



Federal Semester Program



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Federal Energy and Environmental Policy

Renewable energy. Climate change. Cap and trade. These buzzwords fly through the halls of Congress and permeate the news. With Congress debating climate change legislation and the administration's attention to greening our economy, what better time to dive into an overview of federal environmental policymaking, using energy and climate policy as the lens?

Federal Semester is proud to introduce its new, fourth concentration for fall 2010 in Environmental and Energy Policy. Students will take a Federal Semester seminar in the fall and complete an internship in a federal agency, Congressional office or other policy-related organization in the spring.

The Fall Seminar

The fall seminar will investigate federal policymaking on environmental issues, with a focus on climate change and energy policy. It will examine the roles played by Congress, the White House, federal agencies and the courts. It will also review landmark federal policies such as the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

From this foundation, the course will assess current issues in energy and climate change policy such as renewable energy, transportation sector initiatives and new energy development. Other topics include pending legislation in Congress and the U.S. role in international climate change negotiations.

The seminar will also touch on cross-cutting themes such as the role of states, concepts of environmental justice, and sustainable development. Guest speakers and student presentations will link policy with real-world implementation.

The Spring Internship

Possible student internships include:

- Federal agencies such as the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency
- Congressional offices
- Nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations

Instructor

Kathleen Mogelgaard is currently a senior advisor on population and climate change at Population Action International. Previously she served as assistant director of government relations at the National Audubon Society and as a consultant for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Mogelgaard graduated with a B.S. in environmental science from the College of William and Mary and has master's degrees in public policy and in natural resources and environment from the University of Michigan.

The Federal Semester Program opens doors to internship experiences and serves as a pipeline to graduate study and careers in public service, especially in the federal government. The program is designed to galvanize students to make a difference. For more information, visit www.federalsemester.umd.edu

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