

PRESS RELEASE

Water: from 2018, a new Social Water Bonus for household users under economic hardship

applications open from July

Milan, 22 December 2017 – From 2018, water customers living in conditions of economic hardship will be given a discount on their bill via the Social Water Bonus. All households with Equivalent Economic Status Indicator (ISEE) of less than 8,107.50 euro can receive the bonus, with the threshold raised to 20,000 euro in the case of more than 3 dependent children, the conditions already established for eligibility for the electricity and gas bonus.

Applications are made to the municipal authority of residence (or to authorised local tax assistance centres) together with the application for the electricity and/or gas bonus and, upon approval, the customer will be awarded a discount of 18.25 m³ per year (the equivalent of 50 litres per day, i.e. the legal minimum amount required for personal needs) for each member of the household. The discount will be applied directly to the bill for direct contracts, whereas indirect customers, i.e. families living in an apartment block without individual water supply, will receive the Social Bonus in a single payment from the water service provider according to the methods set out by this provider (e.g. bank transfer or non-transferable bank draft).

In the same way as established for the electricity and gas bonus by Legislative Decree 147/2017, which introduced the Social Inclusion Income (ReI), holders of the *Carta Acquisti* or *Carta ReI* will also automatically be eligible for the water bonus.

The bonus was introduced by the Authority with Resolution 897/2917/R/idr, following the provision of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers' Decree of 13 October 2016¹.

Bonus applications for 2018 only can be made (together with the application for the electricity and/or gas bonus) from 1 July, due to the fact that certain implementation aspects still need to be checked and the municipal and operator information systems are not yet operational; however, the applicant will in any case receive a one-off payment from 1 January. The application form will be made available on the Authority website (www.arera.it) and published on the operator website, the website of the local authority responsible and on the dedicated ANCI website (www.sgate.anci.it). The local Governing Bodies (EGA) will also be responsible for introducing (or confirming, where already established) an additional local Water Bonus, as a measure of protection further to the minimum established by sector regulation in favour of customers in situations of financial vulnerability, awarding customers an additional amount or broadening the ISEE bracket for bonus eligibility.

Resolution 897/2017/R/idr is available at www.arera.it

¹ From 1st January 2018, there is the U13 tariff entry for the equalisation of the costs of issuing the social water bonus, expressed in euro cents per cubic metre and applied to all integrated water service customers other than those (direct customers) in situations of social and financial hardship, as an increase to the aqueduct payment.