

Focus On: UST Fee Increase in 2020

More information

Ecology previously raised tanks fee from \$160 to \$173.80 with two separate fee increases in July of 2017 and 2018.

Contact information

Kristopher M. Grinnell
(360) 407-7382
Kristopher.grinnell@ecy.wa.gov

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 \$173.80 to \$181.83 per tank on July 1, 2020.

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 State Toxics Control Account.

Revenues

Since FY 2010, program revenues have declined from approximately \$2.4 million a year to about \$2.0 million a year. This decline is largely due to reductions in EPA grant funding. Revenues have stabilized over the last several years but have not been increased to 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, State Toxics Control Account funds, and the per-tank fee. Since FY 2010, Ecology has used State Toxics Control Account money to 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 by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council and adopted by the Expenditure Limit Committee using the average growth in state personal income for the previous ten fiscal years.

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.