



To: Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Class of 2020  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Class of 2020  
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) Class of 2020

From: Anne Linehan, Associate Director, Environmental Law Center

Date: Summer 2019

Greetings from Vermont Law School. I am an academic planning advisor for students in our environmental degree programs. I have worked at VLS since 1997 and every year I look forward to welcoming a new group of master's students to campus.

**On-campus orientation takes place August 19–23.** It will be a busy week of sessions preparing you for legal studies and academic planning sessions to prepare you to register for classes for the fall and spring semesters. Classes begin on August 26.

**Online registration for fall and spring classes opens on Thursday, August 22, at 7:00 am.** You will be registering for both semesters but will have the opportunity to add and drop courses during the first two weeks of each semester. You will also have the opportunity to revise your spring course schedule in a special add/drop period in October. You will register for summer courses next spring.

It's a good idea to spend some time before you arrive at VLS thinking about what courses you want to take and how you plan to fulfill all of the degree requirements. To help you plan, I have enclosed the fall and spring class schedules and planning guidelines for your degree.

Please feel free to email or call me with any questions at [alinehan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:alinehan@vermontlaw.edu) or 802-831-1338. I look forward to seeing you soon!



## 2019 ORIENTATION AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

*Preliminary Schedule – Subject to Revision*

Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP), Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL),  
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP)

### MONDAY, AUGUST 19

<b>7:30-8:00 AM</b>	<b>Check In</b> Pick up final orientation schedule <i>Chase Community Center</i>
<b>8:00-9:00 AM</b>	<b>Welcome Breakfast</b> <i>Debevoise Back Lawn</i>
<b>9:00-10:45 AM</b>	<b>Welcome Ceremony &amp; Oath Administration</b> <i>Debevoise Back Lawn</i>
<b>11:00-12:00 PM</b>	<b>MELP, MERL, and MFALP Introductions</b> <i>Oakes 110</i>
<b>12:15-1:15 PM</b>	<b>Master's Degree Requirements (concurrent sessions)</b> Working lunch; pick up outside of Oakes Hall 208 <i>MELPs: Oakes 208</i> <i>MERLs: Energy Institute, Eaton House</i> <i>MFALPs: CAFS Conference Room, Debevoise Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</i>
<b>1:30-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Strategic Academic and Career Planning: One Size Does Not Fit All</b> <i>Oakes Hall 110</i>
<b>2:45-3:45 PM</b>	<b>Library Resources and Services</b> <i>TWEN and Lexis Passwords</i> <i>Cornell Library</i>
<b>4:00-5:00 PM</b>	<b>Ice Cream Social for MELP, MERL, MFALP, and MARJ Students</b> <i>Library Quad</i>

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

- 8:30-10:00 AM**      **Intro to Legal Studies 1**  
*Oakes Hall 208*
- 10:00-11:00 AM**      **Environmental Legal Research Skills**  
*Oakes Hall 208*
- 11:00 – 4:30 PM**      **Academic Planning Appointments**  
Sign up on Monday for individual advising appointments  
*MELPs: ELC, Debevoise Hall, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*  
*MERLs: Energy Institute, Eaton House*  
*MFALPs: CAFS, Debevoise Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor*
- 11:15 – 12:30 PM**      **Sexual Misconduct Policies and Resources & Title IX**  
*Oakes Hall 007*
- 12:45 – 2:00 PM**      **Academic Success Mentor Panel**  
*Chase Community Center*
- 2:15-3:15 PM**      **What You Don't Know Can Hurt You: Academic Regulations & Plagiarism**  
*Oakes Hall 110*
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM**      **Technology Services (bring your laptop)**  
*Oakes Hall 110*
- 4:30-5:00 PM**      **CampusWeb**  
(how to register for classes)  
*Oakes Hall 110*
- 5:00-7:30 PM**      **Dean's Barbeque**  
*Debevoise Back Lawn*  
*Families and children welcome.*

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

<b>8:30 - 9:00 AM</b>	<b>Board Bus for Montpelier, VT (State Capitol)</b> <i>Leave from Oakes Parking Lot</i>
<b>10:00- 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Welcome with Governor Phil Scott</b>
<b>11:00 AM -12:00 PM</b>	<b>Panel Overview of Advocacy and Drafting Legislation</b>
<b>12:00-12:30 PM</b>	<b>Vermont Bar Association Executive Director, Teri Corsones</b>
<b>12:30 – 2:00 PM</b>	<b>On Your Own Lunch &amp; Exploration in Montpelier</b> <i>Maps and list of restaurants will be provided.</i>
<b>2:00 – 3:15 PM</b>	<b>Ice Cream Social with Alumni</b> <i>Capitol Food Court</i>
<b>3:30 – 3:45 PM</b>	<b>Class Photo</b> <i>Capitol Steps</i>
<b>3:45 PM</b>	<b>Bus Leaves for South Royalton</b> <i>(from the State House)</i>

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## THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

<b>7:00 AM</b>	<b>ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS</b>
<b>8:30-10:00 AM</b>	<b>Diversity Session</b> <i>Chase Community Center</i>
<b>10:15-11:45 AM</b>	<b>Intro to Legal Studies 2</b> <i>Oakes 110</i>
<b>11:45-1:30 PM</b>	<b>Free Time</b> Feel free to pick up a brown bag lunch in Yates Common Room after 11:50.
<b>1:30-3:00 PM</b>	<b>Reading and Briefing a Case</b> <i>Oakes Hall 007</i>
<b>3:00-4:00 PM</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b> <i>Oakes 110</i>
<b>4:00-5:00 PM</b>	<b>Overview of Environmental Law</b> <i>Oakes Hall 110</i>
<b>5:00 – 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Diversity Reception &amp; Contra Dance</b> <i>Yates Common Room and Debevoise Hall</i> <i>All students, faculty, staff and their families are welcome to share in ethnic food and beverages, and a beginner's contra dance taught to live music.</i>

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

**1:00 PM**

**Hike Kent's Ledge with the Student Bar Association**  
*Meet at Library Quad*

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### DAILY ACTIVITIES

7:45 AM -8:45 AM

**Continental Breakfast**

*Chase Center & Breezeway (Tues & Thurs)*

8:00 AM-5:00 PM

**Information Table**

*Chase Breezeway (Daily)*

9:30 AM-5:30 PM

**Student IDs**

*Oakes 109 Courtroom*

8:00 AM-4:00 PM

**Technology Support**

*Chase Breezeway (Monday and Tuesday only)*

9:00 AM-12:30 PM

**Health Insurance**

*Emily Parker, Abbott House, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor (by appt.)*

9:00 AM-7:00 PM

**Textbooks & Supplies**

*Barrister's Bookshop, 190 Chelsea Street*



## Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law School offers a number of opportunities to supplement classroom learning with real-world, hands-on experience. Our experiential offerings focus on energy, food and agriculture, environmental justice, and climate change. Each program has space for incoming students; **you must apply to each program by July 26, 2019**, and, in some cases, have an interview, before being

selected for one of these limited enrollment opportunities. Interviews will be set up for qualified students during the first week you are on campus. Research Associates may be compensated through the Federal work study program, receive academic credit, or just gain great experience.

### **Institute for Energy and the Environment/Energy Clinic**

The IEE researches timely topics on renewable energy policy, the smart electric grid, and clean transportation policy. The Energy Clinic works on legal and business models to advance community solar in Vermont and neighboring states. Recently, the IEE, in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, launched a Farm and Energy Initiative to promote energy self-reliance, solar siting on agricultural land while protecting soil resources, future feasibility of biofuels and the use of biodigestors to manage the reuse of organic waste and generate local energy.

Student research associates and clinicians develop practical skills in energy law and policy and have opportunities to coauthor articles in energy policy journals. For more about the IEE's current projects, visit [www.vermontlaw.edu/energy](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/energy). To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Molly Smith at [msmith@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:msmith@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Center for Agriculture and Food Systems/Food and Agriculture Clinic**

CAFS is a center for research and advocacy. CAFS Research Assistants work on scholarly and applied research geared toward addressing food systems challenges related to the environment, public health, the economy, food security, and animal welfare. The Food and Agriculture Clinic partners with local, regional, national, and international organizations to research, develop, and disseminate legal resources for food system stakeholders, including farmers and food enterprises, farmworkers, administrators, legislators, and advocates. Through a range of projects, student clinicians explore substantive law and policy issues in the field of food and agriculture, while applying and refining their legal research and writing skills and developing communication, project management, and leadership skills. For more about current CAFS projects, visit: [www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/cafs). To apply for the Food and Agriculture Clinic or to be a Research Assistant, please provide a resume and cover letter to Claire Child at [cchild@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:cchild@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Environmental Justice Clinic**

The Environmental Justice clinic is new for 2019-20. Learning opportunities include administrative and other forms of advocacy on behalf of legally underserved communities that are overburdened by toxic sources, including a wide range of activities such as brief writing and participation in negotiations; skill building in the areas of client relations, case development, issue identification, fact development, legal research, and legal writing; and litigation to compel disclosure of information and to compel timely action. Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the clinic to Prof. Marianne Engelman-Lado at [marianne.engelman-lado@yale.edu](mailto:marianne.engelman-lado@yale.edu). This application is only for the Fall 2019 clinic. There will be a separate application at a later date for the Spring 2020 clinic.

### **Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic**

The ENRLC is an in-house clinic that operates as a public interest law office. Students work under the supervision of clinic faculty on real-world cases for classroom credit. This is not a paid position. Clinical experience helps students become skilled professionals who can develop arguments and claims from the ground up, explore strategies and options, and communicate effectively with clients, courts, agency officials, scientific experts, and opposing parties. Student clinicians work directly with leading conservation organizations and local community groups to promote access to justice on important environmental issues. The clinic is open to JD and LLM students only. Learn more about the ENRLC on its [website](#). For information on applying to the ENRLC for fall 2019 or spring 2020, please contact Anne Linehan at [alinehan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:alinehan@vermontlaw.edu). Applicants should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills.

### **International Climate Change Law (ENV5218)**

International Climate Change Law is a 3-credit hybrid classroom/experiential course about the major climate change treaties – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement – via theory and first-hand observation. Students represent VLS as a non-governmental observer delegation at the annual Conference of Parties (COP) while also engaging in service learning by supporting a least developed country delegation. This fall semester course is organized around two components: a weekly class for the full semester and one week of onsite experiential learning at the COP. By doing applied learning in international climate change law, students develop an understanding of international environmental lawmaking informed by direct experience. To apply, please email Professor Sarah Reiter at [sreiter@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:sreiter@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Global Sustainability Field Study – Havana, Cuba**

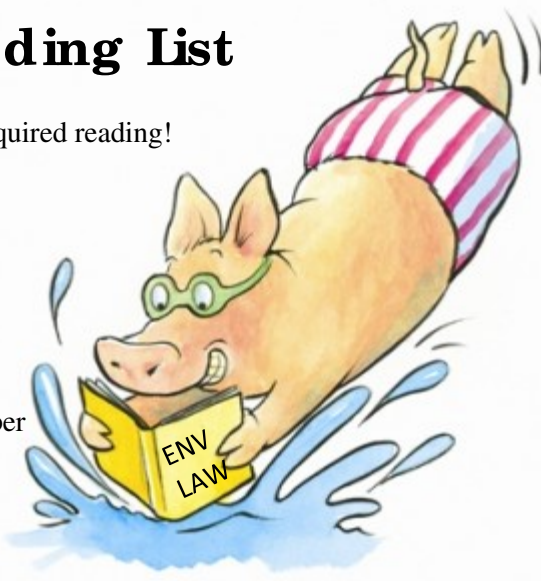
The Global Sustainability Field Study (1 credit) will travel to Cuba during Thanksgiving week and focuses on the legal and policy challenges facing Cuba in transitioning to a sustainable future. The course will begin with an introduction to the country's legal system, highlighting similarities and differences with the U.S. system, and then explore that country's policies for improving the sustainability of the energy and agriculture sectors. The course will include a week's travel to the region to both learn firsthand about the legal institutions and explore individual case studies of initiatives in place to achieve the transition. An additional fee will be required for cost of travel and requires an application and approval by instructor. Interviews will be scheduled during orientation week and spaces will be reserved for incoming masters and LLM students. Email Molly Smith at [msmith@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:msmith@vermontlaw.edu) for more information.

# Environmental Summer Reading List

These suggestions are for your enjoyment only. They are NOT required reading!

## Recommendations from past master's students:

*Mastering Statutory Interpretation* by Linda D. Jellum  
*Mastering Administrative Law* by William R. Andersen  
*An Introduction to the Legal System of the United States*  
by E. Allan Farnsworth  
*Introduction to Law and the Legal System* by Frank August Schuber  
*Whose Monet?: An Introduction to the American Legal System*  
by John Humbach



## Recommendations from the environmental faculty:

### The Classics

*Desert Solitaire* by Edward Abbey  
*The End of Nature* by Bill McKibben  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold  
*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson  
*The Snail Darter and the Dam* by Zyg Plater

### Climate Change

*The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change* by Yoram Bauman and Grady Klein  
*Falter* by Bill McKibben  
*The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars* by Michael Mann  
*Hot, Flat and Crowded* by Tom Friedman  
*The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert

### General Environmental/Other

*America the Possible* by James Gustave Speth  
*American Gods* by Neil Gaimen  
*Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner  
*Basin and Range* and *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee  
*The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan  
*Cadillac Desert* by Marc Reisner  
*A Civil Action* by Jonathon Harr  
*Cradle to Cradle* by William McDonough  
*Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* by Betty Edwards  
*Environmental Law Stories* by Richard Lazarus and Oliver Houck  
*In the Courts of the Conqueror: The Ten Worst Indian Law Cases of All Time* by Walter Echohawk  
*A Fierce Green Fire* by Shabecoff  
*Half Earth* by E. O. Wilson  
*The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report Summary for Policy Makers*  
*Merchants of Doubt* by Naomi Orestes  
*Motivation: Biological, Physiological and Environmental* by Lambert Deckers  
*Natural Capitalism* by Paul Hawken  
*Price, Principle and the Environment* by Mark Sagoff



*Reinventing Fire* by Amory Lovins  
*The Ripple Effect* by Alex Prud'Homme  
*Smaller Faster Lighter Denser Cheaper* by Robert Bryce  
*Sustainability: A Philosophy of Adaptive Ecosystem Management* by Bryan Norton

### **Energy**

*The Dirty Energy Dilemma: What's Blocking Clean Power in the US* by Benjamin K. Sovacool  
*Energy Law in a Nutshell* by Joseph Tomain and Richard Cudahy  
*Smart Power: Climate Change, the Smart Grid, & the Future of Electric Utilities* by Peter Fox Penner

### **Food and Agriculture**

*Animal Factory* by David Kirby  
*The Town That Food Saved* by Ben Hewitt

### **Water**

*Unquenchable and Water Follies* by Robert Glennon  
*Thirst* by Alan Snitow, Deborah Kaufman, and Michael Fox  
*Living Downstream* by Sandra Steingraber  
*The Living Great Lakes* by Jerry Dennis  
*Riverkeepers* by John Cronin and Robert Kennedy  
*Toms River* by Dan Fagin

### **Favorite Podcast**

*Hothouse Earth* from Vermont Law School

### **And for those truly lazy summer days, here are some movie suggestions:**

Among Giants	The Milagro Beanfield War
Blue Gold	Mindwalk
Doomed: A Biological Cartoon	Our Planet (Netflix series)
Erin Brokovich	Silkwood
Food Inc.	Vanishing of the Bees
Last Call at the Oasis	

# **Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Program Planning Guidelines**

Please refer to the Academic Regulations for official regulations and policies.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Requirements of the MERL Degree**

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses and distributional requirements
- At least 24 credits must be taken as MERL credits (not transferred in)
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.2 for successful completion of the degree
- Students have up to 5 years from the date of matriculation to complete the MERL

### **Required Courses**

You must fulfill all of the following required courses. These requirements may be met by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver.

- ENV5226 Energy Law & Policy in a Carbon-Constrained World (3 credits)
- ENV5228 Energy Regulation, Markets & the Environment (3 credits)
- ENV5220 Environmental Economics & Markets (3 credits)
- REQ7186 Legislation & Regulation Survey (3 credits)

### **Energy Electives (minimum of 6 credits)**

- ENV5344 Alternative Fuels and Renewable Energy (3, online)
- ENV5375 Global Energy Justice (2)
- ENV5230 Global Energy Law & Policy (2)
- ENV5468 Oil and Gas Production and the Environment (2)
- ENV5469 Oil and Gas Development and the Environment (3, online)
- ENV5497 End Use Energy Efficiency (2)
- ENV5510 Three Essentials of the Electric Grid (1-3)
- ENV5550 Renewable Energy Project Finance & Development (2)

### **Project/Writing Requirement**

You must complete one project or course from this list.

- ENV5303 Advanced Energy Writing Seminar (2)
- CLI9427 Energy Clinic (3-6)
- CLI9437 Advanced Energy Clinic (3-6)
- Independent Research Project
- MERL Externship
- Institute for Energy and the Environment Research Team

### **Remaining Electives**

Other environmental and energy courses from the approved list in the Academic Regulations

## **CREDITS**

### **Number of Credits**

The minimum number of credits required to earn the MERL is 30. Your tuition covers up to 36 credits; however, if you have reached 30 credits and satisfied all degree requirements at the end of any semester, the degree must be awarded.

### **Transfer Credits:**

You may transfer in up to 6 credits from another law school or accredited graduate program. The course(s) transferred must be substantive environmental courses. Courses completed more than 5 years prior to matriculation will not transfer. Grades for transfer credits must be “C” or better. The transferred grade is reflected on the VLS transcript but is not used in computing the GPA.

## **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND EXTERNSHIPS**

### **Independent Research Project (IRP)**

In addition to the listed courses and seminars, individual faculty members may be willing to work with a student in pursuit of independent research topics. MERL independent research is limited to a total of 6 credits, on a grade basis. To register for an Independent Research Project, you must provide the Registrar’s office with a completed IRP contract.

### **MERL Externships**

Externships are an option to further develop your skills. They are not required. You may arrange a MERL externship on your own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may be local or worldwide. Externships may be designed for a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 10 credits. You may pursue multiple externships as long as the total number of MERL externship credits for all semesters does not exceed 10 credits. 45 hours of externship work equals one credit. An externship should be completed in one semester.

Before beginning an externship, you must submit a contract executed by you, your on-site mentor, and your faculty supervisor. MERL externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The Masters Externship Handbook and contract form are available at [www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships).

## **ACADEMIC PLANNING**

During the registration process (which takes place during MERL orientation), work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take, subject to later modifications as your individual program planning requires. Consider what, if any, courses you want to transfer or waive.

It is your responsibility to ensure fulfillment of all degree requirements. Check with the Registrar if you have questions regarding your degree status.

### **Withdrawing from a Course**

During the Add/Drop period in the fall and spring semesters, students may drop a course with no enrollment limit during the first ten days of the semester. Limited enrollment courses and seminars must be dropped during the first five days. Courses may not be added after the sixth class day without the written permission of the professor. After the Add/Drop period, you may withdraw from any course which is not required or does not have a limited enrollment. This withdrawal will be reflected on your transcript as “WD.” You may not withdraw from a required course or limited enrollment course unless you obtain permission from the Committee on Standards. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu regarding petitioning the Committee.

### **Auditing**

Students may audit two courses each semester at no charge. Any additional audits will be charged at the current audit rate. Contact registrar@vermontlaw.edu to determine if space is available in the class you wish to audit. Students may not audit courses or seminars that have a wait list. If the Registrar determines that space is available, you will be given an Audit Form to obtain the professor’s permission to audit. This form should be returned to the Registrar’s Office once faculty approval has been obtained. Audited courses will appear on your transcript.

### **MERL Tuition**

Students are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office at studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu.

## **SUMMER SESSION**

### **Registering for Summer Session**

Summer Session registration begins in April. You may take a maximum of eleven credits. Anything beyond that requires a waiver from the ELC Director or Associate Director.

### **Summer Add/Drop Period**

You have between the first and second meeting of the class to add or drop a course. If you miss the Add/Drop period and need to withdraw from a class, a tuition refund schedule is published in the Summer Session catalog and is also available from the Business Office.

## **ONLINE CLASSES**

All of the MERL required courses, as well as many electives, are available online. Online semesters are divided into two terms of seven weeks; each online class is seven weeks long and worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. Talk with your academic planning advisor to learn about the registration process.

Updated 7/19