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## FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

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## Groundwater Protection Fund

The Groundwater Protection Fund was created by the 1987 General Assembly and is administered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Fund is established in Iowa Code section [455E.11](#). The intent of the Fund is to prevent groundwater contamination from point and nonpoint sources and to restore the groundwater to a potable state, regardless of present condition, use, or characteristics.

### Fund Account Revenue

The Fund is divided into four accounts; each varies in purpose and funding. Account revenue streams are outlined below:

- Storage Tank Account fees are paid by owners and operators of underground storage tanks in existence on or before July 1, 1985.
- Household Hazardous Waste Account fees are paid by retailers selling products containing household hazardous waste materials and from penalties for violations involving hazardous waste, air pollution, water quality, and underground storage tanks.
- Agriculture Management Account fees are paid from nitrogen-based fertilizer sales, license fees from pesticide dealers, and registration fees for the sale of pesticides.
- Solid Waste Account tonnage fees are paid by sanitary landfills.

### Annual Appropriations

The following amounts have been annually appropriated from the Groundwater Protection Fund since the inception of the program:

- \$100,303 for the Storage Tanks Study.
- \$447,324 for the Household Hazardous Waste Program.
- \$62,461 for administration of the Private Well Testing Program.
- \$1,686,751 for groundwater monitoring.
- \$618,993 for the Landfill Alternatives Program.
- \$192,500 for the Waste Reduction and Assistance Program.
- \$297,500 for the Geographic Information System Program.
- \$50,000 for the Solid Waste Authorization Program.

### Programs Funded by Account

- Storage Tank Account funds are used by the DNR for administration of the Underground Storage Tank Fund, and remaining funds are transferred to the Iowa Comprehensive Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund.
- Household Hazardous Waste Account funds are used by the DNR to administer programs and for toxic cleanup days. Programs include coordinating the collection of hazardous waste at the 26 Regional Collection Centers located around Iowa and the administration of a household hazardous

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### More Information

Groundwater Monitoring: [www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Water-Monitoring/Groundwater](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Water-Monitoring/Groundwater)

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materials permit program by the Department of Revenue.

- Agriculture Management Account funds are allocated to programs that research, test, and prevent the contamination of groundwater due to pesticides and fertilizers. The Nutrient Research Center at Iowa State University (ISU) receives funding for research grants. Counties receive grants for private well water testing, and the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship receives funds for the closure of agriculture drainage wells. Finally, the University of Iowa's Hygienic Laboratory and Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination each receive a portion of account resources.
- Solid Waste Account funds are allocated to programs for recycling, developing solid waste alternatives, and proper waste management. In total, 15 different programs are funded through this account. The two largest portions of funding are used for the administration and enforcement of the groundwater monitoring program and the Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP). The SWAP provides grants for solid waste source reduction, recycling, and education. Funds are also used for the Iowa Waste Reduction Center, permanent household hazardous waste collection sites, toxic cleanup days, regional collection sites, research on by-products, and waste research. The Department of Public Health and the Economic Development Authority also receive funding for specific programs.

**Related Statutes**

Iowa Code chapter [455E](#)

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