

## Focus on: UST fee increase in 2026

### Underground storage tank (UST) fees will increase from \$243.21 to \$273.43 per tank on July 1, 2026

This fee increase will provide funding to offset decreasing federal funding assistance and increasing program costs.

### UST program financing

#### Funding sources

Funding Sources: Washington's UST Program has three main sources of funding:

- UST fees
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funds
- The Model Toxics Control Operating Account (MTCA OP)

#### Revenues

Currently, the UST fee program supports about 60% of the UST program's expenses. The remaining 40% of funding is subsidized by MTCA OP and EPA grant funds. Revenues have stabilized over the last decade with the annual Fiscal Growth Factor (FGF) increase in the UST fee. However, the increase is only to help keep up with inflation and not enough to cover the entire cost of the UST Program.

#### Expenditures

The UST Program is funded by a combination of federal grants, MTCA OP, and the UST fee. Since state fiscal year 2010, Ecology has used MTCA OP 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 salary and benefit rate adjustments supporting the UST inspector staff. Ecology anticipates these types of program costs will continue to increase.

#### Fiscal Growth Factor (FGF)

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

#### 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.



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