

Environmental Law Seminar - Climate Change Class

Reading Assignments

1. Read Climate Change: Evidence and Causes, available at:
<http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/exec-office-other/climate-change-full.pdf>
2. Read Primer on UNFCCC, available at:
http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/ccc/ccc_e.pdf
3. Read Summary Chapter of CBO Study: Policy Options for Reducing CO2 Emissions, available at: <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/02-12-carbon.pdf>
4. Review Carbon Tax Center websites on Dividends at
<http://www.carbontax.org/dividends/> and No Tax Increase? How? at
<http://www.carbontax.org/no-tax-increase-how/>
5. Read assorted global climate change articles and editorials at:
<http://www.sfgate.com/business/article/Pope-blasts-California-s-cap-and-trade-system-6336494.php> ;
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2015/01/01/americans-favor-epa-regulation-over-carbon-tax-or-cap-and-trade/> ;
http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/07/opinion/the-case-for-a-carbon-tax.html?_r=0
6. EPA web page on Climate Change Adaptation at:
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/impacts-adaptation/adapt-overview.html>
7. Handouts online

Questions to Consider for Class

1. What is global climate change? Is there evidence that the levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere are increasing and is there evidence that the planet is really warming?
2. What are the major greenhouse gases and activities that contribute to climate change?
3. What are the potential impacts of climate change?
4. What is the difference between mitigation and adaptation in the climate change context?
5. Are there environmental justice issues created by climate change? In what way?
6. What steps has the international community taken to address climate change? Describe the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol and the implementation of those

agreements?

7. What efforts have states and the federal government taken to regulate or reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
8. Compare regulation, taxes and cap and trade programs as methods of addressing climate change. Which approach is the most efficient? The easiest to administer? The most likely to achieve concrete reductions? The least likely to disparately impact communities?