

Although gas prices in California have soared to the highest in the nation, and our gas tax just increased again in July, Jay Chen supports a policy that could raise gas prices even higher by adding an additional fee.

BACKUP:

Jay Chen said “I think a carbon fee makes a lot of sense”:

- **CHEN:** “You know, I think a carbon fee makes a lot of sense. Because it helps to capture the true costs of goods. And it also helps to make us competitive vs. those countries that might be producing goods with very poor environmental standards. So yes, you can produce something for a dollar but what is the real cost of that good when you factor in the pollution, the poor wage and labor standards that help to produce that low level. So I think if we want to address climate change, and wage inequality, I think a carbon fee makes a lot of sense. Because it captures the true costs...I think it’s a great idea and something we should definitely look into.” (General Zoom Meeting, Indivisible 39, 03/24/22) ([NRCC YouTube](#))

A carbon tax would increase the price of a gallon of gasoline by about 36 cents:

- **A carbon tax would increase the price of burning fossil fuels and would add about 36 cents to the price of a gallon of gasoline.** “A carbon tax would increase the price of burning fossil fuels and any resulting goods or services. A tax of \$40 per ton would add about 36 cents to the price of a gallon of gasoline, for example, or about 2 cents to the average price of a kilowatt-hour of electricity (Marron, Toder, and Austin 2015). Higher energy prices would raise costs for industry and households, resulting in lower profits, wages, and consumption.” (What is a carbon tax?, [Tax Policy Center](#), Accessed 06/06/22)

California has the highest gas prices in the nation:

- **California has the highest gas prices in the nation.** “California is once again at the top of the charts, leading the nation in... wait for it... gas and diesel prices. AAA reports today’s national average of \$5.014 per gallon – California comes in at a cool \$6.436 per gallon for Regular, and nearly \$7.00 per gallon for Diesel. California’s prices greatly top the national averages: The average for a gallon of regular gas in California is \$6.436 per gallon, and a gallon of diesel is \$6.991.” (Katy Grimes, “California Tops Nation’s Highest Gas Prices at \$6.43 Per Gallon,” [The California Globe](#), 06/13/22)

California’s gas tax will increase to 53.9 cents per gallon on July 1st, 2022:

Editor’s Note: As of July 8 2022, [California](#) has the highest gas prices in the United States.

- **California’s gas tax is scheduled to increase on July 1st, 2022.** “California’s gas tax is scheduled to increase on July 1 after legislative leaders rejected Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposal to suspend the hike to help drivers cope with sky-high prices at the pump.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)

- **Drivers will pay about 3 cents more per gallon when the inflationary increase takes effect, increasing from 51.1 cents per gallon to 53.9 cents per gallon.** “Drivers will now pay about 3 cents more per gallon when the inflationary increase takes effect, with the tax rate slated to increase from 51.1 cents per gallon to 53.9 cents per gallon.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)
- **HEADLINE:** “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost.”

POLITICS

California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost

(Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)

The tax hike means drivers of a typical sedan with a 13-gallon tank would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty:

- **The tax hike means drivers of a typical sedan with a 13-gallon tank would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty.** “The tax hike means the driver of a typical sedan, with a 13-gallon gas tank, would pay about 36 cents more to refuel a vehicle from empty.” (Dustin Gardiner, “California’s gas tax will increase on July 1. Here’s how much it will cost,” [San Francisco Chronicle](#), 05/02/22)