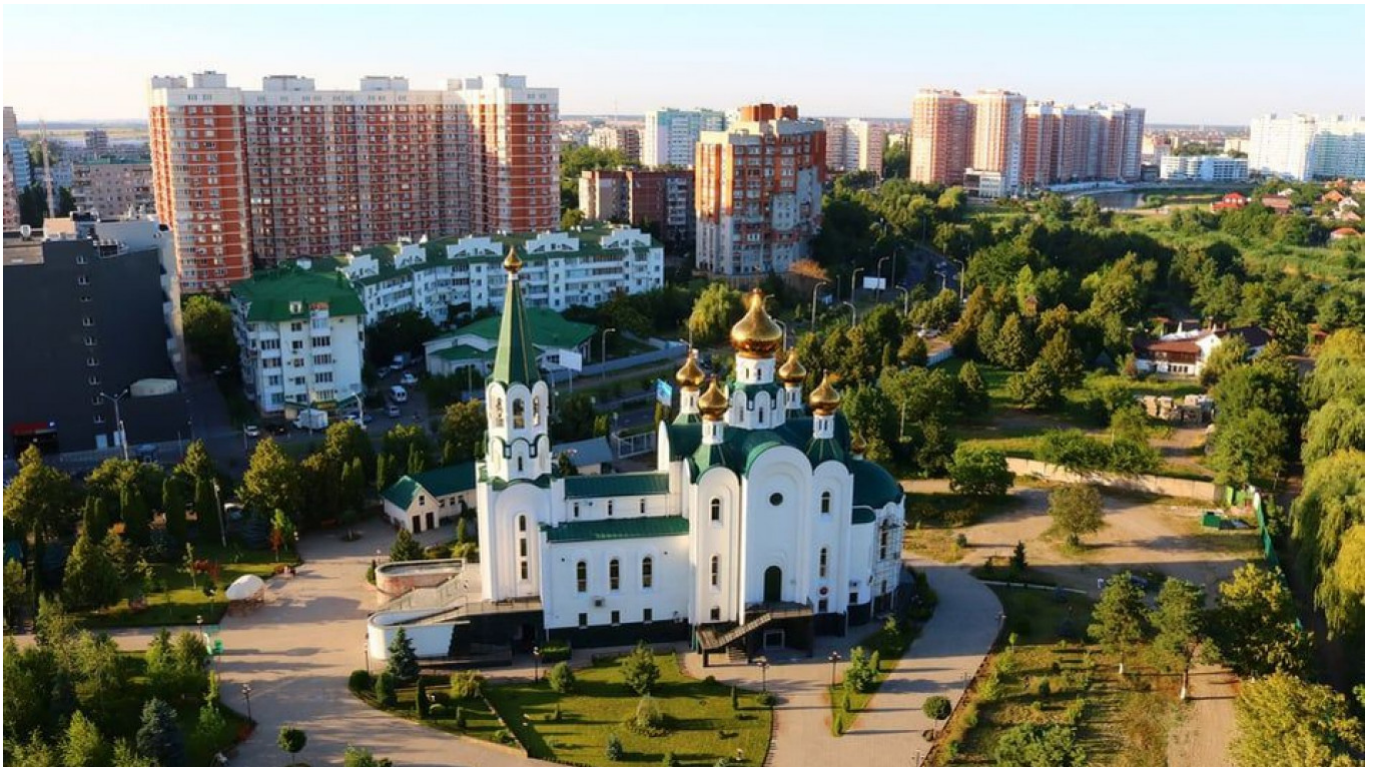


New Water Pumps Take Payment by Card in Southern Russia

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Krasnodar/ alex Roosso/ Flickr

Southern Russia has become the latest region to install card-operated water pumps to cut down on water waste.

Outdoor hand-pump wells that tap into the main pipeline or groundwater are a popular way for Russians living in remote locations to access drinking water. Public utilities have [introduced](#) “smart” [pumps](#) that dispense water through pre-paid cards across Russia in over the past few years.

The first such card-based pump has appeared in Krasnodar near the Black Sea coast this week. The top-up cards aim to cut waste by limiting water distribution to residents without access to plumbing, regional authorities [said](#).

Water usage will be capped at 1,960 liters per month, which Krasnodar’s public utilities administration said equals the average person’s consumption norm.

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Users will be charged extra once this limit is reached, the utility service [told](#) the Kuban24 broadcaster.

The “next-generation” pump is expected to become operational later in August, and has been placed steps away from a 30-year-old well, the state-run Rossia 1 broadcaster’s Krasnodar branch [reported](#).

The city’s estimated 200 Soviet-era water pumps will also be gradually replaced with automated wells, the broadcaster said.

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