

**City of Washington, GA**  
**New Business Utility Incentive Program**

**Purpose:**

To recruit new and needed businesses to the City of Washington by offering discounted utility rates for electricity, and water/sewer, as well as discounted permit fees.

**Eligibility Requirements of a New Local Business Entity:**

- The utility incentive program applies only to a “New Local Business Entity” defined as any legal partnership, person, corporation, or other entity engaged in an occupation, profession, or business. Examples of eligible business types: Hotels, Inns, Bed & Breakfasts, Health Services, Social Services, Apparel and Accessory Stores, Sporting Goods, Recreational Outfitter, Beverage Manufacturer, and Restaurant.
- The eligible business must be located within the service territory of the City of Washington after the effective date of this program.
- The eligible business must be in an existing structure or building, located within the city limits, and be billed under commercial utility rates. Home-based businesses are not eligible.
- The eligible business must create (from the start) and maintain at least two (2) new full-time jobs averaging at least 30 hours per week per job. If the new business fails to report the retention or addition of new jobs or fails to show the requisite job creation, then incentive discount shall become null and void from the date such report was due, and the utility rates shall revert to the full rates then in effect for the applicable services. In the event the New Local Business Entity never meets the requisite job creation, it shall be liable to the City of Washington for any incentive received under this program.
- The eligible business must remain enrolled in automatic bank draft for utility payments. The utility rate incentive shall be terminated immediately if the account becomes delinquent due to nonsufficient funds or nonpayment.
- A change of ownership of an existing business operating within the city may qualify only if the previous owner has no vested interest in or is related to new ownership.
- The city reserves the right to end this program at any time and the New Local Business Entity waives and any all claims against the city, including any claim for damages, resulting from any termination or modification of the program.

**Process:**

- Submit a New Business Utility Incentive Application to the Planning and Zoning Department. Staff will verify that the requested services meet all requirements of the Utility Service Agreement. Planning and Zoning staff will then submit the application to the City Administrator for approval.
- Once approved, the New Local Business Entity must annually certify the job creation and/or job retention numbers as outlined in the application. The affidavit must be submitted to the City Administrator on or before the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> month following the month in which the first incentive is received and each 12 months thereafter for the duration of the incentives, the retention or creation of new jobs.

**Rate Reduction Incentive Schedule:**

Electricity	Water and Sewer
20% rate reduction – Year 1 10% rate reduction – Year 2 5% rate reduction – Year 3	20% rate reduction – Year 1 10% rate reduction – Year 2 5% rate reduction – Year 3
Permit Fees	Water and Sewer Tap Fees
100% fee reduction. Applies only to Building Permit and Land Disturbance Permit fees.	20% fee reduction