



## *Greetings from the Governor*

*July 1, 2020*

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all of those celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of The Department of Ecology.

In 1970, the Washington Legislature passed, and Governor Dan Evans signed, legislation creating our nation's first agency dedicated to protection of all environmental resources. The purpose of this new department was expressly to protect Washington's land, air and water.

In the five decades since, the Department of Ecology has played a leading role in improving Washington's air and water quality, cleaning up toxic contamination, preventing oil spills, finding safer chemicals and getting toxic ingredients out of products, preserving our state's shorelines, wetlands and water bodies. The Department of Ecology has also been a vital force in protecting Washington's water supplies and ensuring that there is enough water to serve our communities, agriculture, and industry, while protecting fish and marine animals. The department also leads Washington's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change.

The staff and leadership of the Washington's Department of Ecology have been tireless advocates for improving environmental protections throughout our beautiful state. I applaud each of you for your committed efforts. Your engagement and discussions today will lead to collaborations and outcomes that help save the planet for our children and grandchildren. We will all benefit from your insights and meaningful contributions.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee  
Governor

