



HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL (HEAL) ACT

Where you live, your income, race, or language ability should not determine how healthy and safe you are. But we know that in our communities, health and well-being varies significantly according to who you are and where you live. People across Washington who are suffering worst from pollution — often low-income people, communities of color, and linguistically-isolated people — pay with their well-being and shortened lives.

The HEAL Act aims to center those most affected by pollution as Washington transitions to a greener and fairer economy. The HEAL Act does this by defining 'environmental justice' in state law, centering new investments in frontline communities, increasing public engagement, and dedicating staff at state agencies to focus on environmental justice work.

KEY PRIORITIES IN THE PROPOSED BILL

1. Define environmental justice (EJ) in state law and require its application, using a racial justice lens, in agency strategic plans, goals, and metric setting, program implementation, enforcement, and reporting affecting the environment.
2. Direct funding with environmental benefits toward investments in and determined by communities highly impacted by pollution or climate impacts.
3. Ensure Tribal Communities sovereignty and rights in Environmental Justice.
4. Advance equitable community participation in planning, resource allocation, programs, and enforcement, and make temporary COVID measures permanent. This includes: agency community engagement planning, targeted outreach and language accessibility, screening tools like the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map, reducing barriers to funding and facilitating agency contracting with community based organizations for community engagement, compliance reviews, and consultation with Washington Tribes.
5. Create and fund a community-interagency work group and EJ staff and training at state agencies.
6. Fund and apply the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map to identify cumulative impacts and overburdened communities, and develop additional tools to measure the link between environmental quality and human health, disaggregated by race.
7. Require EJ analysis of proposed and historic environment bills, rulemakings, and budgets using the Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map and other tools.

For questions, contact:

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Front and Centered is a statewide coalition of more than 60 organizations and groups rooted in communities of color and people with lower incomes who are on the frontlines of economic and environmental change. We build power and capacity to create healthy environments for all and for a Just Transition that centers equity and is led by people of color.