

Focus On: UST Fee Increase in 2024

More information

Ecology previously raised tanks fee from \$160 to \$216.09 with six separate fee increases in July of 2017, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

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 \$216.09 to \$228.58 per tank on July 1, 2024.

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 \$2.3 million a year. This decline is largely due to reductions in EPA grant funding. Revenues have stabilized over the last several years with the annual increase in the UST fee. However, the increase is still not sufficient to cover the entire cost of the UST Program.

Expenditures

The UST Program is funded by a combination of federal grants, Model Toxics Control Operating Account, and the UST 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

The current fee increase is not enough to close the budget gap; therefore, Ecology anticipates the UST fee will continue to increase annually in the near future.