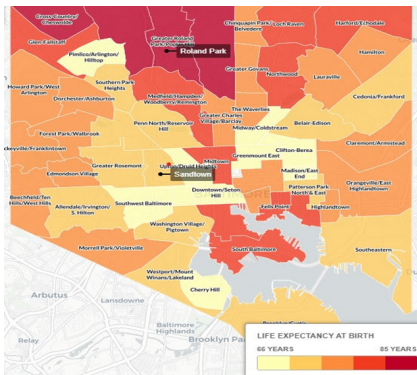


Protect Our Human Right to a Healthful and Sustainable Environment

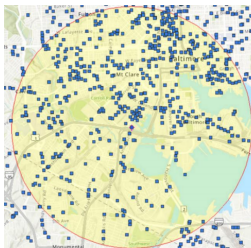
In 1973, the Maryland General Assembly recognized that "each person has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment" (Maryland Environmental Policy Act - MEPA). However, for 48 years this policy has largely been ignored. Resulting in devastating effects:

Overburdened Communities



- There is an 18 year difference in life expectancy between Roland Park in the north east and Downtown Baltimore.
- Pollution is concentrated in communities of color and those with low incomes across the state, including Baltimore City, Charles County, Prince George's County and the Eastern Shore.

Concentrated Pollution and Health Disparities



- 200 pollution emitting centers in a 2.5-mile radius in S. Baltimore^{1,2}
- 4x the asthma hospitalizations in Baltimore compared to the Maryland average^{3,4}

[References available here](#)





Environmental Human Rights Amendment

The proposed constitutional amendment will add two new protections in the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland State Constitution.

1. That each person has the fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful and sustainable environment, and said right shall not be infringed.
2. That the State, as trustee, shall protect, conserve, and enhance Maryland's natural resources, including its air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, on behalf of present and future generations.

What would a constitutional right do?

- Ensure each person's enforceable right to a healthful environment
- Close the gaps in environmental laws, and act as a true guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of harm, providing environmental justice in our state
- Strengthen state and local governments' ability to protect the environment
- Support stronger environmental laws and regulations to better protect the health of the environment and Marylanders
- Preserve a healthful environment for future generations

Take Action!

[Learn how at www.mdehr.org/actions](http://www.mdehr.org/actions)

