



# PROTECTING OUR

# ENVIRONMENT



## Improving Air Quality and Reducing Pollution

To help reduce ozone air pollution in the Denver metro area and northern Front Range, Colorado Democrats are tightening pollution standards in permitting for oil and gas operations, especially in disproportionately impacted communities, and ramping up penalties for repeat violators ([SB24-229](#)). Other laws will reduce aviation-caused air pollution ([HB24-1235](#)), and develop neighborhood-scale alternative energy projects to reduce the cost of using natural gas ([HB24-1370](#)).

## Expanding Transit Options

Colorado Democrats passed landmark legislation to improve transit and help meet our climate and housing goals by dedicating approximately \$100 million per year to local and statewide transit operations through a fee on oil and gas production ([SB24-230](#)). Another law creates dedicated revenue in order to leverage historic federal investment for Front Range Passenger Rail, Mountain Rail, and expanded bus service across the state ([SB24-184](#)).

## Conserving Water

New legislation will implement recommendations from the Colorado River Drought Task Force to protect Colorado's water supply ([SB24-197](#)) and provide around \$315 million to fund Colorado Water Conservation Board projects and money for Shoshone water rights ([HB24-1435](#)). Voters will have the opportunity to allocate higher than expected revenue from sports betting on water conservation projects ([HB24-1436](#)). Bipartisan lawmakers also passed a prohibition on the use of water guzzling turf in non-functional areas to promote water-wise landscaping ([SB24-005](#)).

## Protecting Water Quality

Water is Colorado's most precious resource, which is why lawmakers are restoring critical protections for Colorado's streams, rivers, and wetlands ([HB24-1379](#)) and studying new and modernized ways to achieve compliance with water quality standards, specifically green infrastructure ([SB24-037](#)). Additionally, local governments will soon authorize the use of greywater in new construction to promote water reuse ([HB24-1362](#)).

## Prioritizing Environmental Justice

Colorado Democrats are addressing long standing environmental injustices by increasing oversight of petroleum refineries, improving response to air pollution complaints, and analyzing the cumulative impacts of pollution ([HB24-1338](#)). The state's oil and gas regulator will also hire at least two community liaisons to interface with and better support disproportionately impacted communities ([SB24-229](#)).

## Creating a Healthier Environment

This session, Colorado Democrats updated the Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Chemicals Protection Act to add additional products to the scheduled phase-out of harmful forever chemicals, including certain outdoor gear and cookware, ski wax, personal hygiene products, cleaning products, artificial turf and other textile articles ([SB24-081](#)).