

What does Education for Sustainability have to do with Law?

“Legal research and education at Southampton Law School has a global reach.”

(<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/law/index.page?>)

The future of the world will be governed by how nations, organisations and individuals interact with each other and the environment. The future of the planet, and law’s role in shaping that future, is one of the most pressing issues of our time for lawyers and legal thinkers.

Topic areas of relevance to sustainability already in the Law curriculum include:

- **Globalisation:** understanding the law’s role in a changing, more connected world, from the sustainable laws of business practices to human rights; how nations interact and relate on global challenges and in international spaces; intergenerational, international, intercultural relations.
- **Human and employee rights:** understanding the interrelationships between the law and other institutions and practices in our modern society; justice in the workplace; in the treatment of individuals and their bodies; laws around violence and sex; human health and wellbeing; labour practices.
- **Justice:** for individuals, for organisations, for nations, for the environment; equality of access to the protection of the law, in particular for those whose access is sometimes limited e.g. youth; justice in times of peace and of war; sustainable decisions of justice.
- **Humans and the environment:** the ways in which law mediates the relationship between humans and their environment; how the law is employed to regulate, order, and control the planet on which we live and consume; to what extent is individual state regulatory choice constrained by international commitments and regulatory frameworks?
- **Environmental law:** how environmental issues are regulated on a local, national, regional and global level; the challenges associated with international collaboration on enforcing environmental policies; regulation of imports and exports based on environmental conditions; the legality of requiring labelling of goods (such as dolphin friendly tuna) in response to consumer concerns?

Key skills for lawyers which sustainability teaching cultivates: oral and written communication; analytic and evaluative skills; synthesis of different opinions; ability to inform and defend viewpoints; problem-solving; teamwork; critical thinking

Find out more: Contact Julia Kendal (j.kendal@soton.ac.uk) for more information including case studies on teaching sustainability in this area.