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Connecticut Residents, Environmental Groups hold Town Halls with Maya van Rossum, Founder of Green Amendments For The Generations, on a Constitutional Environmental Amendment

Representatives Matt Blumenthal and Gregory Haddad, Senator Mae Flexer, Community Members, and Activists Call for the legislature to pass an Environmental Rights Amendment during the 2026 Legislative Session

Mansfield, Stamford, and Middletown, Connecticut — Residents, environmental advocates, and state lawmakers gathered for three public town halls featuring Maya K. van Rossum, founder of Green Amendments For The Generations, to discuss the urgent need for a Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment in the state constitution.

The town halls were held in Mansfield, in the district of Government Administration & Elections Committee Co-Chair Sen. Mae Flexer; in Stamford, in the district of Government Administration & Elections Committee Co-Chair Rep. Matt Blumenthal; and in Middletown. More than 95 people attended across the three events, demonstrating growing public support for establishing constitutional protections for clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment in Connecticut.

The proposed Environmental Rights Amendment would enshrine in Connecticut's constitution the fundamental right of all residents, including future generations, to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. The amendment would also establish a clear obligation for the state government to protect these rights as trustees of Connecticut's natural resources.

Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly with legislators—including Senator Mae Flexer and Representative Gregory Haddad in Mansfield, Senator Pat Billie Miller in Stamford, and municipal leaders, including Karen Camporeale of the Board of Representatives in Stamford—about environmental justice, climate change impacts, and the role a constitutional amendment would play in strengthening state and municipal environmental protections. Conversations highlighted concerns over increasing extreme weather events, water pollution, and threats to public health and the need for proactive legal tools to protect communities from environmental harm.

Supporters emphasized that powerful constitutional environmental rights amendments, called Green Amendments, have already been successfully adopted in Pennsylvania, Montana, and New York, and have provided strong legal frameworks to prevent environmental harm and hold decision-makers accountable.

Organizers are urging legislative leadership to bring the Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment forward for a vote during the 2026 session, and Attorney General William Tong to declare his support for strong and effective language for the Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment.

For more information about the Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment and upcoming advocacy efforts, visit ctgreenamendment.org.

“At a time when people are seeing their democracy and environment under assault, people who came to the open houses were genuinely excited to learn that they can be part of making history and securing a legacy of protection that will truly protect a healthy environment as a genuine right of all the people of Connecticut,” observed **Maya K. van Rossum, Founder of Green Amendments For The Generations** and author of *The Green Amendment: The People’s Fight for a Clean, Safe, and Healthy Environment*. “The level of turnout and engagement at every one of our town hall events for the Connecticut Environmental Rights Amendment has demonstrated that people are looking for solutions when it comes to environmental protection. People are recognizing that pollution is damaging the water, air, climate and environments that communities need to not just survive, but to thrive, and they are tired of piecemeal legislative solutions that are not solving the problem,” added van Rossum.

“Every Connecticut resident has an inalienable right to live in a safe and healthy environment, including clean water, air, and soil, and a stable climate. Enshrining that right in our state Constitution will ensure Connecticut’s long-term dedication to environmental health and safety, and that every Connecticut resident, in every community—including farmers, hunters, outdoors-people, and others—can trust we will preserve the environment for this generation and the ones to follow. I’m committed to working with advocates, stakeholders and our state Attorney General to protect these rights in perpetuity by amending the state Constitution,” said **State Representative Matthew Blumenthal**.

“Human health, and even human life, depends on the health of our environment. All our efforts to grow clean and healthy, nutrient-rich food will be in vain if we don’t have clean and healthy air, water, and soil. Farmers and farmworkers struggle to adapt to the extremes of weather we have now with climate change, and these extremes will get even more difficult to predict and manage if we don’t take action on climate. Our environmental rights are necessities and need to be protected at the highest level in our state constitution,” added **Kimberly Stoner, PhD.**,

Director of Advocacy, CT NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association and Coordinator, CT Environmental Rights Amendment Alliance.

“Immigrants and US citizens are being snatched off the street by secret police, low income people are forced into unaffordable, subpar housing, and utility bills are through the roof causing many to struggle. As our human rights are being stripped away now is the time to ensure that we have environmental protections. It is our right to be able to breathe quality air and drink clean water,” said **Tenaya Taylor, Non-Profit Accountability Group.**

“Clean air, water, soil, and a safe climate are necessary to human health; The League of Women Voters fully supports the Environmental Rights Amendment which would ensure these fundamental human rights for all Connecticut residents,” noted **Patricia Rossi, Co-President of LWVCT.**

“Connecticut Citizens' Climate Education and Connecticut Citizens' Climate Lobby supports the addition of a Green Amendment to the Connecticut Constitution. We support this for all people, including future generations, to have a constitutional right to clean air and water, a safe climate, and a healthy environment,” said **Roger Kuhns & Susan Chapin, Connecticut CCE/CCL Co-coordinators.**

“Sierra Club Connecticut is proud to stand alongside advocates and policymakers in support of the Environmental Rights Amendment. Every Connecticut resident deserves the right to a clean and healthy environment. Every Connecticut voter deserves the opportunity to weigh in on this constitutional amendment, and it’s up to our legislators to give voters a chance,” stated **Julianna Larue, Sierra Club Connecticut.**

For more information, visit www.CTGreenAmendment.org.

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