

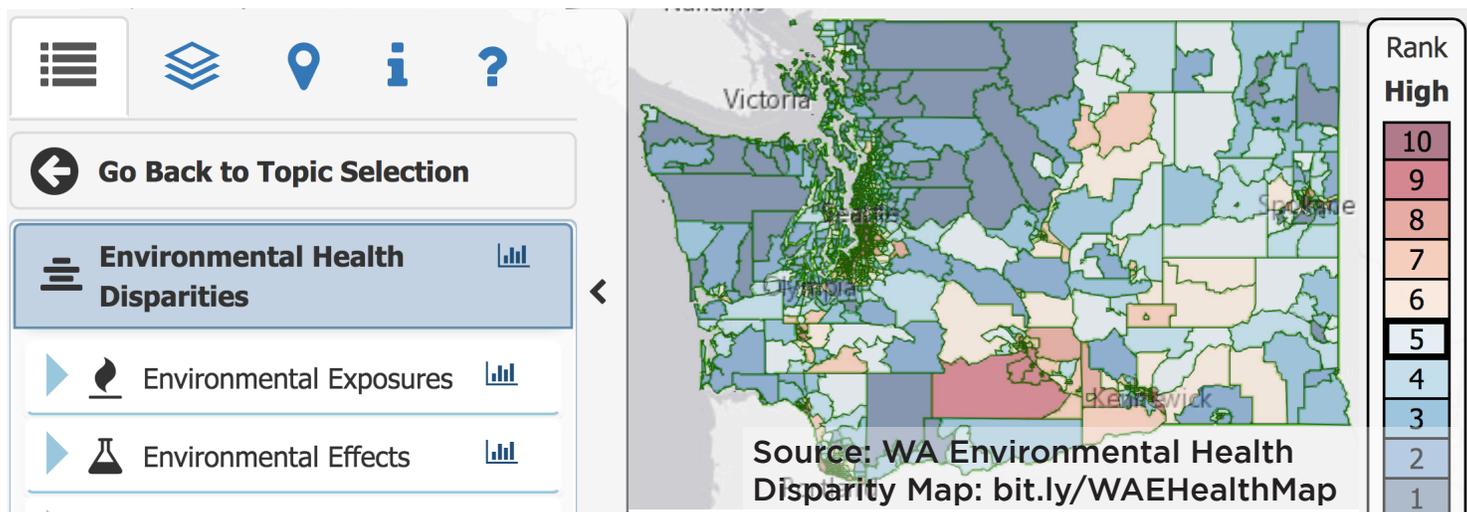
HEAL WASHINGTON!

A healthy environment for ALL.

PASS SB 5489: A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL!

Where you live, your income, race or language ability should not determine how healthy and safe you are. But individual health and well-being indicators can vary significantly according to who we are and where we live. The Washington Environmental Health Disparity Map shows **eight “hot zone” communities across our state** experiencing the highest vulnerability and exposure to environmental health hazards, bearing **an unfair share of the risk**.

Washington can do better to protect its people and environment. Lawmakers can choose a healthier future for Washington by **passing Senate Bill 5489, the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act**.



THE HEAL ACT WOULD:

- ✓ Define and commit state agencies to adopting a mission of environmental justice.
- ✓ Require agencies to use environmental health disparity data to inform decisions about enforcement, investments and policy.
- ✓ Decrease environmental health disparity. The Act forms a task force to direct equitable action, including requiring agencies to measure their work against a baseline of environmental health and develop targets for decreasing disparity.
- ✓ Improve public participation. The task force also recommends agency tools for properly informing and engaging community members in environmental health solutions, including translated services and materials.
- ✓ Make a greater overall positive health impact by targeting communities facing the greatest environmental health risks.

HELP #HealWA!

Because those who suffer first and most from environmental impacts should be the first to shape and benefit from environmental policy. Let's ensure a healthy WA for all.

ENDORSE, SPEAK, WRITE AND ACT TODAY!

Contact Sameer Ranade to get involved: sameer@frontandcentered.org.



More at www.frontandcentered.org



2019 Legislative Priorities:

We believe that everyone deserves to grow up and live in a safe and healthy environment. Those who suffer first and most from environmental impacts, should be the first to shape and benefit from environmental policy. Unfortunately, that is simply not the case in our state. Where high concentrations of low-income, people of color and linguistically isolated people live, high rates of pollution meet health and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. To close the gap in environmental health disparity, we are asking lawmakers to:

Ensure a Healthy Environment for All: Our bill, SB 5489, is the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act. It will define environmental justice for state agencies, creating a foundation and pathway for all communities to benefit from environmental policy. The bill will require state agencies to use environmental health disparity data and analysis when making decisions about enforcement, investments and policy development. It would improve public participation tools to garner community input for policies, including translated services and materials. Lastly, it would coordinate state agencies to improve environmental health by reducing disparities between communities.

Commit to 100% Clean & Equitable Energy: This bill creates interim and an ultimate deadline for Washington state's electricity to be powered by 100 percent clean energy. Front and Centered is advocating that equity is the core element of the clean energy transition. That means energy assistance reaches all households that need it and that clean power creates economic, environmental and health benefits for communities with the greatest barriers.

Allocate Equitably Shared Benefits from Clean Energy Fund: In order to ensure the nearly \$60 million of clean energy investments being proposed in our state's Capital Budget is broadly shared, we are advocating that priority must be given to projects that benefit communities highly impacted by environmental or energy burdens. We're asking that a specific allocation be dedicated to reducing socioeconomic barriers to households, including those with lower incomes and limited English language speakers. We also want to ensure that the opportunity to receive funds is open to all to address diverse clean energy challenges.

About Front and Centered:



Front and Centered is a coalition of more than 60 organizations in Washington state at the frontline of environmental crisis and the center of change. Rooted in communities of color, we conduct participatory research, develop policies and organize to achieve equity and center people of color in the environmental movement.

More at www.frontandcentered.org.

Photo by Naomi Ishisaka.

For more about our legislative priorities, please contact Front and Centered Legislative Director David Mendoza at david@frontandcentered.org.