



SABIN CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE LAW



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The **Sabin Center for Climate Change Law** at Columbia Law School develops and promulgates legal techniques to address climate change and trains the next generation of lawyers who will be leaders in the field. The Sabin Center is a member center of the [Earth Institute](#) at Columbia University, and frequently collaborates with Earth Institute scientists on cutting edge interdisciplinary research. We are both a partner to and a resource for public interest legal

institutions engaged in climate change work. The Center's activities are spearheaded by Michael Gerrard, Faculty Director and Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, and Michael Burger, Executive Director and Senior Research Scholar at Columbia Law School. The Center's thought leadership and direct engagement operate at the international, national, state and local levels.

PROJECT AREAS

➤ **Cross-cutting Issues & Initiatives**

Climate change cuts across law and policy domains, engaging governments, courts, businesses, scientists and others in multiple and overlapping ways. Our current cross-cutting efforts track and assess climate litigation, provide legal pathways to deep decarbonization, engage with cities to find legal answers to questions raised by policy innovations, provide pro bono legal representation to supporters of utility-scale renewable energy projects, and track attacks on and stand up for climate science.

➤ **Energy Law**

The Sabin Center seeks to advance the decarbonization of the energy sector and to encourage a more rational accounting of climate change-related impacts of energy use in the U.S. and elsewhere. Our current efforts focus on federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to clean energy development and integration; public utility regulation; and the extraction, transportation and consumption of fossil fuels.

➤ **Environmental & Land Use Law**

Decreasing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resilience to climate impacts involve use of existing environmental, natural resource, and land use law. They also demand creation of new approaches. Our current efforts focus on federal, state, and local laws and regulations related to air pollution; environmental impact assessment; public lands management; and zoning and land use control.

➤ **International & Foreign Law**

Climate change is a global problem that demands a global response. Recognizing this, the Sabin Center provides legal support for and participates in international efforts to address the causes and effects of climate change. We also track how foreign jurisdictions are addressing climate change through legal reforms and litigation.

PUBLIC EVENTS

The Sabin Center holds and participates in events on a wide range of topics related to climate change. These include conferences, debates, seminars, and panel discussions. Below are some highlights of our 2019 events:

- *Implementing New York's New Climate Law*, October 23, 2019
- *Should Storm Surge Barriers be Built to Protect New York & New Jersey From Flooding?* October 17, 2019
- *Climate Change, Water Security, and National Security for Jordan, Palestine, and Israel*, September 24, 2019

PUBLICATIONS

The Sabin Center produces papers, surveys and other legal resources, and its members edit and co-author books with other climate law and energy experts from around the globe. Our website, climate.law.columbia.edu, contains landing pages for each of our program areas, and links to relevant projects, publications, and other resources. In addition, the Center publishes the [Climate Law Blog](#) and maintains a growing presence on social media, as well as a [youtube](#) channel.

Books

- [Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States](#) (Michael B. Gerrard & John Dernbach eds., 2019; [full text](#) plus free 160-page pdf of [summary volume](#) available)
- [Climate Change, Public Health, and the Law](#) (Michael Burger & Justin Gundlach eds., 2018)
- [Climate Engineering and the Law: Regulation and Liability for Solar Radiation Management and Carbon Dioxide Removal](#) (Michael B. Gerrard & Tracy Hester eds., 2018)

Online Resources

- **Climate Change Laws of the World Database**

The Sabin Center and the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment have collaborated to create an [online database](#) of the laws, regulations, policy statements, and other directives issued by national governments.

- **Climate Change Litigation Database**

The Center maintains [U.S.](#) and [non-U.S.](#) climate litigation charts. (The US database is maintained in collaboration with Arnold & Porter.) We also circulate a monthly update on recent developments in climate-related litigation.

- **Climate Deregulation Tracker**

The [Climate Deregulation Tracker](#) monitors efforts undertaken by the Trump administration to scale back or wholly eliminate federal climate mitigation and adaptation measures. The tracker also monitors congressional efforts to repeal statutory provisions, regulations, and guidance pertaining to climate change, and to otherwise undermine climate action.

- **Silencing Science Tracker**

The [Silencing Science Tracker](#) is a joint initiative of the Sabin Center and the [Climate Science Legal Defense Fund](#). It tracks government attempts to restrict or prohibit scientific research, education or discussion, or the publication or use of scientific information, since the November 2016 election.

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