

Why you get an environmental levy refund each year

Bern, August 2022

Dear Insurance Customer,

Revenues from environmental levies (CO₂ and VOC levies) are redistributed to you each year by way of your health insurance premium. In 2023, you will receive a total of CHF 61.20, or CHF 5.10 per month. This amount will be deducted from your premium invoice. As everyone in Switzerland has basic health insurance, this is the easiest way to redistribute the levies to the general public.

Where does the money come from?

Part of the money to be redistributed comes from the CO₂ levy on fossil fuels, such as heating oil and natural gas. These energy sources account for a significant share of the harmful carbon emissions in Switzerland. Revenue from this incentive tax is redistributed to the public and the business community. The rest of the amount is based on the VOC levy. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are used in paints and varnishes, and for cleaning metal, for example. These are partly to blame for the high ozone levels in summer (summer smog).

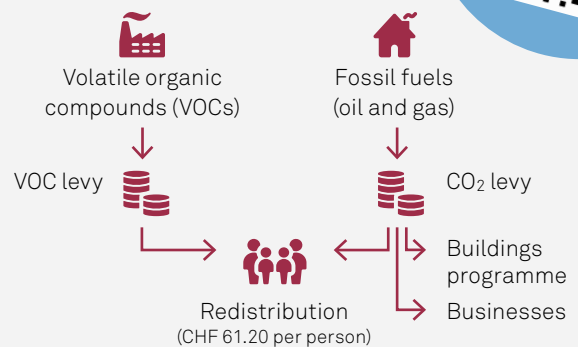
What is the purpose of environmental levies?

Both of these levies are incentive taxes to help protect the climate, our health and the environment. By making fossil fuels more expensive, the CO₂ levy creates an incentive for people to use them more sparingly and to opt for less carbon-intensive energy sources, such as wood. The VOC levy also uses price increases to encourage people to use fewer solvents, which helps combat high ozone levels and is better for our health.

Environmental levies are not taxes; they are redistributed

The VOC levy is redistributed in full to the public, while the CO₂ levy is split between the public and the business community. Another part of the CO₂ levy is used to make buildings more climate-friendly (buildings programme) and to support sustainable technologies (Technology Fund). For 2023, the amount to be refunded to the public is CHF 465 million from

How the environmental levies are redistributed



Video
about redistribution



the CO₂ levy and CHF 80 million from the VOC levy, making CHF 545 million overall, or CHF 61.20 per insured person.

Further information can be found online at:

www.bafu.admin.ch/co2-levy

www.bafu.admin.ch/voc

(in German, French and Italian)

www.dasgebaeudeprogramm.ch

(in German, French and Italian)

www.technologyfund.ch



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