

User Charge Reform

Shillong Municipal Board intends to implement user charge for certain services to achieve the cost recovery for Operation & Maintenance of those services. Presentably the status of the cost recovery for municipal services (Water Supply, Solid Waste Management and Street lighting) is poor and hence the quality of the service to be provided to citizen is not up to the mark. The 2nd Municipal Valuation Committee constituted by the Government has deliberated on the issue and suggested implementation of user charge for three main services of Shillong Municipal Board which has in principle approval of the State Cabinet. Earlier the charges for some of these services were a part of the property tax which now revised and removed from the components of property tax. Following table indicates the suggested rates of user charge for Shillong Municipal Board

Type of user charges proposed	User charge rate
Water Charge	Rs. 200 per connection per month
Solid Waste Management Charge	Rs. 50 Per HH per month
Street Lighting Charge	Rs. 40 per HH per month

*HH-Household

Definition of a household:

'A group of persons who commonly live together and would take their meals from a common kitchen unless the exigencies of work prevented any of them from doing so'

Example:

If holding A has one water supply connection and there are three (3) households in the holding

Type of user charges proposed	User charge rate	User charge per month
Water Charge	Rs. 200 per connection per month	Rs. 200
Solid waste Management Charge	Rs. 50 Per HH per month	Rs. 50x3=Rs. 150
Street Lighting Charge	Rs. 40 per HH per month	Rs. 40x3=Rs.120
Total		Rs. 470