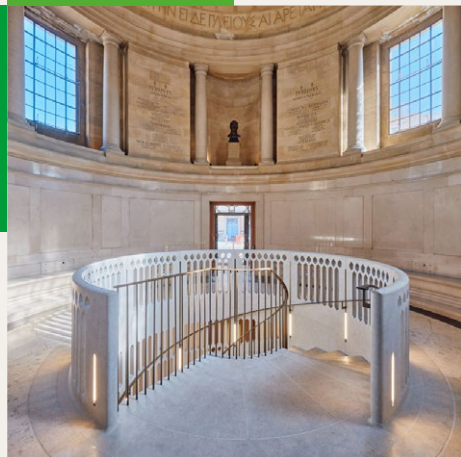




Navigating Legal Risks and Opportunities of Climate Change

Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment
University of Oxford



In a world grappling with disruptive climate change and an unprecedented and contested transition of our societies towards net zero, climate-related legal action has emerged as a critical force shaping the future of business, government, and society.

Without an understanding of how law and regulation is evolving, including the science underpinning these changes and the geopolitical developments shaping them, business leaders, litigators, and government officials are flying blind in the face of shifting financial risks. Understanding the intersection of law and climate change has therefore become paramount for senior leaders and their advisors. The University of Oxford is proud to introduce the second iteration of its executive education course designed around these challenges.

Why climate change and the law matters

Legal action in the context of climate change – including climate litigation, new regulations, and emerging policy trends – holds the potential to change the landscape of risks and opportunities for a wide range of sectors and government authorities.

Those unprepared for these changes expose themselves to significant financial, legal, and reputational risks, while informed and forward-looking experts may find opportunities for transformative, positive change that benefits their organisations and stakeholders.

Motivating these changes raises questions, whether we are collectively doing enough to mitigate the risks from climate change, whether we have fairly

distributed the burdens climate change imposes, and whether the right balance is struck between enabling legal evolution and providing legal certainty. On both sides of the Atlantic, political priorities and climate regulation and corporate action has shifted dramatically in recent months. We will consider the impacts of these changes, including on firm-level climate risk. Against emerging geopolitical tension, navigating these questions has heightened salience.



The course

This three-day course explores legal risks and opportunities that are emerging as the law changes in the context of climate change.

Delivered by eminent Oxford faculty and practitioners, the course is grounded in our world-leading research. Oxford's Navigating Legal Risks and Opportunities of Climate Change Executive Education Programme will examine and discuss key legal and regulatory developments in the context of climate change and relevant scientific, political, and economic developments, and the practical implications of these developments for firms and the financial system as a whole.

Topics include:

- Understanding international legal frameworks relating to climate change
- Latest advances in scientific understanding of climate change impacts
- A review of climate litigation trends and future directions
- State of the art in the science, politics, and economics of net zero
- An economic analysis of legal risks and opportunities resulting from climate-related legal actions

Whether your work and interests lie in government, law, professional services, business, non-profit advocacy, or elsewhere, this immersive and interactive course will equip you with the knowledge, insight, and connections to understand and navigate the rapidly evolving legal landscape. You will be equipped to anticipate future directions in climate-related legal action, and thrive in a world where climate, economics, policy, and law are increasingly salient and intertwined.



Throughout the programme participants will:

- Obtain a birds-eye-view of the key trends and future directions of climate-related legal actions and their impacts on society and businesses
- Gain proficiency in analysing and interpreting complex legal issues related to climate change, enabling you to identify and evaluate potential solutions and strategies and their impacts on businesses, government, and non-profit activities
- Dive deep into critical topics at the intersection of climate change, including the latest developments in net zero regulation and policy, climate litigation, and climate science
- Appreciate how climate-related legal actions affect the nature, magnitude, and distribution of financial climate risk exposures – gaining a deep insight into the economic and financial implications of climate-related legal actions that builds on the latest available science
- Build a strong international network of like-minded professionals from diverse backgrounds and industries, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Immerse in a unique academic and cultural environment including traditional Oxford customs such as a candlelit college dinner, punting on the River Cherwell, and a historical city tour



Speakers



Thom Wetzer
Co-Director, Associate Professor of Law and Finance, Faculty of Law, Oxford Sustainable Law Programme



Rupert Stuart-Smith
Co-Director, Senior Research Associate in Climate Science and the Law, Oxford Sustainable Law Programme



Cameron Hepburn
Battcock Professor of Environmental Economics



Lavanya Rajamani
Professor of International Environmental Law, Faculty of Law



Benjamin Franta
Associate Professor of Climate Litigation



Sugandha Srivastav
British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow



Thomas Hale
Professor of Public Policy (Global Public Policy), Blavatnik School of Government



April Williamson
Acting Legal Director, Climate Litigation Network



Peter Barnett
Programme Lead, Quadrature Climate Foundation

Programme structure

Day	Time (BST)	Session
Tuesday 23rd September 2025	14:00 onwards	Arrival to accommodation at St Peter's College or Rhodes House
Day 1 Wednesday 24th September 2025	09:00–10:00	The legally disruptive nature of climate change with Thom Wetzer
Key concepts in climate law and policy	10:15–12:15	The international legal framework for climate action with Lavanya Rajamani
	13:15–14:45	Introducing the science of climate change with Rupert Stuart-Smith
	15:00–16:15	Climate politics in three dimensions: width, depth, length with Thomas Hale
	16:30–17:30	Understanding the impacts of climate change: the economic perspective with Sugandha Srivastav
	Evening	Dinner at The Perch

Day	Time (BST)	Session
Day 2 Thursday 25th September 2025	09:00–10:15	The scientific context for climate change mitigation with Rupert Stuart-Smith
Climate change mitigation	10:45–12:00	Corporate decarbonization: from voluntary action to obligations with Thom Wetzer
	13:15–14:15	Decarbonisation scenarios and target setting with Thom Wetzer and Rupert Stuart-Smith
	14:30–15:15	How technological development is driving the energy transition with Cameron Hepburn
	15:30–17:30	Driving decarbonization through legal action: case studies with April Williamson and Peter Barnett
	Evening	Joint dinner / early evening activities


Day	Time (BST)	Session
Day 3 Friday 26th September 2025	09:00-10:30	The science of climate change impacts with Rupert Stuart Smith
Climate change impacts	11:00-12:30	Climate damages litigation with Ben Franta
	14:00-15:00	Scenario dependence of climate-related financial risk with Thom Wetzer
	15:00-15:30	Quantifying climate-related legal risk with Rupert Stuart Smith and Thom Wetzer
	16:00-17:30	Legal risk workshop with Thom Wetzer and Rupert Stuart Smith
	17:30-18:00	Wrap-up discussion with Thom Wetzer and Rupert Stuart Smith
	Evening activity	Final formal dinner, Rhodes House Check out of accommodation by 10am on Saturday 27 September

The Oxford Sustainable Law Programme at the University of Oxford

The Oxford Sustainable Law Programme is a multidisciplinary research centre that develops impact-focused, robust, and evidence-based knowledge. The Programme works to:

- Conduct world-leading and actionable research that facilitates the systemic changes needed to equitably address the world's biggest sustainability challenges;
- Deliver impact-focused education to students at Oxford and partner organisations, and to the wider legal and scientific communities through our executive education programmes;
- Engage with a wide range of partners in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors to translate research insight into practical application.

To find out more about our work and keep up-to-date, please follow this link to our website:

 www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/programme/oxford-sustainable-law-programme





The Oxford experience

The course will be held at [Rhodes House](#), an Oxford landmark, a historic Grade II listed country house in the heart of the city, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Today, it is home to the city's newest and most technologically advanced conference and convening centre with multiple meeting spaces, a large dining hall and beautiful en-suite bedrooms, creating a unique place to bring people together all year round. The perfect place for this event. Some participants will also be accommodated at St Peter's College, one of the 43 colleges that make up the collegiate university. Located at the centre of historic Oxford, St Peter's was founded in 1929 with a mission to make the best Oxford education

available to students of the greatest potential, irrespective of means or background.

During the course you will be immersed in the Oxford experience, with stylish formal dinner and drinks receptions and the opportunity to see Oxford at its best with informal activities such as a historic walking tour and the age-old Oxford tradition of punting on the River Cherwell.

Executive Education at the Oxford Smith School

Teaching is at the heart of the Oxford Smith School. We are experienced in providing executive sustainability impact to FTSE100 companies, global professional service firms and some of the world's largest financial institutions. We work carefully with clients on interventions tailored to differing knowledge levels and audiences.

5%

early bird discount

Applications received before 1 May 2025 qualify for a 5% early bird discount:



Apply now



Enrol today

Secure your place at the forefront of law and sustainability leadership. Join us at Oxford University for an enriching journey towards a more sustainable future.

For more information, please email:



executive.education@smithschool.ox.ac.uk

Testimonials



The program brought together experts in law, economics, policy and science from all over the world in a unique way. Climate change regulation is a cross-cutting area that requires all these inputs and most programs do not offer the level of expertise and cross-linkage in a short course that this program offered.

**Wangui Kaniaru, Partner,
Anjarwalla & Khanna LLP**



You can dive into the City of Oxford and network with great professionals who are working on climate related issues.

**Jessica Monteiro, Associate
Director, UBS, Brazil**



A broad exposé of climate and law... [the course] is a really good way of acquiring or refreshing your familiarity with the context of law and climate in a way you couldn't do by reading a few articles yourself.

**Jeff Twentyman,
Director of Green Finance
Institute and former Chair
of Sustainability at
Slaughter and May**



The whole immersive experience was excellent. From the initial communication, right through to delivery, every aspect was exceptional. I am so utterly grateful to everyone involved, thank you.

**Hannah Dennehey,
Head of Client Relations -
DRHC | Mediator Head of Client
Relations - DRHC | Mediator,
Abu Dhabi Global Market
(ADGM) UAE.**



I particularly enjoyed the different angles that the course focuses on: the economic, social and climate science aspects.

**Punam Mehta,
Group General Counsel,
Longevity Partners, UK**



