ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES ARE RARELY SIMPLE.
From climate change to local conservation, they raise complex scientific, ethical, economic and political questions that defy easy answers.

The Environmental and Land Use Law Program at the University of Virginia empowers students to confront these questions during law school so they can build the practical skills, analytic tools and hands-on experience needed to make their mark as environmental leaders in government, business and the not-for-profit sector.

The program combines outstanding legal teaching with opportunities for interdisciplinary study, clinical experience and scholarly inquiry.

Interacting with faculty who research and shape the law at the local, regional and global levels, students at the University of Virginia experience environmental law firsthand as it is practiced today, and study how it can better meet the next generation of challenges. With a wide range of courses, conferences, student groups and opportunities for independent study, students at the University of Virginia are part of a vibrant intellectual community that crosses boundaries of academic disciplines and between practice and scholarship.
UNIVERSITY COURSES
Students may receive Law School credit for related graduate courses offered by other departments and schools in the University, including classes on topics such as preservation planning, land use policy, ecology, climatology and business-government relations. Students can obtain joint degrees in law and land use planning, business or environmental sciences.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND CONSERVATION CLINIC
Students in the clinic represent environmental nonprofits, citizens’ groups and other community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment of Virginia and other parts of the country. The clinic works closely with lawyers at the Southern Environmental Law Center, a preeminent environmental public interest law firm headquartered in Charlottesville. Students participate in a range of activities on environmental matters. They comment on administrative rules, participate in permitting proceedings, advocate before state administrative agencies and boards, and contribute to factual investigations and litigation.

SYMPOSIA
Over the past dozen years, the Law School has sponsored national conferences on growth management, nature conservation, environmental contracting, revitalization of contaminated land, transboundary watershed management and climate change. Law students help plan these conferences and edit and publish the papers that emerge from them.

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW JOURNAL
Founded in 1979 and managed and edited by students, the journal is a leader in environmental legal scholarship.

VIRGINIA ENVIRONMENTAL LAW FORUM
This popular and active student group hosts speakers and networking events, and sponsors law students who participate in environmental moot court and negotiation competitions. The forum, in cooperation with the Law School’s Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center, also provides pro bono opportunities to students interested in environmental law.

The University of Virginia has partnered with the NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION to find solutions to some of the nation’s most vexing conservation challenges. The partnership—a collaboration among the NFWF, the Law School and UVA’s Environmental Sciences and Biology departments—includes summer internships for UVA students at NFWF project sites and courses taught jointly by foundation staff and UVA faculty members (above). Law graduate DAVID SHORT ’15 is working to isolate factors crucial to the success of programs to protect and restore species and habitats worldwide. Under the sponsorship of NFWF, this meta-study of conservation initiatives also engages graduate students in environmental sciences.

LEADERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFER INSIGHTS
MARY NICHOLS, (left) chairman of the California Air Resources Board, led a panel discussion at the Law School on California’s ground-breaking climate change program. KATHRYN FULLER, chair of the Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, gave the school’s inaugural Lillian Stone Distinguished Lectures in Environmental Policy. Fuller, a former president of the World Wildlife Fund and a lifelong attorney and policymaker in the field of environmental law, discussed the changing face of nature conservation.

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