

GREENR Draws Parallels Between Environmental and Legal Issues

Relevant Courses



Introduction to Environmental Law and Policy

- A course for first year law students that focuses on the legal regulation of pollution and waste management. The course covers relevant federal environmental statutes and the legal ramifications of regulation.



International Environmental Law and Policy

- This course examines how society manages—and sometimes fails to manage—environmental issues that fall beyond the authority or capability of a single national government.



Water Law

- Students learn about topics covering groundwater use, public rights in water, allocation of waters of shared basins, and federal water rights, and international water management.



Energy Law and Climate Change Policy

- Students in these courses explore the evolving legal issues relating to energy law and clean energy development policy solutions, and the newly emerging law of climate change.



Environmental Justice

- This course presents students with a number of ethical and legal questions. Central to the study of environmental justice is the understanding the effects of race, equality, and economic status on environmental quality.

Major Topics

Incentives

- Law students interested in environmental law must not only know how international legislation works but also how to incentivize people to follow it. The biggest problem often can be found in international business where companies often operate where the law is the weakest.

International Cooperation

- Borders may define the area that a regime governs but environmental issues have no boundaries. For this reason it is crucial that nations work together to mitigate environmental risks across the globe. Yet, full cooperation is difficult to achieve.

Government & the Environment

- To what extent is the government responsible for what happens to the environment? How much should we rely on the government to protect our planet?

Common topics covered in environmental law courses

✓ *CLEAN WATER ACT*

- Passed in 1972, the Clean Water Act is the federal statute that governs water pollution and quality in the United States. This law is widely covered in introductory environmental law courses because it is one of the most controversial pieces of legislation ever passed. Cases involving the Act's lax protection of wetlands have reached the Supreme Court and state controlled water quality provisions have been heavily challenged. The Act is an important part of the curriculum because it demonstrates how environmental policy is crafted through both legislative and legal processes.

✓ *NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT*

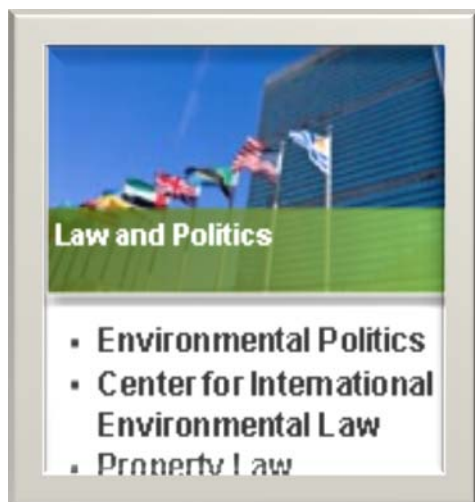
- The National Environmental Policy Act, (NEPA) was the first piece of legislation to require that the environmental impact of new construction and development. The Act also required that all federal agencies, even those with no expertise in environmental experience, to make protecting the environment a priority. This Act is an important part of the environmental law course because this legislation has become the framework for environmental law in almost every state and internationally as well. The NEPA highlights the goal of positive human interaction with the Earth and involving stakeholders at all levels to make informed decisions about how best to preserve our environment.

✓ *THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE*

- The consequences of a given policy, law, or action are not always clear and often ambiguous. In cases when there is no clear scientific consensus as to the damage that could be caused to the environment, students are taught to rely on the precautionary principle. The precautionary principle, as it applies to the environment, essentially states that decision makers should take precautions to protect the environment even if the proposed action may or may not cause any harm. The Principle is the basis for many international environmental laws. It has been prominently featured in mandates from the UN (Rio Declaration, 1992), and the European Union (Maastricht Treaty, 1992). The precautionary principle is also the basis for many US federal agencies, including the EPA and FDA.



How a law student would use GREENR



Features: GREENR provides law school students with the most comprehensive and up to date information on environmental law issues. GREENR's start page is packed with features to jump start student research and simplify complex legal and environmental concepts. GREENR's portal pages students provide quick access to country environmental profiles, pressing issues, and facts essential to understanding the greater global context surrounding topics. The country portal page also launches students into authoritative research reports, academic studies, and trusted data. Portal pages also serve as multimedia hubs with videos, podcasts, and high quality image content available. Law students will appreciate GREENR's intuitive layout and premier content. All of GREENR's content is available for download or export, further allowing students to apply what they have learned to real world

applications.

GREENR
Global Reference on the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources

BASIC SEARCH: **SEARCH**
ADVANCED SEARCH

HOME ADVANCED SEARCH BROWSE ISSUES AND TOPICS WORLD MAP SEARCH HISTORY MARKED LIST

Browse Issues and Topics [VIEW ALL >>](#)

- Agriculture and Food Systems**
 - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - Food Security
 - Community-Supported Agriculture
- Economics and Trade**
 - Cost-Benefit Analysis
 - World Bank Group
 - Externalities
- Energy**
 - Wind Energy
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Biofuel Energy
- Law and Politics**
 - Environmental Politics
 - Center for International Environmental Law
 - Property Law
- Pollution**
 - Air Pollution
 - Climate Change
 - Environmental Kuznets Curve
- Resource Management**
 - ICDPs (Integrated Conservation and Development Projects)
 - Common Pool Resources
 - Water Privatization

World Map

Don't know where to start? The interactive map lets you search, or browse by issue, country or region.
[World Map >>](#)

Featured Video

FRONTLINE WORLD
stories from a small planet

Green Dreams: A Not So Model Village / *Frontline/World*
SEARCH VIDEOS
Video Gallery

Case Studies

SEARCH CASE STUDIES
Advanced Search

A dynamic inexact energy systems planning model for supporting greenhouse-gas emission management and sustainable renewable energy development under uncertainty -- A case study for the City of Waterloo, Canada.(Case study). *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, Oct 1, 2009.

Use of a derived distribution approach for flood prediction in poorly gauged basins: A case study in Italy.(Case study). *Advances in Water Resources*, Aug 1, 2009.

Inexact fuzzy-stochastic constraint-softened programming - A case study for waste management.(Case study). *Waste Management*, Jul 1, 2009.

Academic Journals and News [CUSTOMIZE >>](#)

SEARCH

Easy access to legal decisions concerning the environment

Law students know the importance of a precedent when arguing a case. Finding relevant cases is not always easy, especially international cases. *GREENR* makes it simple to find pertinent cases with comprehensive periodical, reference, and multimedia content. Further, *GREENR* makes interpreting cases a cinch with our analysis from trusted experts and links to outside organizations.

Prepare for in-class case arguments with *GREENR*'s hundreds of case studies

GREENR can prepare students for mock in-class case arguments with direct access to hundreds of country and issue specific case studies.

GREENR's case studies are compiled from some of the leading environmental agencies in the world, and provide students with hands on experience dealing with actual environmental and legal issues. With *GREENR*'s case studies, students can prepare their responses to complicated issues and anticipate challenges and responses to their positions.



Important Environmental Supreme Court Cases from the 2006–2007 Term

Parties Involved	<i>Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. EPA</i>
Date Argued	November 29, 2006
Date Decided	April 2, 2007
Issues Decided	States and environmental groups have standing to sue the EPA; The EPA has the right to regulate CO ₂ emissions as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act; The EPA did not offer a compelling argument for non-regulation of CO ₂ emissions
Ruling	Reversed and Remanded
Author of Decision	Stevens
Justices for Majority	Kennedy, Souter, Ginsburg, and Breyer
Author of Dissent	Roberts, Scalia
Justices Dissenting	Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, Alito

Parties Involved	<i>Environmental Defense v. Duke Energy Corp.</i>
Date Argued	November 1, 2006
Date Decided	April 2, 2007
Held	Industrial smokestacks and power plants must meet present-day pollution control standards when they are updated or expanded.
Ruling	Vacated and Remanded
Author of Decision	Souter
Justices for Majority	Roberts, Stevens, Scalia, Kennedy, Ginsburg, Breyer, Alito, with Thomas concurring in part
Author of Dissent	Thomas to Part III-A
Justices Dissenting	None

Parties Involved	<i>National Association of Home Builders v. Defenders of Wildlife</i>
Date Argued	April 17, 2007
Date Decided	June 25, 2007
Held	A federal agency that is required by law to take a specific action does not have to follow the conflicting mandate of the Endangered Species Act.
Ruling	Reversed and Remanded
Author of Decision	Alito
Justices for Majority	Roberts, Scalia, Kennedy, Thomas
Author of Dissent	Stevens, Breyer
Justices Dissenting	Stevens, Souter, Ginsburg, Breyer

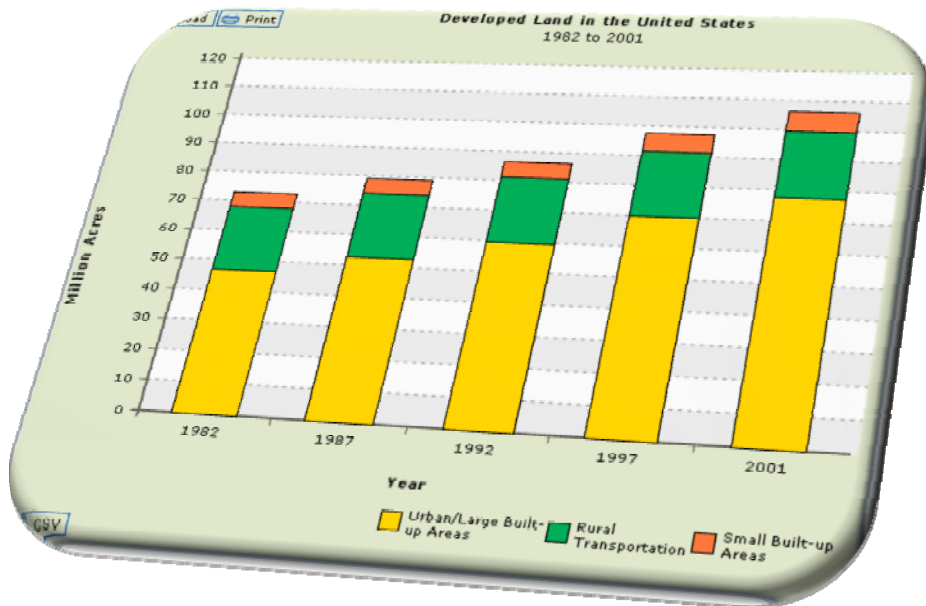
Primary source content that provides opportunities for direct interpretation of legislation

As a law student, you often need to get straight to the source to truly interpret the intent and spirit of the law. *GREENR* gives students this opportunity. Law students will not only find relevant statutes from the United States but also international environmental legislation. *GREENR* makes it easy to find the full text of these documents, and eliminates the need to search in multiple sources.

Multimedia content with balanced coverage

GREENR contains multimedia content from all over the world that addresses the social, political, and ethical issues associated with environmental topics. With reporting from the Associated Press, NBC News, and National Public Radio, students will get balanced coverage of issues. Each multimedia clip gives local insight into issues and highlights global impact.

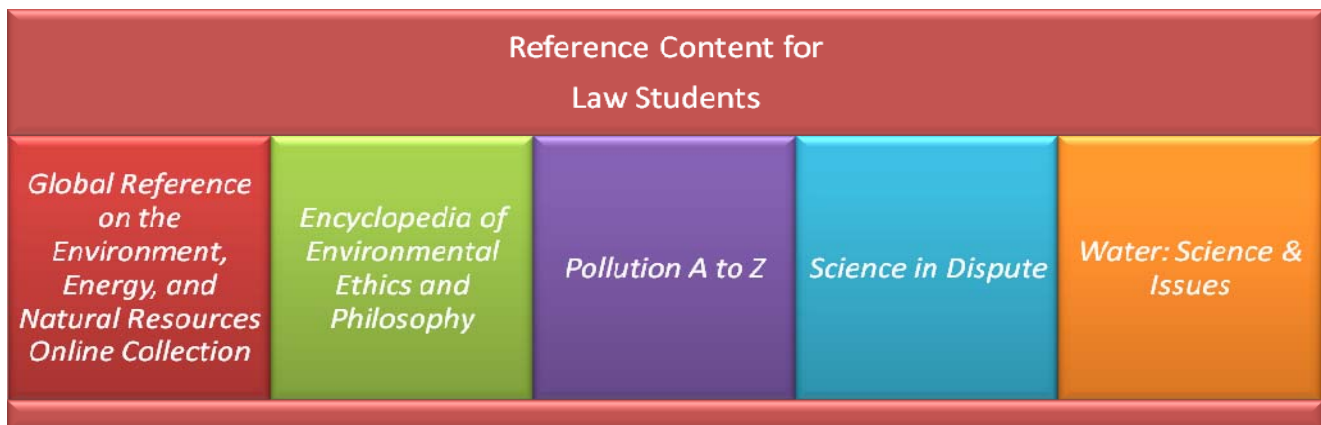
The facts you need to build a strong case



Sometimes even the best argument needs an illuminating statistic to bolster it. *GREENR* can help law students find the facts they need, from trusted sources. Finding the right stat is simple with *GREENR*. Students only need to search by keyword or issue and then click on *GREENR*'s dedicated statistics section. Once inside students have access to data from US Government Agencies, independent think-tanks, and international watch-dog groups.

Accessible environmental law journal content

GREENR has the top names in environmental law content in full text. The names that your students know and trust (such as: *Environmental Law*, *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum*, and *American Journal of International Law*) can all be found within *GREENR*. Students can subscribe to journal RSS feeds and create search alerts that search all of *GREENR*'s periodical and journal content.



Help students understand international environmental regulation

Law students can draw on international experience to help them think differently about domestic regulation. *GREENR* provides extensive coverage of environmental reforms around the world, from respected reference sources and news outlets. Students will get analysis and perspective of the variety of approaches that are taken toward environmental regulation around the world. *GREENR* contains content that gives students local perspective on international environmental issues.