

Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

OVERSTRAND NAMED

CLEANEST MUNICIPALITY

IN THE WESTERN CAPE



Municipal Manager, Dr Dean O'Neill, Executive Mayor Archie Klaas and Senior Engineer for Waste Management, Craig Mitchell.

Overstrand Municipality has clinched the top spot as the Cleanest Local Municipality in the Western Cape at the National Waste Management Awards.

These awards aim to spotlight best practices in recycling, waste reduction, landfill management and the circular economy, proving that local government can overcome service delivery challenges.

The Western Cape local municipalities performed exceptionally well, winning 8 out of the 10 categories, and were formally recognised at a provincial event hosted in Cape Town on 22 May 2026 by Minister Anton Bredell and head of department Graham Pause. Overstrand Municipality's award was also officially handed over at the council meeting held on 27 May 2026.

Other Western Cape local municipality winners recognised at the ceremony included Swellendam Municipality, recognised for the Most Improved Municipal Landfill Site, and Langeberg Municipality, praised for effective implementation and reporting on Integrated Waste Management Plans (IWMPs).

The Overstrand executive mayor, Alderman Archie Klaas, congratulated Craig Mitchell, Senior Engineer for Waste Management, and the entire team on the achievement. "This recognition confirms Overstrand Municipality's reputation as a leader in waste management and service delivery," he said. "I would also like to mention the community organisations that assist the Municipality with awareness and area clean-ups. This award is only possible with everyone's assistance and participation."

The MMC for Infrastructure Services, Councillor Clinton Lerm, said cleaning services and maintaining public spaces remain one of the municipality's most important responsibilities.




"This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our solid waste teams across the Overstrand. I am proud of every worker, supervisor and official who helps keep our towns clean, functional and welcoming for residents and visitors alike.

UNDERSTANDING PREPAID ELECTRICITY BLOCK TARIFFS

The price of prepaid electricity is divided into different tariff blocks.

The more electricity that is purchased during a calendar month, the higher the tariff charged for additional units.

HOW IT WORKS?

-  The first 350 units purchased during the month are charged at **R2.8819 per unit.**
-  Once more than 350 units have been purchased, the next 250 units (351–600) are charged at **R3.2232 per unit.**
-  Any units purchased above 600 units during the same month are charged at **R3.4830 per unit.**

DOES IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF I BUY ELECTRICITY MORE THAN ONCE A MONTH?



Prepaid electricity customers are charged according to an inclining block tariff system. This means that the first units purchased during a calendar month are charged at the lowest rate. As more electricity is purchased during the month, additional units are charged in higher tariff blocks.

The tariff block is determined by the total number of units purchased during the month, regardless of how many separate purchases are made. Buying electricity in several smaller transactions does not reduce the cost. At the start of each new calendar month, the block allocation resets and customers once again begin in the lowest tariff block.

EXAMPLE:

If a customer purchases 500 units in a month:

- The first 350 units will be charged at **R2.8819 per unit.**
- The remaining 150 units will be charged at **R3.2232 per unit.**

The customer does not pay the higher tariff on all 500 units – only on the units that fall within the higher tariff block.









Please note that prepaid and conventional credit electricity tariffs differ. Customers using prepaid electricity currently pay a lower rate per unit than customers using conventional credit meters.

MAKING SENSE OF YOUR MUNICIPAL STATEMENT

Many residents receive their monthly municipal statement, check the amount due and move on. However, your statement contains important information about your property, municipal services and how your account is calculated. In addition to your name, address, erf number, property size and ward councillor details, your municipal statement provides a detailed breakdown of the charges applicable to your property.

These charges typically include:

-  Property rates based on the municipal valuation of your property
-  Water consumption charges
-  Electricity consumption charges
-  Sewerage charges
-  Refuse removal charges
-  Fixed charges that contribute towards maintaining and operating the infrastructure required to deliver these services to your home

Charges vary based on factors such as property value, service usage and connection size. The only exception to this structure applies to qualifying indigent households whose properties have been valued at less than R350 000 and who may qualify for various forms of municipal assistance. Cost items to watch.

WATER (SLIDING SCALE):	
Usage (kℓ)	COST PER kℓ
0 and 6 kℓ	Cheapest rate R
19 and 45 kℓ	Highest rate R

ELECTRICITY
(inclining block tariffs & connection size)

Electricity usage is billed in accordance with an inclining block tariff structure. In addition, your electricity connection size impacts both the capacity and basic charges levied against your account each month.

PREPAID VS. CREDIT METERS

For residential customers, it is also useful to understand the differences between prepaid and conventional credit electricity accounts. While charges vary depending on the type of connection and meter configuration, the general rule remains: lower consumption and smaller connection sizes result in lower overall costs. Understanding the information on your municipal statement can help you monitor consumption, manage household costs and identify opportunities to use services more efficiently.

WHAT MUNICIPAL STATEMENTS WOULD TYPICALLY REFLECT IN THE YEAR AHEAD

VALUATION UNDER R350 000						
RESIDENTIAL INDIGENT HOUSEHOLD:						
DESCRIPTION			AMOUNT		INCREASE/DECREASE	
			2025/26	2026/27	Amount	%
RATES MONTHLY	MONTHLY	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELECTRICITY	EB1B - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELECTRICITY	EF - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	16.65	0.00	-16.65	-100.00
ELECTRICITY	EC1 CAPACITY	30 amp	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WATER	W1B - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WATER	0 - 10 kℓ	10 kℓ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WATER	W1A - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	15.45	8.41	-7.04	-45.57
SEWERAGE	SE8A - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SEWERAGE	SE8F - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	9.60	0.00	-9.60	-100.00
SEWERAGE	SE7A - CONSUMPTION	7 kℓ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
REFUSE	SAN1A - MONTH	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (VAT INCLUDED)			47.96	9.67	-38.28	-79.83
RAND VALUE (EXCL. VAT) OF WATER & ELECTRICITY: • 10 kℓ water = 80.50; • 70 units electricity = 175.42						

VALUATION ABOVE R350 000 BUT BELOW R1.5 M						
RESIDENTIAL INDIGENT HOUSEHOLD:						
DESCRIPTION			AMOUNT		INCREASE/DECREASE	
			2025/26	2026/27	Amount	%
RATES MONTHLY	MONTHLY	1	415.67	506.24	90.57	21.79
ELECTRICITY	EB1B - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ELECTRICITY	EF - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	16.65	0.00	-16.65	-100.00
ELECTRICITY	EC1 CAPACITY	60 amp	164.40	197.28	32.88	20.00
WATER	W1B - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WATER	0 - 10 kℓ	10 kℓ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
WATER	7 - 18 kℓ	5 kℓ	78.65	82.55	3.90	4.96
WATER	W1A - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	15.45	8.41	-7.04	-45.57
SEWERAGE	SE8A - BASIC	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SEWERAGE	SE8F - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	9.60	0.00	-9.60	-100.00
SEWERAGE	SE7A - CONSUMPTION	3.5	67.45	70.81	3.36	4.98
REFUSE	SAN1A - MONTH	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL (VAT INCLUDED)			820.70	919.15	98.45	12.00
RAND VALUE (EXCL. VAT) OF WATER & ELECTRICITY: • 15 kℓ water = 163.5; • 200 units electricity = 501.20						

VALUATION R2.5 MILLION						
RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD: MEDIUM CONSUMPTION						
DESCRIPTION			AMOUNT		INCREASE/DECREASE	
			2025/26	2026/27	Amount	%
RATES MONTHLY	MONTHLY	1	814.71	855.38	40.67	4.99
RATES SRA	SRA	1	74.81	77.75	2.94	3.93
WATER	W1B - BASIC	1	186.58	195.91	9.33	5.00
WATER	0 - 6 kℓ	6 kℓ	46.02	48.30	2.28	4.95
WATER	7 - 18 kℓ	9 kℓ	141.57	148.59	7.02	4.96
ELECTRICITY	EF - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	16.65	0.00	-16.65	-100.00
ELECTRICITY	EB1B - BASIC	1	413.97	420.78	6.81	1.65
ELECTRICITY	EC1 CAPACITY	60 amp	328.80	394.56	65.76	20.00
REFUSE	SAN1A - MONTH	1	268.26	281.67	13.41	5.00
SEWERAGE	SE8A - BASIC	1	170.15	178.66	8.51	5.00
SEWERAGE	SE8F - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	13.03	3.43	-9.60	-73.68
SEWERAGE	SE7A - CONSUMPTION	10.5	202.34	212.42	10.08	4.98
WATER	W1A - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	23.86	8.41	-15.45	-64.75
TOTAL (VAT INCLUDED)			2972.43	3109.77	137.34	4.62
RAND VALUE (EXCL. VAT) OF WATER & ELECTRICITY: • 15 kℓ water = 196.89; • 500 units electricity = 1 297.52						

VALUATION R5 MILLION						
RESIDENTIAL HOUSEHOLD: HIGH CONSUMPTION						
DESCRIPTION			AMOUNT		INCREASE/DECREASE	
			2025/26	2026/27	Amount	%
RATES MONTHLY	MONTHLY	1	1 646.04	1 728.21	82.17	4.99
RATES SRA	SRA	1	151.14	157.08	5.94	3.93
WATER	W1B - BASIC	1	186.58	195.91	9.33	5.00
WATER	0 - 6 kℓ	6 kℓ	46.02	48.36	2.34	5.08
WATER	7 - 18 kℓ	12 kℓ	188.76	198.12	9.36	4.96
WATER	19 - 45 kℓ	7 kℓ	230.72	242.27	11.55	5.01
ELECTRICITY	EF - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	16.65	0.00	-16.65	-100.00
ELECTRICITY	EB1B - BASIC	1	413.97	420.78	6.81	1.65
ELECTRICITY	EC1 CAPACITY	60 amp	328.80	394.56	65.76	20.00
REFUSE	SAN1A - MONTH	1	268.26	281.67	13.41	5.00
SEWERAGE	SE8A - BASIC	1	170.15	178.66	8.51	5.00
SEWERAGE	SE8F - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	13.03	3.43	-9.60	-73.68
SEWERAGE	SE7A - CONSUMPTION	17.5 kℓ	337.25	354.03	16.78	4.98
WATER	W1A - INFRASTRUCTURE	1	23.86	8.41	-15.45	-64.75
TOTAL (VAT INCLUDED)			4354.84	4560.42	205.58	4.72
RAND VALUE (EXCL. VAT) OF WATER & ELECTRICITY: • 25 kℓ water = 488.75; • 1 000 units electricity = 2 789.28						

ELECTRICITY TARIFFS 2026/27: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHARGES AND CONNECTION SIZES

The 2026/27 financial year, starting on 1 July 2026, is the third year of Overstrand Municipality's four-year phased implementation of restructured electricity tariffs based on a detailed cost of supply study.

In March 2026, a total of 1 604 residents participated in the Municipality's public participation process before the proposed tariffs were submitted to NERSA for approval.

Feedback received during the process raised concerns regarding affordability and included a number of suggestions and proposals. Following further engagement with NERSA and internal stakeholders, the Municipality reviewed several aspects of the proposed tariff structure.

PROPOSED CAPACITY CHARGE INCREASE

↑ 65%

APPROVED CAPACITY CHARGE INCREASE

20% ✓

Change their electricity connection capacity

Change your electricity connection capacity to better suit your needs

(TOU)

Switch to the small customer time-of-use (TOU) tariff

Benefit from lower rates during off-peak times

WHY DO I PAY A CAPACITY CHARGE?

The capacity charge is a monthly fee based on the size of your electricity connection (for example 30 A, 40 A, 50 A or 60 A). It is payable regardless of how much electricity you use during the month.

Why is this necessary?

- The Municipality must ensure that sufficient network capacity is available to supply your property whenever it is needed.
- The Municipality pays Eskom for access to electricity network capacity, including during periods when demand is lower.
- Larger electricity connections require more capacity to be reserved on the network.
- These costs exist regardless of the number of units consumed.

Your capacity charge therefore reflects the maximum demand that can be supplied to your property, rather than your monthly electricity consumption.

The benefit to consumers is that they can reduce their monthly costs by selecting a connection size that better matches their actual needs.

When residents reduce peak demand and choose appropriately sized connections, it helps delay costly network upgrades and contributes to a more sustainable electricity network for the entire community.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH CONNECTION SIZE TO CHOOSE?

Choosing between a 30, 40, 50 or 60 Amp may sound like a daunting task. Your connection size does not limit how many units of electricity you can use during a month. Instead, it determines how many appliances you can switch on at the same time. An easy way to check your capacity is to switch on the appliances you would normally use simultaneously to see your real-time power usage and then enter the code for your meter brand below on your prepaid meter:

Conlog
(meter starts with 04):
Press #050#

Landis & Gyr (meter starts with 07):
Press i050

Itron (meter starts with 01 or 84): **Press 050 and press enter**

The meter will display your instantaneous power usage. Compare your reading to these limits:

30 Amp = up to 6 900 W (~ 6,9 kW)

50 Amp = up to 11 500 W (~ 11,5 kW)

40 Amp = up to 9 200 W (~ 9,2 kW)

60 Amp = up to 13 800 W (~ 13,8 kW)

TYPICAL APPLIANCE GUIDE

Your connection size does **NOT** determine how much electricity you can buy
.....
It determines how many appliances you can run **at the same time.**



- 30 Amp (~ 6,9 kW):**

Best for basic households. Runs a fridge, TV, Wi-Fi router and lights, microwave, kettle and washing machine. Tip: Avoid running the kettle, oven and geyser all at once. Using a 3 kW geyser or stove will heavily restrict what else you can turn on.

- 40 Amp (~ 9,2 kW):**

Suitable for medium households. Runs a fridge/freezer, lights and electronics, washing machine, dishwasher, kettle, microwave/ small air fryer and a geyser (if managed carefully). Tip: Do not run the oven, geyser, and kettle at the exact same time.

- 50 Amp (~ 11,5 kW)**

Best for typical modern homes. Runs a fridge, lights and electronics, washing machine, dishwasher, geyser, microwave, kettle and occasionally an electric oven. Offers comfortable usage with less risk of tripping.

- 60 Amp (~ 13,8 kW)**

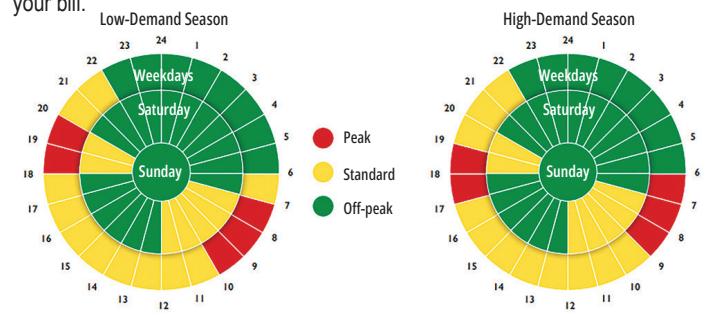
Suitable for larger families or high-usage homes. Allows multiple heating appliances (geyser, oven, kettle, heaters/AC) to run at the same time without needing to carefully manage your timing.

KNOW THIS

- Heating appliances** (kettle, geyser, oven) are the biggest load drivers
- Motors** (fridges, pumps) spike briefly when starting
- Higher amp supply** = less need to 'manage' usage timing
- Lower amp supply** = careful load management needed

WHAT IS THE SMALL CUSTOMER TIME-OF-USE (TOU) TARIFF?

This option allows residential and commercial customers (with a connection size below 100 kVA) to move to a time-based billing system. For a prescribed annual fee, we will install a four-quadrant meter. You will then be charged different rates depending on Eskom's peak, standard and off-peak periods. If you can shift your heavy usage (like laundry or geysers) to off-peak hours, this tariff can reduce your bill.



The Integrated Development Plan (IDP) sets out the Municipality's priorities, while the annual budget provides the funding needed to deliver services and carry out projects for residents. The 2026/27 IDP, Budget and all related documents are available for public viewing on the municipal website under the Documents tab.

BUDGET FOR THE 2026/27 YEAR



OPERATIONAL REVENUE
R2.092 billion

The money the municipality expects to collect from rates, service charges and other operating income, excluding capital grants



OPERATIONAL SPENDING
R2.199 billion

The day-to-day cost of running the municipality, maintaining services and operating infrastructure. This amount also includes non-cash accounting items such as depreciation.



CAPITAL BUDGET
R242.5 million

Funding set aside specifically for projects and long-term investments that improve service delivery.

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The capital budget of **R242.5 million** will focus primarily on upgrading and expanding critical municipal infrastructure.



Tariff Increases for 2026/27

Property rates



5%

The residential cent-in-the-rand factor increases from 0.004988 to 0.005237.

Electricity



8.5%

An average revenue increase of 8.5% applies as the municipality continues implementing cost-reflective tariffs.

Following public participation, the proposed increase in capacity charges was reduced from 65% to 20%. Consumers may also migrate to the most suitable capacity tariff option to help manage their electricity costs.

Water



5%

Sewerage



5%

Refuse removal



5%

Sundry tariffs



5%

unless a cost-reflective or punitive tariff is required.



Availability Charges: Maintained to cover the fixed costs of keeping municipal service networks available and operational throughout the year.

Support for Vulnerable Households



Council reaffirmed its commitment to protecting vulnerable residents through a range of relief measures, including:

- No property rates on residential properties valued **below R350 000** (excluding vacant properties).
- A **R15 000 rebate** on the rateable value of all residential properties.
- An additional **R35 000 rebate** on improved residential properties.
- A further **20% rebate** for qualifying residential properties used solely for residential purposes.
- Continued pensioner and indigent support funded through national government allocations.
- Subsidies and free basic services provided to registered indigent households are funded by national government through the Equitable Share allocation.

WHY DO I PAY A BASIC MONTHLY ELECTRICITY CHARGE



The basic monthly charge is the cost of keeping your property connected to the electricity network, regardless of how much electricity you use or whether the property is vacant.

This charge goes directly towards:

- Maintaining your physical service connection and local cables
- Paying back the capital invested into building the network infrastructure
- Covering operational costs, such as salaries and wages for technical staff

All properties (including vacant erven) in the Overstrand electricity distribution area pay this basic monthly charge for electricity so that these fixed infrastructure costs are shared fairly among all consumers.

DEBUNKING THE SOLAR/SSEG 'FINE' MYTH

There has been a lot of discussion on social media claiming that municipalities are imposing 'fines' or additional charges on residents who install small-scale embedded generation (SSEG) systems such as solar panels.

This is a misunderstanding.

In many municipalities, a large portion of electricity network costs has historically been recovered through electricity consumption charges. As more customers install solar systems and purchase fewer electricity units, some municipalities have introduced additional fixed monthly charges to recover these costs. These charges are often incorrectly described as 'solar fines'.

Overstrand has, however, had separate fixed electricity charges in place for a number of years. As a result, registering an SSEG system does not change the structure of your municipal account. Registration is also free of charge.

It is a national requirement that all SSEG systems be registered with the local electricity supply authority. Overstrand customers can register their systems on the online platform or via the 'Electricity and SSEG' link on the Overstrand Municipality website.

By registering your system, you assist us with:

- Keeping municipal personnel safe while working on the network
- Maintaining grid stability
- Planning future network maintenance and upgrades

Please note: Customers who receive their electricity directly from Eskom must register their SSEG systems with Eskom and not the Municipality.

