



# County of Lethbridge Policy Handbook

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR WATER & WASTE WATER SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTY OF LETHBRIDGE

---

As the corporate body that provides municipally approved services, which includes the provision of water and waste water systems in hamlets and other grouped residential developments, the County of Lethbridge has prepared the Guiding Principles outlined below. These principles will be applied to water and waste water systems that the County has direct involvement in.

The intent of the guiding principles is to provide a framework for the development and operation of these systems throughout the County. The primary objective is to ensure that the County's responsibilities are discharged in a manner that enhances public confidence in the safety and security of the systems, and also provides a foundation of equity and fairness in the funding and operation of these systems.

Unfortunately, the geographic area encompassed by the County of Lethbridge, prohibits the provision of these services for all residents. The priority areas where these services will be provided are the County Hamlets and other approved multi-parcel residential developments. In rural areas of the County where access to a potable water source can be provided in an economically feasible manner, these Guiding Principles will also apply.

### **Water and Waste Water System Guiding Principles**

1. The County of Lethbridge will seek to minimize long-term operating and capital development costs by pursuing the economies of scale achieved through regional treatment and distribution systems.
2. The combined costs incurred by the County to operate each water and waste water system should be fully recovered through a uniform utility rate schedule.
3. Notwithstanding #2 above, savings in operating costs that are realized through the "in kind" contributions of associations or user groups, should be reflected in reduced rates for that system.
4. The uniform utility rate schedule should include revenue required to accumulate reserves for the future upgrade of these systems.
5. The County should provide a uniform contribution towards the cost of developing water and waste water systems.
6. The basis for the County's contribution towards the initial installation of a system, may vary from the basis for a contribution to upgrade the same system.