



**THE WASHINGTON GREEN AMENDMENT:
ADVANCING THE RIGHT TO CLEAN AIR & WATER, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT & STABLE CLIMATE
FOR ALL PEOPLE & ALL GENERATIONS**

To promote and protect the health and well-being of every Washingtonian, now and for future generations, we are organizing to add a “Green Amendment” to the Washington State Constitution.

Industrial practices that commonly ignore externalities, damaging development and, at times, misguided government decision-making have violated our basic human right to live with clean air and soils, plentiful and pure water, a stable climate, healthy plants and wildlife that support and enrich our lives. An effective constitutional amendment would address this situation and help guide our government in protecting the health and well-being of all its residents by providing a pathway to equitable and fair protections for all.

Article I of our state constitution is a declaration of our inalienable rights, such as those of life, liberty, religious freedom, and free speech. A Green Amendment recognizes and elevates our right to clean air and water and a stable climate to that same inalienable standard, ensuring its enforceability when infringed upon by inappropriate government action. A Washington Green Amendment will constitutionally require our state government officials and agencies to protect the health and rights of both present and future generations of residents. It establishes a legal framework for helping to avoid pollution and land degradation, now and into the future.

A Washington Green Amendment would be self-executing and establish the following for all the people of our state, including future generations:

- The right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air and soils, healthy ecosystems, a stable climate, and the preservation of natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.
- The state and each of its political subdivisions shall be constitutionally required to conserve, protect and maintain our state’s natural resources.
- These rights and our state’s natural resources shall be equitably protected for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, geography, or wealth.
- The right to be free from government-sanctioned pollution of waterways and air.

The process to attain this highest level of constitutional protection requires that a two-thirds majority in each house of the Washington Legislature pass the proposed Green Amendment. The amendment must then be approved by a majority of voters in the next general election after appropriate public notice.

In order for our legislators to provide the votes for the required super-majorities, they first need to hear from their constituents that they want the Green Amendment. During this time of division, we need legislation that everyone supports. This amendment could be a bi-partisan legacy based on the common values we all share. Both economic prosperity and the well-being of society are founded upon the health of our shared natural resources and their long-term protection. Fostering healthy economic growth that prevents public

illness and its costs due to pollution, cleanup, and recovery from climate-related disasters like flooding and wildfires, losses to agriculture, business operations and tourism due to extreme weather and devastating pollution levels, is something we can all support.

Green Amendments for the Generations is a national movement aimed to pass amendments in every U.S. state. Green Amendments have already passed in Pennsylvania, New York, and Montana. In addition to Washington, efforts are currently underway to pass Green Amendments in Delaware, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, Nevada, New Mexico, and more. Those states that have passed Green Amendments already experience positive impacts, securing better government decisions to protect communities and avoiding the devastating costs of pollution to health and land impacts.

For further information, to take action and to join the movement go to:

www.wagreenamendment.org