



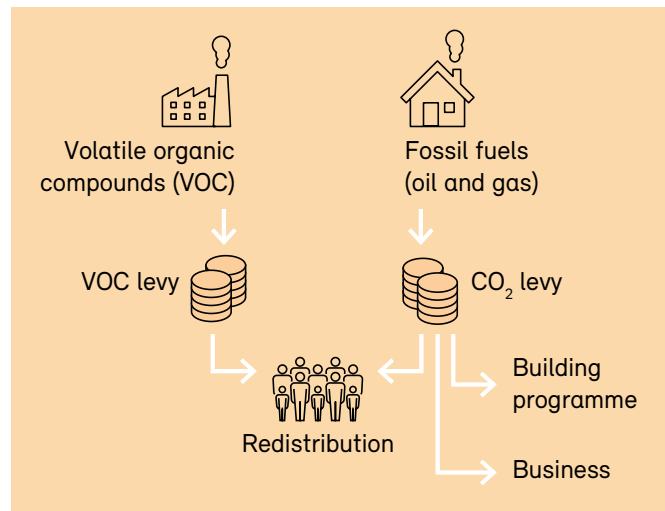
Bern, August 2023

Information sheet on the environmental levies

## Why you get an environmental levy refund each year

You will receive a refund in each of your premium invoices for basic health insurance: in 2024 this will amount to CHF 64.20 per person (or CHF 5.35 per month). This sum is drawn from the environmental levies. Environmental levies are *not* a general tax. Instead, they work according to the '**polluter pays**' principle: anyone who is potentially harming the environment pays, while everyone else benefits. There are two kinds of environmental levy:

- A **CO<sub>2</sub> levy** for the use of heating oil or natural gas. This is charged because burning these fuels causes CO<sub>2</sub> emissions which are in part responsible for global warming.
- A **VOC (volatile organic compounds) levy** for the use of solvents. Solvents are used, for example, to clean metals or as a component in paint. They are partly to blame for the high ozone levels in summer (summer smog).



How the environmental levies are redistributed

The polluter pays principle, which is anchored in Swiss law, aims to incentivise people to use harmful substances sparingly. This is good for both the climate and public health.

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).

### Why go through the health insurance premium?

The health insurance premium was chosen because it is the most efficient means of redistributing environmental levies. Anyone who lives in Switzerland and has basic health insurance with a Swiss provider is entitled to the refund.

### 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)