

## Editor's Note

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# EDITORS' NOTE

Dear Readers,

For more than two decades, the *Sustainable Development Law and Policy Brief* (“*SDLP*”) has published works analyzing emerging legal and policy issues within the fields of environmental, energy, sustainable development, and natural resources law. *SDLP* has also prioritized making space for law students in the conversation. We are honored to continue this tradition in Volume XIX.

This First Issue examines solutions to the ever pressing issue of equitable allocation of the planet’s finite resources through sustainable methods. Whether it is through financial systems and institutions, international law, or domestic and indigenous law, these articles explore the means by which the status quo can be altered to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future across the globe.

The Dunham article examines the role that the capital centric drive found in many American corporations and in the country as a whole has had on the acceleration of climate change, chiefly in the profit centered approach that has led the United States to becoming one of the world’s leading polluters. Taking a look at the corporate ethos of responsibility that has permeated Finland’s economy, the Dunham article illustrates how another wealthy nation’s drive to green their economy can aid the United States in developing a more sustainable future at home and abroad.

The Matcha and Sivakumar article outlines the tragedy of the commons as applied to the resources of the Arctic, the northern most point of the planet. Discussing the current international involvement in and management of these precious shared resources and spaces, the article demonstrates that effective use can be made of already existing maxims of international law and already existing international governance structures to shape the future of the region and ensure that its resources are used sustainably for the benefit of the global community.

The Lippi Feature describes the ongoing legal debate between the U’wa people, an indigenous group who live within the nation of Columbia, and the government of Columbia. The feature details the wrongs that have been and continue to be committed against the U’wa people, their struggle for self-determination, and their legal battle to ensure they have access to the benefits conferred by the Columbian government’s use of their land. Using international and domestic law, the Lippi Feature provides an illustration of how changing laws and sentiments in Latin American can open the door for indigenous peoples to secure greater political autonomy and management of their lands and resources.

We would like to thank all the article and feature authors for their insights and dedication to raising important legal issues. We would also like to thank the faculty advisors, Executive Board, staff, and publisher of *SDLP* for making this publication possible. Finally, we would like to thank our readers, whose involvement and investment in *SDLP* are the reason we have been able to continue this publication for nearly twenty-five years.

Sincerely,



Shade Streeter and Reagan Ferris  
Editors-in-Chief

To subscribe to the Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief, email our Managing Editor at [sdlp.wcl@gmail.com](mailto:sdlp.wcl@gmail.com)

# ABOUT SDLP

The Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief (ISSN 1552-3721) is a student-run initiative at American University Washington College of Law that is published twice each academic year. The Brief embraces an interdisciplinary focus to provide a broad view of current legal, political, and social developments. It was founded to provide a forum for those interested in promoting sustainable economic development, conservation, environmental justice, and biodiversity throughout the world.

Because our publication focuses on reconciling the tensions found within our ecosystem, it spans a broad range of environmental issues such as sustainable development; trade; renewable energy; environmental justice; air, water, and noise regulation; climate change; land use, conservation, and property rights; resource use and regulation; and animal protection.

The Sustainable Development Law & Policy Brief prints in accordance with the standards established by the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) that are designed to eliminate habitat destruction, water pollution, displacement of indigenous peoples, and violence against people and wildlife that often accompanies logging. Achieving FSC Certification requires that every step of the printing process, from lumber gathering to transportation to printing to paper sorting, must comply with the chain of custody established by the FSC which runs a strict auditing system to maintain the integrity of their certification process.

Currently, FSC certification is one of four methods a publisher can employ to ensure its publications are being produced using the best sustainable practices. It is the method practiced by our printer, HBP, Inc. (FSC Chain-of-Custody Certification: FSC® C010897).

To purchase back issues please contact William S. Hein & Co. at [hol@wshein.com](mailto:hol@wshein.com). To view current and past issues of the publication please visit our website at <http://www.sdlp.strikingly.com>. Current and past issues are also available online through HeinOnline, LexisNexis, Westlaw, vLex, and the H.W. Wilson Company. Please note that Volume I and Volume II, Issue 1 are published as International and Comparative Environmental Law.

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