



Bern, August 2022

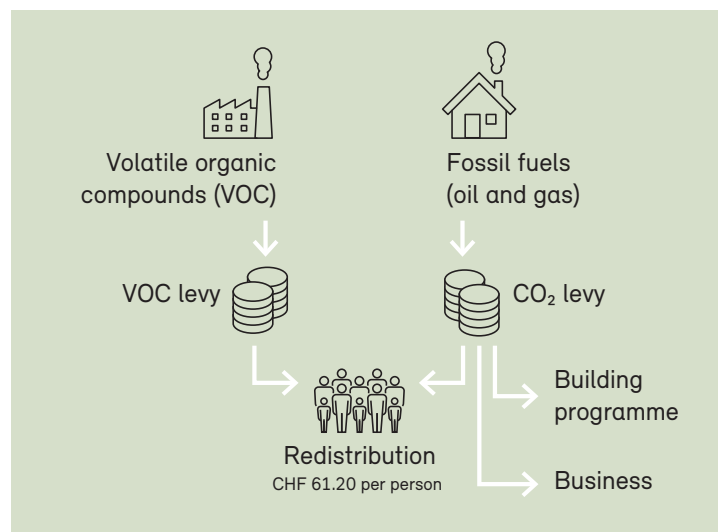
Information sheet on the environmental levies

## Why you get an environmental levy refund each year

Revenues from the environmental levies (CO<sub>2</sub> 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 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 other part is based on the VOC levy. Volatile organic compounds (VOC) are used in paints and varnishes or to clean metal, for example. These are partly to blame for the high ozone levels in summer (summer smog).



How the environmental levies are redistributed

### What is the purpose of environmental levies?

Both of these levies are incentive taxes to help protect the climate, our health and the environment. In making fossil fuels more expensive, the CO<sub>2</sub> levy creates an incentive for people to use them more sparingly and to opt for more carbon-neutral energy sources, such as wood. The VOC levy also uses price increases to encourage people to use fewer solvents, which then 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 CO<sub>2</sub> levy is split between the public and the business community. Another part of the CO<sub>2</sub> 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 the CO<sub>2</sub> levy and CHF 80 million from the VOC levy, making up CHF 545 million overall, or CHF 61.20 per person insured.

### Further information can be found online at:

[www.bafu.admin.ch/co2-levy](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/co2-levy)

[www.bafu.admin.ch/voc](http://www.bafu.admin.ch/voc) (in German, French and Italian)

[www.dasgebaeudeprogramm.ch](http://www.dasgebaeudeprogramm.ch) (in German, French and Italian)

[www.technologyfund.ch](http://www.technologyfund.ch)