

Natural Gas Distribution Tax

The natural gas distribution tax was enacted by the Ohio General Assembly effective July 1, 2001 as part of a larger series of tax changes involving the natural gas industry. The tax was designed to replace the revenue school districts and local governments lost when the assessment rate on the personal property of natural gas distribution companies was reduced from 88 percent to 25 percent.

During Fiscal Year 2007, the tax generated approximately \$69.3 million in total revenue.

Taxpayer

Companies that distribute natural gas in Ohio.

Tax Base (Ohio Revised Code 5727.811)

The amount of natural gas distributed through the meter of an end user in this state.

Rates (R.C. 5727.811)

In most cases, a three-bracket rate schedule applies to the amount of natural gas distributed to each end user, as measured in 1,000 cubic feet (Mcf):

Distribution to end user	Rate per Mcf
First 100 Mcf per month	15.93 cents
Next 101 to 2,000 Mcf per month	8.77 cents
2,001 or more Mcf per month	4.11 cents

Small distribution companies:

A natural gas distribution company with 50,000 or fewer customers may elect to apply the standard rate schedule to the total amount of natural gas distributed to all its Ohio customers, as if all distribution was made to a single customer.

Flex customers:

The rate on natural gas distributed to flex customers is 2 cents per Mcf.

A flex customer is an industrial or commercial facility that consumed more than one billion cubic feet of natural gas a year at a single location during any of the previous five years, or that purchases natural gas distribution services at a discount as part of:

- a special arrangement subject to review and regulation by the Ohio Public Utilities Commission under R.C. 4905.31;
- a special arrangement with a natural gas distribution company pursuant to a municipal ordinance; or
- a variable rate schedule that permits rates to vary between defined amounts, provided that the schedule is on file with the Public Utilities Commission.

Exemptions (R.C. 5727.811)

The natural gas distribution tax does not apply to:

- the distribution of natural gas to the federal government;
- natural gas produced by an end user, consumed by that end user or its affiliates, and not distributed through the facilities of a natural gas company.

Filing and Payment Dates (R.C. 5727.82)

Returns and payments are due according to the following schedule:

Quarterly Returns	Due Date
January - March	May 20
April - June	August 20
July - September	November 20
October - December	February 20

Disposition of Revenue (R.C. 5727.84)

The School District Property Tax Replacement Fund receives 68.7 percent of revenue and the Local Government Property Tax Replacement Fund receives 31.3 percent.

Administration

The Tax Commissioner administers the tax and the distribution of revenue.

Ohio Revised Code Citations

Chapter 5727.

Natural Gas Distribution Tax Collections and Distributions: Fiscal Years 2003 - 2007

Fiscal Year	Total Collections	School District Property Tax Replacement Fund	Local Government Property Tax Replacement Fund
2003	\$83,690,824	\$57,495,596	\$26,195,228
2004	76,318,465	52,430,785	23,887,680
2005	73,653,401	50,599,986	23,053,415
2006	69,075,391	47,454,794	21,620,597
2007	69,278,451	47,594,296	21,684,155

Source: Returns filed with the Department of Taxation.