility credit shall be allowed to any owner for a prior period after December 31st;
7. the utility credit against the real property utilities is continued to the surviving owner or spouse to whom a credit was allowed in the year of the person's death.

Ineligibility to Rate Reduction

An owner or surviving spouse or surviving partner who has received the utility rate reduction in any year ceases to be qualified for that credit when:

1. the owner or surviving spouse sells, leases or otherwise disposes of the residential real property for which the utility rate reduction was received; or
2. the owner or spouse of such owner or both do not occupy the residential real property as his, hers, or their personal residence.

When an owner ceases to be qualified for the utility rate reduction by virtue of the above, then such owner or spouse of such owner or both shall forthwith pay to the Municipality, an amount equal to that portion of the utility rate reduction to which the owner ceased to be eligible.

Applications

Any qualifying owner who wishes to obtain the utility rate reduction, or a surviving spouse who meets the requirements, shall submit a duly completed application, in a form set by the Director of Corporate Services.

The application shall be received by the Director of Corporate Services on or before the 1st day of March of the year in which the utilities become due and payable.

Applications need to be completed each year to qualify for the rate reduction.