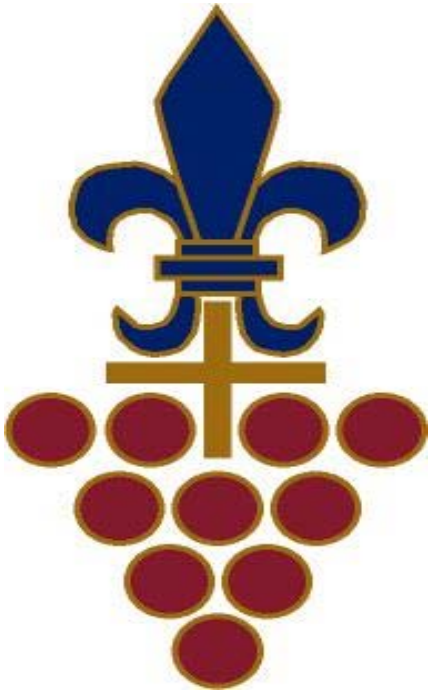
APPENDIX 10

STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY



TARIFF POLICY

2025/2026

REVISED

STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY

TARIFF POLICY

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PREAMBLE

In accordance with Section 74 of the Local Government Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000), Stellenbosch Municipal Council must adopt and implement a tariff policy on the levying of tariffs for municipal services which complies with the provisions of the said Act and with any other applicable legislation.

Tariffs represent the charges levied by Council on consumers for the utilization of services provided by the Municipality and rates on properties. Tariffs will be calculated in various ways, dependent upon the nature of the service being provided.

In furtherance of reusable energy, Council may consider tariffs pertinent to the purchase of surplus energy from consumers.

1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Tariff Policy is to ensure the following:

(a) Tariffs must conform to acceptable policy principles;

(b) Municipal services must be sustainable;

(c) Tariffs must comply with the applicable legislation; and

(d) Tariffs should take indigent consumers into consideration.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The following legislation is applicable for the determination of tariffs for municipal services delivered or for the purchase of surplus energy:

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996)

Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act 56 of 2003)

Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act 32 of 2000)

Water Services Act, 1997 (Act 108 of 1997)

Electricity Regulation Act, 2006 (Act 4 of 2006)

Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004 (Act 6 of 2004)

3. TARIFF PRINCIPLES

The following principles will apply in the Stellenbosch Municipal Area of jurisdiction (WC024):

(a) Users of municipal services are treated equitably in the application of tariffs;

(b) The amount individual users pay for services are generally in proportion to their use of that service;

(c) Indigent or Poor households (as per the Indigent Policy of Stellenbosch Municipality) have access to basic services through:

  (i) Special or lifeline tariffs for low levels of use or consumption of services or for basic levels of service; or

  (ii) Any other direct or indirect method of subsidisation of tariffs for poor households.

(d) Tariffs reflect the costs reasonably associated with rendering the service, including capital, operating, maintenance, administration, replacement costs and interest charges;

(e) Tariffs are set at levels that facilitate the financial sustainability of the service, taking into account subsidisation from sources other than the service concerned.

A service is financially sustainable when it is provided in a manner that would ensure its financing from internal and external sources is sufficient to cover the costs;

(i) of the initial capital expenditure required,

(ii) for operating the service, and

(iii) for maintaining, repairing, and replacing the physical assets used in its provision;

(f) Provision ~~is~~ may be made in appropriate circumstances for a surcharge or a ~~rebate~~ discount on the tariff for a service;

(g) Provision ~~is~~ may be made for the promotion of local economic development through special tariffs for ~~categories of~~ commercial and industrial users;

(h) The economical, efficient, and effective use of resources, the recycling of waste and other appropriate environmental objectives is encouraged;

(i) The extent of subsidisation of tariffs for indigent/poor households and other categories of users are fully disclosed; and

(j) The safeguarding of the integrity of the electrical distribution network and the continued economic viability for the purchasing of surplus energy from consumers.

It is further stated that tariffs, rates, and the employment of resources, in general, take into account the Council's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) principles and goals.

4. CLASSIFICATION OF SERVICES

Traditionally, municipal services have been classified into five groups based on how they are financed. The five groups are as follows:

(a)	Trading services	Water and Electricity Services These services may generate a surplus which will be used to subsidize community services other than economical services.
(b)	Economical services	Refuse Removal and Sewerage Services These services' charges must cover the cost of providing the services, i.e. it must at least break even. In the event of the latter not being possible within a period, the shortfall will be financed from the Municipal Property Rates revenue.
(c)	Rates Services	The revenue from Municipal Property Rates is utilized for Rates related services or the shortfall on Economical services.
(d)	Housing Services	Housing Schemes These services are ring-fenced in the Housing Development Fund and the net operating balance is set off as a contribution to/from the Housing Development Fund.
(e)	Sundry Services	Various Services All Services not defined in paragraphs (a) to (d) above. These services' charges may cover the cost of providing the services, i.e. it should at least break even

5. CALCULATION OF TARIFFS FOR MAJOR SERVICES

5.1 Water Tariffs

Although a fairly large proportion of the water needs is supplied from own sources, water is also purchased from external suppliers, such as the City of Cape Town. The increase in water tariffs is largely influenced by the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the purchase price of water and the need for financing bulk water infrastructure expansion.

Water is bought at a one-part tariff expressed in Rand per kilolitre. In order to manage consumption, an inclining block rate tariff structure is applied in the Stellenbosch Municipal area of jurisdiction.

The first block rate for domestic consumers represents the Lifeline volume in kilolitres (kl) per month (considered to be the lowest sustainable water volume per household), which is supplied at a rate targeted to be below cost. Losses incurred in this tariff category may be recovered by contributions from the higher tariff categories, conforming to the principle of cross-subsidisation.

Tariff structures for water supply are applied in the form of a sliding scale or a flat tariff in the area of jurisdiction of Stellenbosch Municipality. This is reflected in the Tariff Schedule approved by Council.

The specific sliding scale(s) linked to each consumer group, or the service charge types and the applicable tariffs, including any specific tariffs that would be applicable when Council adopts water restriction strategies, are reflected in the Water Tariff Schedule as approved by Council.

The following table illustrates the principals for tariff charges applied to various consumers or the specialised water service charge types for water consumption in the Stellenbosch Municipal Area:

(a) Domestic:

Includes residential erven, Sectional Title Units, as well as residential erven managed by legal entities, each being served by an individually metered water connection.

(b) Domestic Cluster:

Refers to a cluster (block of flats) served by a single water connection.

(c) MASO:

A MASO tariff for the affected parties will be applied.

(d) Bulk Users:

A sliding scale tariff will be applied on water consumption for irrigation of sports grounds of schools, irrigation of Council property by sports clubs, as well as irrigation of parks and other grounds or properties serviced by Council's Parks and Recreation Department.

(e) Business, Commercial and Industrial:

A single tariff for all business, commercial and industrial consumers will apply.

(f) All other consumers and Miscellaneous cases:

A single tariff for all other consumers and miscellaneous cases including schools, sport bodies, charity organizations and churches or any other user as determined by the relevant Director, may apply.

(g) Leakages:

Different tariffs may apply to Municipal, Domestic, Business, Commercial or Industrial consumers.

(h) Basic Charge:

A Basic (a fixed monthly) charge will be applied to each domestic consumer, a domestic cluster consumer and all other non-domestic consumers, irrespective whether a gated/non-gated development is supplied via a bulk meter.

The Basic charge will be applied to Indigent Households as per the Indigent Policy of the Municipality.

(i) Availability Fee:

An availability fee may be charged on properties not connected to the water network, should it be available. This fee aims to recoup capital and maintenance costs of networks as well as certain fixed administrative costs in respect of such properties. The applicability of such fee shall be determined by the relevant directorate.

5.2 Electricity Tariffs

In addition to general cost factors, the following is taken into account when determining a tariff structure for electricity:

(i) Electricity is primarily supplied by Eskom and distributed by the Municipality.

(ii) Minimum standards for distribution are determined nationally and must be adhered to in order to conform to both safety and continuity of supply norms.

(iii) Due to the fact that a large part of the operating expenditure consists of bulk electricity purchases, tariff structures and levels are very sensitive to any change in the cost of supply by Eskom.

(iv) Electricity is supplied under a distribution license, granted by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) for a specific area of jurisdiction. All tariff structures and tariffs must be approved by NERSA prior to application thereof by a distributor on an annual basis.

Electricity is distributed by Stellenbosch Municipality in the areas of Stellenbosch, Johannesdal, Pniel and Franschhoek.

Eskom distributes electricity in the areas of Jamestown, Raithby, Kylemore, Klapmuts and the rural areas. In these areas, the distribution is managed, operated, and controlled by the applicable service provider.

Export of surplus energy from an approved and certified consumer to the Municipality's distribution network shall be subject to special and specific agreements embracing in broad terms the operational and financial imperatives for a sustainable and economically viable alliance.

In order to manage consumption, inclining block rate tariff structures are applied in the Stellenbosch Municipal areas of distribution, or any part or area incorporated where due course was followed. In these areas, different tariff structures may be implemented for consumers using renewable energy for own use and/or where the export of surplus energy is approved under the proviso of specific conditions, limits on energy export and reimbursement of exported energy.

Additional fees may be levied on consumers for which maximum demand charges are in effect and who have exceeded specific limits.

The specific inclining block rate(s), any other charges linked to the tariff structure and the applicable tariffs are reflected in the Electricity Tariff Schedule as approved by Council.

The following table illustrates the principals for tariff charges applied to various consumers or the service charge types for electricity consumption or export in the Stellenbosch Municipal Area:

(a) Domestic Lifeline (PP):

Domestic Lifeline Tariffs will apply to prepaid Indigent consumers in order to promote the affordability of the service. A fixed monthly charge will not be applied to this category of consumers.

(b) Domestic Regular:

Domestic Regular tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, to other domestic consumers other than Indigent consumers on either conventional or prepaid metering systems. A fixed monthly charge may be applied to this category of consumers.

(c) Commercial Lifeline Low energy rate:

A Commercial Lifeline energy rate tariff will apply in respect of prepaid commercial low consumers. A fixed monthly charge will not be applied to this category of consumers.

(d) Commercial Low energy rate:

Commercial Low energy rate tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, in respect of conventional and prepaid commercial low consumers. A fixed monthly charge will be applied to this category of consumers.

(e) Commercial Regular energy rate:

Commercial Regular energy rate tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, in respect of conventional and prepaid commercial regular consumers. A fixed monthly charge is applied to this category of consumers.

(f) Agricultural energy rate:

Agricultural energy rate tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, in respect of agricultural use. A fixed monthly charge is applied to this category of consumers.

(g) Industrial energy rate:

Industrial energy rate tariffs as well as various types of energy demand tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, in respect of Industrial use. A fixed monthly charge is applied to this category of consumers.

(h) Municipal energy rate:

Municipal energy rate tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, for municipal consumption for street and traffic lights and for municipal buildings. A fixed monthly charge will not be applied to this category of consumers.

(i) Non-profit Organisations (NPO) energy rate:

Non-profit organisation's tariffs will apply, in various service charge types, to Non-profit Organisations in order to promote the affordability of the service for Non-profit Organisations. A monthly fixed charge will not be applied for this category of consumers.

(j) Sport Organisations energy rate:

Sport energy rate tariffs will apply, and a Maximum Demand Charge may apply on sports fields as per approved contracts being classified as either Low Consumers or High Consumers. A fixed monthly charge will not be applied to this category of consumers.

(k) Time-of-Use energy rate:

Different fixed monthly tariffs as well as various types of energy demand tariffs will apply during the low demand and the high demand tariff periods in respect of low and medium voltage consumers. For the purpose of these tariffs the low demand period shall be defined as being the summer period and the high demand period as the winter period.

(l) Availability fee:

An availability fee may be charged to properties not connected to the electricity network, where it is available. This fee aims to recoup capital and maintenance costs of networks as well as certain fixed administrative costs. The applicability of such fee shall be determined by the relevant directorate.

5.3 Refuse (Solid Waste) Removal Tariffs

The specific services rendered, any other charges linked to the service and the applicable tariffs are reflected in the Solid Waste Tariff Schedule as approved by Council.

(a) Residential properties:

Residential refuse (solid waste) will be removed once a week. Households are allowed 3 standard refuse bags or one “Otto”-type container per week.

Refuse removal tariffs are based on a flat rate per household.

A specific tariff for Indigent consumers in respect of single residential properties will apply as per the approved Solid Waste Tariff Schedule.

(b) Business and industries:

Business and industry refuse (solid waste) are removed by means of “Otto”-type or bulk containers. Each container (size in volume) is accepted as a refuse unit at a specific tariff and number of removals per week.

(c) Availability Fee:

An availability fee may be charged to vacant properties, businesses, flats, and developments not permanently using the municipal collection services. The applicability of such fee shall be determined by the relevant directorate.

5.4 Sewerage Tariffs

Tariff structures for sewerage are applied uniformly in the area of jurisdiction of Stellenbosch Municipality.

The tariff structures for specific services rendered, any other charges linked to the service and the applicable tariffs are reflected in the Sewerage Tariff Schedule as approved by Council.

(a) Residential properties:

A tariff structure utilizing plot sizes is applied to allocate the sewerage costs to a specific property.

(b) Business and industries:

A tariff structure utilizing plot sizes, as well as floor areas per usage is applied to allocate the sewerage costs to a specific property.

The removal of industrial effluent is charged at a cost as per the applicable tariffs.

(c) Septic Tanks:

The clearance of septic tanks is charged per 5 000 litre or part thereof.

(d) Availability Fee:

An availability fee based upon a tariff structure utilizing plot sizes may apply to all vacant properties. The applicability of such fee shall be determined by the relevant directorate.

6. CALCULATION OF OTHER TARIFFS

6.1 Sundry Tariffs

(a) Tariff Structure:

(i) The tariff structure as reflected in the Sundry Tariffs Tariff Schedule as annually approved by Council will be used to determine regulatory community and subsidized services.

(b) Method of calculation:

(i) Existing tariffs will be revised annually, for application during the next financial year, by adjusting the tariff that applied during the current financial year by a percentage (suitable rounding will be applied) considering the ~~to recover~~recovery of increased costs or to compensate for any cost reductions where appropriate.

(ii) New tariffs will be calculated based on the estimated actual cost where appropriate or to recover some costs depending on the type of community service.

(c) Building Clause references:

(i) Obligations pertaining to Building Clauses as per the development agreements or contracts will be dealt with according to the contract obligations.

6.2 Rates Tariffs

The Stellenbosch Municipality's Rates Policy describes the process for imposing property rates for the various categories of owners and properties.

The tariff structures for the applicable categories and the applicable provisions for relief measures are reflected in the Property Rates Tariff Schedule and Rates Policy as annually approved by Council.

7. CONTACT OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICE

The contact details for Tariff related enquiries:

E-mail Address: enquiries.navrae@stellenbosch.gov.za

Telephone Numbers: See Municipal Account for relevant telephone numbers

Postal Address: PO Box 17, Stellenbosch, 7601

Any Municipal Office in the jurisdiction of Stellenbosch Municipality

8 SHORT TITLE

This policy is the Tariff Policy of the Stellenbosch Municipality.