

# Focus On: UST Fee Increase in 2023

## More information

Ecology previously raised tanks fee from \$160 to \$204.13 with four separate fee increases in July of 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

## Contact information

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## Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation, including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6764 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

## **Underground storage tank (UST) fees will increase from \$204.13 to \$216.09 per tank on July 1, 2023.**

This fee increase will provide funding to offset decreasing federal funding assistance and increasing program costs. Washington's UST Program financing is outlined below.

## **UST Program Financing**

Funding Sources: Washington's UST Program has three main sources of funding: UST fees, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funds, and the Model Toxics Control Operating Account.

## **Revenues**

Since State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010, program revenues have declined from approximately \$2.4 million a year to about \$2.2 million a year. This decline is largely due to reductions in EPA grant funding. Revenues have stabilized over the last several years but have increased sufficiently to meet previous levels.

## **Expenditures**

Tank fees help fund the UST regulatory program. Currently, the fees do not cover the entire state cost of the program, which is funded by a combination of federal grants, Model Toxics Control Operating Account, and the per-tank fee. Since SFY 2010, Ecology has used Model Toxics Control Account money to help fund UST Program expenditures, as federal funding has declined and operational costs to run the program have increased. The increases are mainly for cost-of-living and benefit rate adjustments supporting the UST inspector staff. Ecology anticipates these types of program costs will continue to increase.

## **Fiscal Growth Factor**

As required by law, the fiscal growth factor was used to determine the amount of the fee increase. The fiscal growth factor is calculated and adopted by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council using the average growth in state personal income for the previous ten SFY.

## **Future Fee Increases**

Ecology will reassess the program budget in the future to determine if this fee increase is enough to close the budget gap.