

**RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE**

**Course No. ENV.5550.01
Vermont Law School
Summer Session 2021, Term 3
July 12, 2021 - July 22, 2021
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM (Oakes Hall 109)**

Brian H. Potts & Andrew Hanson

Syllabus and Course Information

1. Course Overview: This course will provide an in-depth look at the legal and regulatory issues associated with the development and project financing of renewable energy projects such as wind, hydro, solar, and battery storage. After completing this course, students will have a solid understanding of how to help vet the economics of renewable projects and get them permitted, financed, built, hooked-up to the grid and operational. Together the instructors of this course have helped get over \$5 billion dollars in electric utility infrastructure up and running—including thousands of MWs of wind and solar power and hundreds of miles of high-voltage transmission lines. Using a combination of their practical, hands-on knowledge, targeted readings, and in-class exercises, this course will give you all the tools you need to help build and finance this country’s renewable energy future.

2. Materials: The required course textbook is:

E.R. Yescombe, “Principals of Project Finance”, Academic Press; 2nd edition (December 9, 2013).

Additional materials are available on the course website on the TWEN site. Please print (double-sided) all materials for each day’s class to review ahead of time and bring them with you to class. Email Tammie Johnson (tmjohnson@vermontlaw.edu) if you need assistance accessing this site.

PLEASE NOTE: Don’t panic if you do not understand all of the math and equations in some of the readings. You will generally not be expected to recreate all of these calculations on the exam. However, you will be expected at the end of the course to have a basic understanding of simple energy conversions and industry fundamentals. Also, don’t freak out if the class readings appear long. We have included a lot of material that you are only required to skim and/or bring to class. That material is marked as optional below. The exam will be open book, and we want to make sure you have all the materials you might need for the exam (and/or want for reference in the future).

3. Examination: Open book, take home. Further detailed instructions will be provided at the end of the course.

4. Instructor Contact Information:

- Office Phone: Andrew Hanson (608-663-7498)
Brian Potts (608-663-7493)
- E-mail: bpotts@perkinscoie.com
ahanson@perkinscoie.com
- Office Hours: By appointment

5. Course Requirements:

Class Attendance: Vermont Law School (VLS) requires that you attend class. We will circulate the roll at each class for your signature. Your signature without amendment on the roll indicates that you attended the entire class period. Anyone who is more than five minutes late for class without an acceptable excuse, or anyone who is more than five minutes late for two classes for any reason, will be marked absent for the class.

Preparation: So that we can have a meaningful discussion of the issues, you are expected to come to class fully prepared by reading all the required materials in advance. You will be held responsible for the contents of all non-optional reading materials on the final exam.

Simulations and Presentations: The design of this class gives you as a student a lot of opportunity to interact with the class. Accordingly, you will be required to complete any assigned simulations and oral presentations on time and according to instructions.

Final Exam: There will be a written final examination. This examination will be take home, open book. Performance on the exam will be a major determinant of your grade in the course.

Conduct/Honor Code: You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner throughout all aspects of the course. You are expected to abide fully by the VLS Honor Code.

Class Participation: A portion of your grade will be based on "class participation." Note that participation is not defined by the quantity but rather the quality of your participation. In fact, it is unlikely that a student who talks too much will receive the full points for class participation, as that student will be depriving others of time to share their ideas and insights. So, plan to be an active but respectful member of the class!

6. Schedule and Required Readings:

CLASS 1 (Potts)
Monday, July 12, 2021

THE ECONOMICS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

On Course Website:

Rubin, Introduction to Engineering & the Environment, Chapters 5 (Electric Power Plants and the Environment) and Chapter 13 (Economics and the Environment) (excerpts)

Optional: Lazard, Lazard’s Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis--Version 14.0 (2020)

Optional: NREL, Cost Projections for Utility-Scale Battery Storage (2019)

CLASS 2 (Potts)
Tuesday, July 13, 2021

PROJECT FINANCE BASICS

Yescombe, Principles of Project Finance, Chapter 2 (What is Project Finance?) and Chapter 3 (Project Development and Management) (but skip Section 3.7)

On Course Website:

Optional: Thomas Jenkin, et al., Estimating the Impact of Residual Value for Electricity Generation Plants on Capital Recovery, Levelized Cost of Energy, and Cost to Consumers (NREL 2019)

CLASS 3 (Hanson)
Wednesday, July 14, 2021

SPONSORING A PROJECT: THE INTERCONNECTION PROCESS,
OBTAINING LAND RIGHTS AND PERMITTING

On Course Website:

“*Here Comes the Sun: Solar Development in Wisconsin*”, Andrew C. Hanson et al, Wisconsin Lawyer, Wisconsin Lawyer Magazine (Dec. 2020 Vol. 93, No. 11).

MISO Business Practices Manual, Generator Interconnection, Chapter 5, pp. 34-47

CLASS 4 (Hanson)
Thursday, July 15, 2021

DOCUMENTING THE DEAL: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (“RFPs”) &
POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Yescombe, Principles of Project Finance, Chapter 6 (Types of Project Agreement) (only Section 6.3), Chapter 7 (Common Aspects of Project Agreements)

On Course Website:

Template Solar and Wind Power Purchase Agreements (just skim but bring to class)
Template Request For Proposals

- Consumers Energy (Solar, Wind)
- NV Energy (Solar, Wind, BESS)

CLASS 5 (Hanson)
Monday, July 19, 2021

SUB-CONTRACTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS: EPC AND O&M
CONTRACTS, ETC.

Yescombe, Principles of Project Finance, Chapter 8 (Sub-Contracts and Other Related Agreements) (everything but Section 8.8)

CLASS 6 (Potts)
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

DEBT FINANCING

Yescombe, Principles of Project Finance, Chapter 4 (The Project-Finance Markets), Chapter 5 (Working with Lenders) (only Sections 5.1 - 5.5.8), Chapter 12 (Financial Structuring) and Chapter 14 (Project-Finance Loan Documentation)

Optional: Law of Solar, Chapter 7

CLASS 7 (Potts)
Wednesday, July 21, 2021

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT TRANSMISSION LINE

On Course Website:

FERC Order 1000 (excerpts)

Direct Testimony, Tom Dagenais in Cardinal-Hickory Creek Proceeding (PSCW Docket 05-CE-146)

Tony Clark, Order No. 1000 at the Crossroads: Reflections on the Rule and its Future (April 2018)

Optional: DOE/FERC, 2017 Transmission Metrics, Staff Report (October 2017)

CLASS 8 (Potts & Hanson)

Thursday, July 22, 2021

MITIGATING PROJECT RISKS & INDUSTRY ISSUES

“How to Value a Solar Development Pipeline”, Parts 1-4, Leslie Hodge, Greentech Media, March 8, 2019

Disparities in rooftop photovoltaics deployment in the United States by race and ethnicity, Deborah A. Sunter, Sergio Castellanos, and Daniel M. Kammen, Nature Sustainability, Vol. 2, January 2019.

“‘We Too Must Improve’: Clean Energy Industry Looks Into Mirror on Racial Inequity”, Emma Foehringer Merchant, Greentech Media, June 4, 2020

7. Grading

Your grade in this course will be based on the following:

Final Examination:	90 percent
General Class Participation:	10 percent

8. Further Information/Updates: This course syllabus provides tentative assignments for this course. We may amend the syllabus, depending on how the class develops. Additions or modifications to assignments, as well as changes to any of the dates above or other important information, will be posted on the web site and announced in class. This is designed to be a formative, collaborative class. In other words, unless you take responsibility for your own learning, you will not get much out of this course.