Getting the Price Right

Heading Off Crisis:
Northeastern Illinois Water Supply Forum
May 12, 2016

Margaret Schneemann
Water Resource Economist





Avoid the issue and risk...

- emergency repairs
- business interruption
- public health impacts
- regulatory problems
- higher long-term costs

OR...



Invest proactively in management of water infrastructure assets to continue providing high-quality, reliable service. (at a lower long-term cost)

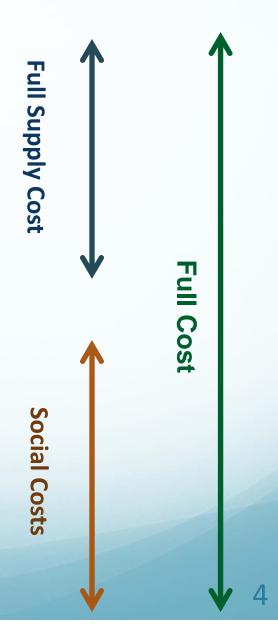
Paying for Water Service

The public can best be provided water service by self-sustained enterprises adequately financed with rates and charges based on sound accounting, engineering, financial, and economic principles.

American Water Works Association (AWWA) Much of water infrastructure is not funded on a pay-as-you-go basis, many communities turn to debt and loan funds to finance their infrastructure

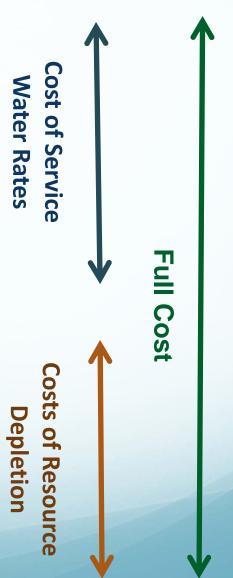
Analogy: What is the Full Cost of Driving?

- Gas
- Maintenance
- Operation
- Financing
- Road Maintenance & Construction
- Traffic Congestion
- Emissions Impacts



Full Cost Water Pricing

- Operations, Maintenance, Administration
- Debt Service
- Reserves
- Infrastructure Renewal and Repair
- Infrastructure Replacement
- Water Supply Planning & Conservation Programming
- Water Source Protection (Aquifer drawdown & depletion)



Cost of Service Rates: The "Pricing" Gap

Adjusting price towards full supply cost.

FULL SUPPLY COST PRICING

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COST

CAPITAL COST

CURRENT COSTS

REPLACEMENT AND GROWTH

TRADITIONAL PRICING

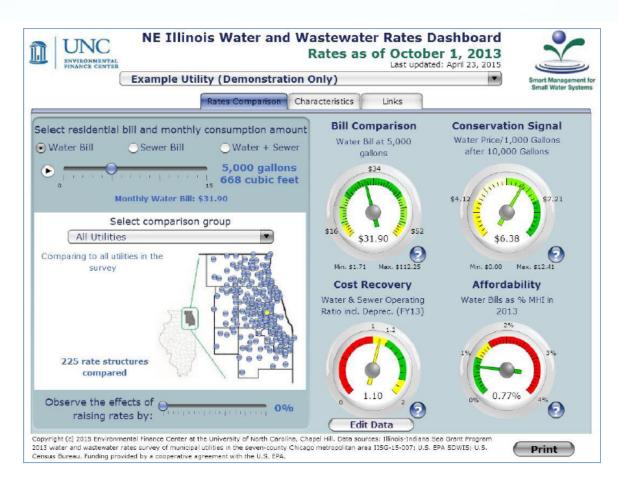
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COST (SUBSIDIZED)

CAPITAL COST (HISTORIC, SUBSIDIZED)

PRICING GAP

Source: Figure adapted from Rogers, P., R. Bhatia, and A. Huber. 1997. Water as a social and economic good: how to put the principle into practice. Paper prepared for the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Global Water Partnership in Namibia and Marbek Resource Consultants Analysis of Economic Instruments for Water Conservation Final Report to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment: Water Conservation and Economics Rask Group.

State of your rates?



http://www.efc.sog.unc.edu/reslib/item/northeast-illinois-water-and-wastewater-rates-dashboard

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Questions?

MSchneemann@cmap.illinois.gov 312.676.7456



