



To: Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Class of 2022  
Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) Class of 2022  
Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (MFALP) Class of 2022

From: Anne Linehan, Associate Director, Environmental Law Center

Date: Summer 2021

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 enjoy welcoming a new group of master's students to VLS. I am especially excited to see students back on campus this fall!

Here are some important dates to keep in mind as the fall semester approaches:

Thursday, August 12: academic information sessions for master's students (virtual)

Monday, August 16–Wednesday, August 18: individual advising sessions (virtual)

**Thursday, August 19: registration for fall and spring classes opens (online)**

Monday, August 23–Thursday, August 26: Orientation (on campus)

You will be registering for both fall and spring 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 is a good idea to spend some time before Orientation thinking about what courses you want to take; whether you want to participate in a clinic, research team, or externship; 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 me with any questions at [alinehan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:alinehan@vermontlaw.edu). I look forward to meeting you soon!



## 2021 ORIENTATION AT-A-GLANCE SCHEDULE

*Draft Schedule – 7-13-21*

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 23

7:30-9:00 AM	Check In and Breakfast
9:00-10:00 AM	Welcome Ceremony
10:15-11:00 AM	MELP, MERL, and MFALP Introductions
11:15-12:15 PM	Strategic Academic and Career Planning: One Size Does Not Fit All
12:15-1:15 PM	Lunch
1:30-2:30 PM	Technology Service and CampusWeb
2:45-3:45 PM	Library Resources and Services ( <i>TWEN and Lexis passwords</i> )

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### TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

8:45-9:45 AM	What You Don't Know <u>Can</u> Hurt You: Academic Regulations & Plagiarism
10:00-11:00 AM	U.S. Legal System
11:15-12:30 PM	Sexual Misconduct Policies & Resources and Title IX*
12:45-2:00 PM	Lunch
2:15-3:15 PM	Intro to Legal Studies 1
3:30-4:30 PM	Environmental Legal Research Skills

\*Topic may be sensitive in nature

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25**

<b>8:30-9:00 AM</b>	<b>Board Bus for Montpelier. Buses leave at 9:00 AM.</b>
<b>10:00-10:40 AM</b>	<b>Governor Phil Scott and Representative John O'Brien</b>
<b>10:40-11:00 AM</b>	<b>Secretary of Administration Suzanne Young</b>
<b>11:05-12:10 PM</b>	<b>Panel Overview – advocacy, drafting legislation</b>
<b>12:10-12:30 PM</b>	<b>VT Bar Assoc Executive Director Terri Corsones</b>
<b>12:30-2:30 PM</b>	<b>Lunch and explore downtown Montpelier</b>
<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>Class Picture on Statehouse Steps</b>
<b>3:15 PM</b>	<b>Buses leave for South Royalton</b>

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## **THURSDAY, AUGUST 26**

<b>8:30-10:00 AM</b>	<b>Reading and Briefing a Case</b>
<b>10:15-11:45 AM</b>	<b>Diversity Session</b>
<b>12:00 PM</b>	<b>Brown bag lunches available</b>
<b>12:15-1:15 PM</b>	<b>Intro to Legal Studies 2</b>
<b>1:30-3:00 PM</b>	<b>Road to Professionalism</b>
<b>3:15-4:15 PM</b>	<b>Overview of Environmental Law</b>
<b>4:30-5:30 PM</b>	<b>Master's Ice Cream Mixer w/ MARJs</b>

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## **FRIDAY, AUGUST 27**

<b>11:00-12:00 PM</b>	<b>Financial Aid</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Hike Kent's Ledge</b>
<b>5:00-8:00 PM</b>	<b>Rockin' Back to School Bash</b>

## Fall 2021 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - DRAFT 7-14-21 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
8:30 - 9:45		Climate Change		Climate Change			
9:55 - 11:10	Water Quality	Local Farm & Food Law	Legal & Policy Writing	Water Quality	Local Farm & Food Law	Legal Policy Writing Adv Env Research	Intl Climate Change (COP)
11:20 - 12:35	Energy Law	Env Law	Transnatl Env Practicum	Energy Law	Env Law		
12:45 - 2:00	Land Use Reg		Land Use Reg				
2:10 - 3:25	Leg Reg Survey	Intro Ag Food	ADR	Leg Reg Survey	Intro Ag Food		
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	Climate & Taxes	Animals & Law		Const Animal Law	Env Biz Transactions	Animals & Law	
5:25 - 8:00	Agricultural Env Law						Negotiation Fri/Sat dates TBD

Days and times TBD: Clinics (Env Advocacy, Env Justice, Energy, Food/Ag), Climate Justice Practicum, Cuba Trip

Fall Term 1 Online: Admin, CAL, Clim Mitigation, En Efficiency, Energy L&P, EDR, Env Econ, Fed Reg Food Ag, Intro Ag Food, Nat Res, Science Env

Fall Term 2 Online: CAL, Climate Adaptation, Energy Reg, Env Law, Global Food, Local Food, Water Res

## Spring 2022 Masters/LLM Schedule Grid - DRAFT 7-14-21 - SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Time	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
8:30 - 9:45										
9:55 - 11:10	Env Econ & Markets	Native Americans	Oil & Gas	Water Resources	Env Econ & Markets	Native Americans	Oil & Gas	Water Resources		
11:20 - 12:35	C-A-L		Air Pollution	SPTC: Animal Law	C-A-L	Intl & Comp Env Law	Air Pollution	SPTC: Animal Law	Intl & Comp Env Law	Land Transactions
			Transnat Env Prac				Transnat Env Prac			
12:45 - 2:00	Environmental Law				Environmental Law					
2:10 - 3:25	Energy Regulation		Natural Resources	Food Reg & Policy	Energy Regulation		Natural Resources	Food Reg & Policy	Mediation Fri/Sat dates TBD	
3:35 - 4:50/5:10	Admin Law		Environmental Ethics		Admin Law	Green Finance			Negotiation Fri/Sat dates TBD	

Days and times TBD: Clinics (Env Advocacy, Env Justice, Energy, Food/Ag), Utah Field Study

Spring Term 1 Online: Admin, Climate Law, Energy L&P, Env Econ, Intro Ag Food, Nat Res, Native Americans, Oil & Gas, Science for Env  
 Spring Term 2 Online: Adv Writing, CAL, Climate Mit, En Effic, Energy Reg, EDR, Env Law, Fed Reg Food Ag, Global Food, Local Food, Water Res



# Experiential Opportunities

Vermont Law School offers 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; **please apply by August 6, 2021** for these limited enrollment opportunities. Interviews will be set up for qualified students during Orientation week (August 23-26). Research Assistants 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 offers opportunities for any master's or LLM student to apply for our research associate program, which provides experiential learning opportunities in support of the clean energy transition. Past student projects have worked on climate justice projects, renewable energy policy, the smart electric grid and energy cybersecurity, and clean transportation policy. The Energy Clinic works on legal and business models to advance community owned renewables in Vermont and neighboring states and in collaboration with the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems, launched a Farm and Energy Initiative to promote clean energy self-reliance in the agricultural sector, solar siting on agricultural land and other farm and energy issues. IEE student team members, in addition to structured research and experiential opportunities, have opportunities to coauthor articles and reports, gain access to conferences and workshops, collaborate with international scholars, and participate in IEE team and social events.

For more about the IEE's current projects, visit [www.vermontlaw.edu/energy](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/energy). Feel welcome to schedule an informational call with the IEE Director or other faculty. To apply to the IEE research team or clinic, please send a resume and letter of interest to Molly Smith, IEE Program Coordinator, at [msmith@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:msmith@vermontlaw.edu). Application review will begin on August 16, 2021.

## **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 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**

Learning opportunities at the Environmental Justice clinic include administrative and other forms of advocacy on behalf of legally underserved communities that are overburdened by toxic sources. This includes 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 practicum to Christine Saul at [csaul@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:csaul@vermontlaw.edu).

## **Environmental Advocacy Clinic**

The EAC 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. 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. Learn more about the EAC at its [website](#). Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the clinic to Christine Saul at [csaul@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:csaul@vermontlaw.edu). Applicants should have exceptional English speaking and writing skills.

### **Climate Justice Practicum**

The Climate Justice Practicum is an innovative collaboration between Vermont Law School and the Yale School of Public Health. In the course, interdisciplinary student teams carry out applied projects that address issues of climate justice. Each team works with a partner organization – a state agency, community organization, or other non-governmental organization. The course involves a weekly seminar as well as fieldwork that affords the opportunity to have a real world impact on pressing issues. Projects focus on the ways in which industry efforts to expand the use of biogas reinforces industrial models of agriculture, analysis of transportation justice issues in rural areas, and work on how to integrate questions of equity into state climate action plans. Please submit your current resume and a statement describing your interest in the practicum to Christine Saul at [csaul@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:csaul@vermontlaw.edu).

### **Transnational Environmental Law Practicum**

The U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law (PEL) works collaboratively with government institutions, non-government organizations, lawyers, judges, lawmakers and more to promote positive environmental governance throughout Asia. This practicum will combine substantive classroom instruction with project implementation, with students teaming up to work on an environmental-related legal or policy research project for a partner organization in China or one of these developing countries in the Mekong Region – Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, or Laos. The projects will support PEL's partnering organizations' environmental advocacy and legal reform work on the ground; they will provide students with an opportunity to learn about specific environmental challenges and the gaps in the laws and policies in these countries and to apply theories and concepts learned in the classroom. Partner organizations include environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government agencies, prosecutors, and law scholars. Students can enroll for 4 credits on a Pass/Fail basis, and enrollment is capped at 12. Students interested in the Practicum for the fall should email Professor Yanmei Lin at [ylin@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:ylin@vermontlaw.edu) and copy Claire Andrews at [candrews@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:candrews@vermontlaw.edu) as soon as possible with a short statement of interest (no more than 1 page) and a resume. Decisions will be made on a rolling basis.

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

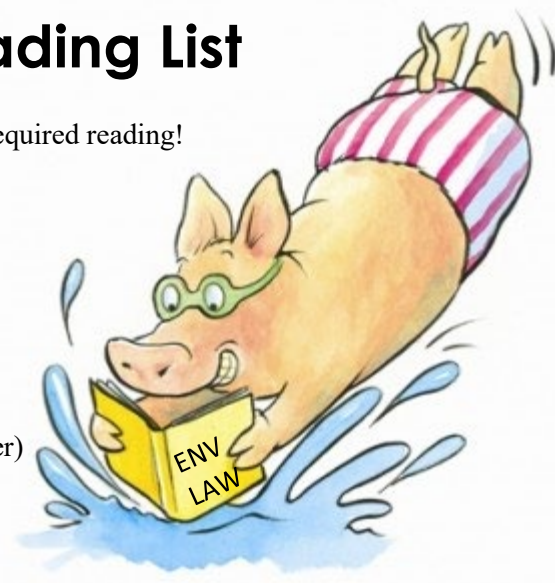
International Climate Change Law is a 3-credit hybrid classroom/experiential course about the major climate change treaties – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement – via theory and first-hand observation. Students represent VLS as a non-governmental 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. Acceptance into the course does not guarantee attendance as a student delegate at the international climate negotiations, which is subject to the quota VLS will receive from the Secretariat along with any specific plans related to COVID. Students are responsible for arranging for the logistics and expenses associated with travel and other coursework. To apply, please email Professor Sarah Reiter at [sreiter@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:sreiter@vermontlaw.edu).

# Environmental Summer Reading List

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

## Recommendations from past students:

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



## Recommendations from the environmental faculty:

### The Classics

Arctic Dreams (Barry Lopez)  
Desert Solitaire (Edward Abbey)  
The End of Nature (Bill McKibben)  
The Grapes of Wrath (John Steinbeck)  
Nature, an essay (Ralph Waldo Emerson)  
A Sand County Almanac (Aldo Leopold)  
Silent Spring (Rachel Carson)  
The Snail Darter and the Dam (Zyg Plater)  
Walden (Henry David Thoreau)  
The Wilderness World of John Muir (Edwin Way Teale, ed.)

### Climate Change

All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis (Ayana Elizabeth Johnson)  
The Cartoon Introduction to Climate Change (Yoram Bauman and Grady Klein)  
Climate Change from the Streets (Michael Mendez)  
Falter (Bill McKibben)  
The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars (Michael Mann)  
Hot, Flat and Crowded (Tom Friedman)  
Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore (Elizabeth Rush)  
The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History (Elizabeth Kolbert)  
Under a White Sky (Elizabeth Kolbert)

### General Environmental

America the Possible (James Gustave Speth)  
American Gods (Neil Gaiman)  
Angle of Repose (Wallace Stegner)  
Basin and Range and The Control of Nature (John McPhee)  
The Big Burn (Timothy Egan)  
Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge & the Teachings of Plants (Robin Wall Kimmerer)  
Cadillac Desert (Marc Reisner)  
Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists and the Ecology of New England (William Cronon)



A Civil Action (Jonathon Harr)  
Cradle to Cradle (William McDonough)  
In the Courts of the Conqueror: The Ten Worst Indian Law Cases of All Time (Walter Echohawk)  
Half Earth (E. O. Wilson)  
Managing the Environment, Managing Ourselves: A History of American Env'l Policy (Richard N.L. Andrews)  
Merchants of Doubt (Naomi Orestes)  
Mine! (James Salzman and Joseph Heller)  
Motivation: Biological, Physiological and Environmental (Lambert Deckers)  
Natural Capitalism (Paul Hawken)  
Price, Principle and the Environment (Mark Sagoff)  
Reinventing Fire (Amory Lovins)  
The Ripple Effect (Alex Prud'Homme)  
The Rule of Five: Making Climate History at the Supreme Court (Richard J. Lazarus)  
Smaller Faster Lighter Denser Cheaper (Robert Bryce)  
Sustainability: A Philosophy of Adaptive Ecosystem Management (Bryan Norton)  
Wilding: Returning Nature to Our Farm (Isabella Tree)

## **Energy**

The Dirty Energy Dilemma: What's Blocking Clean Power in the US (Benjamin K. Sovacool)  
Energy Law in a Nutshell (Joseph Tomain and Richard Cudahy)  
Energy Policies of IEA Countries: The United States 2019 Review from The International Energy Agency  
The Grid (Gretchen Bakke)  
Revolutionary Power: An Activist's Guide to the Energy Transition (Shalanda H. Baker)  
Short Circuiting Policy (Leah Stokes)  
Smart Power: Climate Change, the Smart Grid, & the Future of Electric Utilities (Peter Fox Penner)  
Superpower (Russell Gold)  
The United States Electricity Industry Primer from the US Department of Energy

## **Environmental Justice**

As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice, from Colonization to Standing Rock  
(Dina Gilio-Whitaker)  
Diamond: A Struggle for Environmental Justice in Louisiana's Chemical Corridor (Steve Lerner)  
Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality (Robert D. Bullard)  
From the Ground Up (Luke Cole and Sheila Foster)  
Indigenous Environmental Justice (Karen Jarratt-Snyder and Marianne O. Nielsen)  
Katrina: A History, 1915-2015 (Andy Horowitz)  
The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution (Robert T. Bullard)  
Root Shock: How Tearing Up City Neighborhoods Hurts America, And What We Can Do About It  
(Mindy Thompson Fullilove)  
Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret (Catherine Coleman Flowers)

## **Food and Agriculture**

Animal Factory (David Kirby)  
The Color of Food (Natasha Bowens)  
Farming While Black (Leah Penniman)  
Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont (Teresa Mares)  
Outbreak: Foodborne Illness and the Struggle for Food Safety (Timothy Lytton)  
The Town That Food Saved (Ben Hewitt)

## **Water**

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

## **Podcasts**

A Matter of Degrees  
Broken Ground  
Climate Front Line  
Drilled

Hothouse Earth  
How to Save a Planet  
Mothers of Invention  
Stories from Home: Living the Just Transition

## **Movies:**

Among Giants  
Blue Gold  
Doomed: A Biological Cartoon  
Erin Brokovich  
Food Inc.  
Last Call at the Oasis

The Milagro Beanfield War  
Mindwalk  
Our Planet (Netflix series)  
Silkwood  
Vanishing of the Bees

# **Master of Environmental Law and Policy (MELP) Program Planning Guidelines**

## **Requirements of the MELP Degree**

- A minimum of 30 credits, including all required courses
- 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 MELP

## **Required Courses**

You may meet these requirements by taking the course, transferring in credits, or by waiver.

- REQ7186 Legislation & Regulation Survey (3 credits)
- ENV5122 Communications, Advocacy, and Leadership (CAL) (3 credits)
- ENV5115 Environmental Law (3 credits)

## **Core Courses**

You must take at least one course from **three of the following five** categories. See Academic Regulations for approved list of courses in each category.

- Natural Resources Law
- Environmental Science
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental Ethics
- Dispute Resolution

## **Electives**

Choose any remaining courses from the approved list in the Academic Regulations.

## **Number of Credits**

The minimum number of credits required to earn a master's or LLM degree 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 courses 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**

Individual faculty members may be willing to work with you on an Independent Research Project (IRP). IRPs are limited to a total of 6 credits, on a grade basis. To register for an IRP, you must provide the Registrar's office with a completed IRP contract.

## **Externships**

Externships are encouraged, but not required. You may arrange a master's or LLM externship on your own or select from the many postings at the VLS Career Services Office. Externships may

be a minimum of 4 credits and a maximum of 10 credits. You may pursue multiple externships as long as the total number of 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. Externships must be sponsored by a VLS faculty member. The Master's Externship Handbook and contract form are available at [www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships](http://www.vermontlaw.edu/MastersExternships).

### **Academic Planning**

During the registration process, work with your academic planning advisor to establish a tentative schedule of courses you plan to take for your degree, subject to later modifications. 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.

### **Tuition Billing**

Master's and LLM students are billed on a per-credit basis. For further information, contact the Business Office at [studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@vermontlaw.edu).

### **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. You have until the start of the 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 available from the Business Office.

### **Online Classes**

All of the master's and LLM required courses, as well as many electives, are available as online, asynchronous classes. Online semesters are divided into two terms; each online class is seven weeks long and worth three credits. Online classes are available to residential students on a space-available basis. You submit a cross-registration form to register for an online class.

Updated 7/21