

## Focus on: UST fee increase in 2027

### Underground storage tank (UST) fees will increase from \$258.80 to \$275.65 per tank on July 1, 2027

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

The UST fee supports approximately 60-70% of the UST Program's expenses in a given biennium. The remaining 30-40% of funding is subsidized by MTCA OP and EPA grant funds. 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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