



AUMC'S JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A "NO" VOTE ON AMENDMENT 82

Approved by committee vote on August 24, 2026

AMENDMENT 82 – Establishing a Constitutional Right to Natural Gas

WHAT THIS INITIATIVE WOULD DO

If passed, this measure would amend the Colorado constitution to provide that consumers have the right to purchase natural gas for cooking or heating in homes across the state, and that distributors and utilities have the right to sell natural gas to homes or businesses.

Because this initiative would amend the Colorado constitution, it requires 55% of the vote to pass.

[Text of the measure](#) (formerly Initiative 177)

ARGUMENTS FOR THE INITIATIVE

Proponents argue that natural gas is a relatively clean, efficient, and affordable form of energy used by many homes and businesses across the state. This measure is necessary to prevent harm to consumers and businesses that may be caused by a transition to clean energy that occurs too quickly. It preserves the right to use natural gas as an affordable option, while still allowing consumers and businesses to choose other forms of energy as well.

Supporters: [Advance Colorado](#)

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE INITIATIVE

Opponents argue that Colorado's energy policy is appropriately the subject of ongoing negotiations among a wide variety of affected groups and individuals, and it makes no sense to upend those agreements by putting a one-sided "right" in the state constitution. Our energy environment is constantly evolving, and we do not necessarily know what role natural gas will or should play in the future. This measure was designed by fossil fuel companies to stymie state and local efforts to move to cleaner energy. Private corporate interests should not be enshrined in the constitution, and potential concerns about an energy transition should remain in the ongoing public dialogue and political process.

Opponents: [Conservation Colorado](#)

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

2026 Colorado Election Blue Book – Amendment 82 (mailed to voters)

[Ballotpedia](#)

JUSTICE IN ACTION COMMITTEE POSITION ON THIS INITIATIVE

As a committee and pursuant to a consensus vote, **we oppose this initiative and urge United Methodists to vote against it.**

OUR REASONS FOR THIS POSITION

United Methodists are called to care for God’s creation and be good stewards of our environment. Our Social Principles explicitly recognize that this stewardship does and will involve a transition away from reliance on fossil fuels such as natural gas. This initiative seeks to stop or delay the transition away from natural gas, and as such is contrary to our Social Principles. Even if there is an argument for continuing to retain natural gas as part of the energy portfolio, the inflexible text of this initiative and its placement in the state constitution do not represent responsible policymaking on this complex issue.

We acknowledge that the Social Principles also call upon us to recognize the potential adverse impacts to individuals and communities that may occur as the clean energy transition happens, and to take steps to minimize those impacts and otherwise avoid potential harms. This obligation remains, and we will continue to advocate both for a rapid transition to clean energy and the investment that will be needed to mitigate the challenges of the transition.

WHAT WE CONSIDERED IN TAKING THIS POSITION

UMC sources considered:

- Relevant provisions of the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church (attached)
- Committee discussions

External sources considered:

- [History](#) and [text](#) of the ballot initiative available from the Colorado Secretary of State
- [Ballotpedia resources and analysis](#)
- Reports and analyses:
 - Advance Colorado Institute. “[Natural Gas: Clean, Affordable, and Reliable Energy for Colorado.](#)” (April 2026).
 - Sustainability Solutions Group. “[Colorado’s Clean Affordable Climate Pathways – Summary Report.](#)” Prepared for Conservation Colorado Education Fund, December 2025.
- Media reports:
 - McDaniel, M. “[Coloradans to Vote on Whether They Have a ‘Right to Natural Gas.’](#)” *Mother Jones*, 7/16/26.
 - Jaffe, M. “[New political players have upended a fragile peace in Colorado’s oil and gas wars.](#)” *Colorado Sun*, 6/1/26.
 - Dolven, T. “[Democrats abandon attempt to blunt ballot measure giving Coloradans ‘right to natural gas.’](#)” *Colorado Sun*, 5/12/26.

UMC SOCIAL PRINCIPLES 2025-28 – EXCERPTS RELEVANT TO AMENDMENT 82**Para. 160 I. THE COMMUNITY OF ALL CREATION****PREFACE**

... Rather than treating creation as if it were placed here solely for humanity's use and consumption, we are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God's creation (Genesis 1:26-31; Matthew 6:26-30; Romans 8:22-24). We are also called to honor the role of every part of creation in healing the whole; thus we praise God with the whole of creation (Psalm 148) and recognize that we are part of complex ecosystems, all valued by God.

CREATION IN PERIL

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B. Global Warming and Climate Change – Global warming and climate change are already creating extreme conditions that threaten the entirety of life on earth. Over-industrialization ... and overreliance on fossil fuels are but some of the human activities that have contributed to the buildup of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide in the earth's atmosphere.

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C. Dependence on Fossil Fuels – The burning of fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and, to a lesser extent, natural gas, is the greatest single contributor to the buildup of greenhouse gases and the consequent warming of earth's atmosphere. To reverse the current trajectory of global climate change, increased investments are needed in the research, development, and distribution of alternatives to fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, solar, wind, geothermal, and hydrogen-based energy sources.

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Inevitably, transitioning from an overreliance on fossil fuels will have adverse impacts on individuals and communities whose livelihoods are still heavily dependent on the production, sale, and distribution of these commodities. To the greatest extent possible, plans for developing and deploying alternative sources of energy should minimize negative financial impacts by investing in strategies that support people in successfully transitioning to new employment, strengthen the social safety net to deal with the loss of jobs and income, and provide ample educational and retraining opportunities.

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

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B. Sustainable Policies and Practices – Sustainability is crucial to the development of ecologically sound policies and practices that seek to restore balance to the natural world and end the disruptive relationships between humanity and the rest of God's creation. Sustainable policies and practices aim to meet present human needs while ensuring that future generations have the resources they need to thrive. Sustainable policies and practices prioritize the protection of all forms of life and natural ecosystems, while supporting human beings to live in healthy balance with the earth.

We urge United Methodists to adopt sustainable habits and practices, including ... avoiding products that pollute or otherwise harm the environment, and reducing the carbon footprints of individuals and families by reducing overall reliance on fossil fuels for heat, transportation, and other goods.

Recognizing that simply changing our personal habits will not be enough to reverse decades of environmental damage, the church supports local, regional, national, and international cooperative efforts aimed at redressing the ecological harms humans have wreaked on a global scale. Such cooperative efforts must include the development and enforcement of policies and practices that protect all sentient beings, and the promotion of sustainable economic development. We also encourage responsible consumption and urgent action against global warming and climate change.