

THE WASHINGTON STATE GREEN AMENDMENT PROPOSAL

It is time for the Green Amendment to be added to the Washington State Constitution to stand alongside our existing rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and due process.

In August 2023, the youth-led case [Held v. Montana](#) set a groundbreaking precedent, affirming Montanans' constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment, based on their Green Amendment. Montana enacted its Green Amendment in 1972, following Pennsylvania's lead, which was the first state to pass a Green Amendment in 1971. In 2021, New York became the third state to adopt a Green Amendment. The momentum continues, with thirteen other U.S. states currently pursuing Green Amendments. Global interest is growing in recognizing the people's right to clean air, water, and a healthy environment for current and future generations. This is a defining moment, shaping the path toward a more environmentally conscious and responsible world.

As climate change worsens causing increasing environmental degradation and extreme consequences such as heat domes, wildfires, unbreathable air, and flooding, it is incumbent upon us to halt the main causes of climate change; i.e., fossil fuel burning and deforestation. By mitigating the causes of climate change, we can succeed in maintaining a healthy and liveable climate and promote environmental justice.

Activists here in Washington are organizing to pass our own Green Amendment. A [Green Amendment](#) to our state constitution would guarantee every Washington resident's right to a clean and healthy environment, clean water, air and soils, healthy ecosystems, a stable climate, and the preservation of natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities for all, including future generations.

With a constitutional Green Amendment, the State becomes a trustee for its residents and is held accountable at the highest legal level to protect these rights. Without a liveable climate and a stable environment, there will be no possibility for healthy, sustainable and fulfilling lives.

In Washington State, a Green Amendment was first introduced by Rep. Debra Lekanoff in 2021, and again in 2022. It was introduced again in the 2024 legislative session but did not make it out of the committee this year. Still, advocates were encouraged at the positive shift of interest that the proposal is causing. Much of this information presented can be heard **and shared** [HERE](#). We believe committee members are aware that there is significant and growing momentum for a GA in WA state.

Currently the Washington Green Amendment workgroup is building statewide support in this effort to hold our government to being a body of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Please join us in our work, whether it is writing to your legislators, talking to your neighbors, or attending one of our volunteer meetings. For more information on how to engage, visit <https://wagreenamendment.org> and/or contact: dakipnis@gmail.com