



Summer Opportunities in Energy Law and Policy

Vermont Law School's summer energy program responds to the rapid growth of the alternative energy sector as well as the environmental challenges associated with traditional energy production. The emergence of a smart electric grid and the prospects for electrifying the transportation sector are revolutionizing the energy field. Unique to our summer program is the opportunity to participate in our part-time Energy Clinic while taking a full complement of our extensive courses in energy and environmental law and policy.

The VLS Energy Clinic (3-6 credits)

We offer valuable hands-on experience over our 9-11 week summer session. The clinic is staffed by a 4-person team of attorneys and economists. The projects offer hands-on experience in renewable energy project development and regulatory policy. A new feature of our clinic is our farm and energy initiative, which works on projects of importance to sustainable energy and agricultural systems. For more information www.vermontlaw.edu/energy

"The Energy Clinic was an excellent experience overall – I was exposed to lease agreements, operating agreements, disclosure statements, etc. and throughout the process I gained a solid understanding of community renewable energy development projects in general. I definitely recommend the clinic to anyone interested in energy development, transactional legal work, or to anyone who simply wants to work with an amazing group of people."

Travis, Summer 2018 Clinician
University of Baltimore School of Law

Summer Energy Program <http://www.vermontlaw.edu/summer>

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid – Business (1 credit)

Electric vehicles (EVs) are not just the way of the future; they are biggest growth opportunity for our electric utilities in nearly a century. This class will explore issues at the intersection of the rapidly changing electricity and transportation sectors, with a particular focus on how EVs fit into the utility business model and can support a smarter, cleaner, more efficient “grid-of-the-future.” The course will include background on the state of the EV market and technology, as well as state and federal policy drivers for transportation electrification. We will engage in interactive discussion of policy options and case studies.

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid – Law (1 credit)

This course explores the expanding field of renewable energy development. It reviews local, state, and federal laws and policies that promote (and impede) such sources. Aside from the environmental and climate implications, there is nothing less at stake in the push for renewable energy than the very nature of our existing energy institutions. This module offers a brief look at various alternative mechanisms for delivering energy services including emerging models for relying on distributed generation.

Three Essentials of the Electric Grid – Engineering (1 credit)

The engineering realities of energy infrastructure systems can greatly constrain the choices that lawyers and policy analysts might otherwise make. This module will cover the engineering fundamentals inherent in electric power grids and will explain how these engineering realities affect market and regulatory choices.

End Use Energy Efficiency (2 credits)

The course provides an overview of energy efficiency policies, programs, and measures at the Federal and state levels. It covers the systems, policies, and legal frameworks enabling energy efficiency to serve as an energy resource to the energy system and electric grid. It also highlights new approaches to program design, including the role of behavioral science and energy cultures in engaging customers and expanding access to energy efficiency.

Renewable Energy Finance and Development (2 credits)

This course will provide an in-depth look at the legal issues associated with the development and project financing of renewable energy projects. The course will explain the various ownership structures that are used for developing a project, and will examine in depth the basic terms and conditions of the contracts that are necessary for a successful project financing, such as power purchase agreements, engineering contracts, fuel supply arrangements, and operation and maintenance agreements. The course will also cover the basic financing agreements such as credit agreements and equity arrangements and will examine federal and state incentives for the development of renewable power projects such as renewable portfolio standards, renewable energy credits and production tax credits.

Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2 Credits)

This course provides students with an understanding of the future of petroleum, the framework of conservation law and property law used to produce and regulate oil and gas, and the externalities of production. The course reviews the nature of the oil and gas lease used in the U.S. on private lands and on public lands, including federal offshore leases. The course looks at how best practices, sustainable development, and social issues, including human rights, are treated in the domestic and international law affecting oil and gas production. Additional topics include the role of FERC in regulating gas markets and pipelines and selected issues in shale oil and gas development in the U.S. Professor Jacqueline Weaver

Global Energy Law and Policy (2 Credits)

Global Energy Law and Policy explores the current policy framework in a particular region outside of the United States with a focus on clean energy policies. The course will explore the regions policy development process, the current energy policy framework, policies implementing global and regional climate commitments and emerging issues. This summer the focus will be on European Union energy and climate law and policy.

Applications for the Summer Energy Clinic will be reviewed on a rolling basis beginning on April 1, 2019. Please forward a cover letter, current resume, unofficial copy of law school transcripts and names of 2 references to msmith@vermontlaw.edu