



Sustainability in Law

Environmental Law Theory and Practice (LAWS5850)

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In a rapidly decaying and overheating world, classical legal values, forms, norms, and mechanisms are confronted with a series of complex environmental crises. Faced with the realisation that incremental legal reform and reactive legislative responses are proving insufficient for the scale of the problem, law is forced to turn to foundational questions regarding the relations between law, politics, science, economics, justice, and society across different jurisdictions and cultures. This module traces such fundamental questions in a series of case studies from around the world.



Many of these problems admit scientific, economic and administrative responses as readily as legal ones. However, the underlying premise is that, alongside other disciplines, law has an essential part to play in the protection of the environment. The overall objective of the module is to provide an exposition of Environmental Law which seeks to assess the functioning of the law alongside the environmental problems that it seeks to address.

Environmental Law seeks to examine and assess laws, of widely different kinds, from a uniquely environmental perspective. Taking the broadest possible view, it must be asked what legal mechanism is best used to restrict emissions causing deterioration in the quality of the three environmental media of water, air and land and how the law can provide appropriate redress for environmental harm

