WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY?

Environmental policy is a field that focuses on how social institutions and structures have an impact on the environment. It involves the research of social and scientific information, analyzing legislation and policies, and developing new policies and legislation that will help protect our planet and its people. This is can be enacted in a variety of ways that is not just within environmental government agencies. It can include places such as the Department of Transportation, the Department of Interior, multiple nonprofits, political organizations, the private sector, law firms, think-tanks, etc.

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

**Midwest**
- **Environmental Law and Policy Center**: is a Midwest non-profit environmental legal advocacy organization.
- **Missouri Energy Initiative (MEI)**: A local nonprofit association that works with multiple factions of the community to provide information on how to promote stability and growth in the state’s energy sector.

**National**
- **As You Sow**: Promotes environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building, and innovative legal strategies.
- **BlueGreen Alliance**: Unites America’s largest labor unions and most influential environmental organizations to identify ways today’s environmental challenges can create and maintain quality jobs and build a stronger, fairer economy.
- **Conservation International**: Building upon a foundation of science, partnership and field work, they work towards global solutions to global problems.
- **Defenders of Wildlife**: Provides protection to native animals and plants in their natural habitats.
- **EarthJustice**: Uses the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people’s health; to preserve places and wildlife; to advance clean energy; and to combat climate change.
- **Environment America**: research the challenges confronting our environment and educate the public about what’s at stake.
- **Environmental Defense Fund**: Environmental organization made up of scientists, economists, policy experts, and other professionals around the world. Has a listing of different jobs being provided by members.
- **Environmental Integrity Project**: An organization that combines research, reporting and media outreach to identify illegal pollution and to encourage federal and state agencies to take action.
- **Friends of the Earth**: Advocacy organization located in Washington, D.C. and Berkeley, CA.
- **GreenPeace**: Promotes peace by investigating, exposing, and confronting environmental abuse through developing solutions and advocacy.
- **National Audubon Society**: An organization that conserves and restores natural ecosystems.
- **The Nature Conservancy**: Works to conserve the environment by using a non-confrontational, collaborative approach.
- **Natural Resources Defense Council**: An environmental grassroots action group.
## NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- **National Wildlife Federation**: A nonprofit education and advocacy organization.
- **Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility**: A national alliance of local state and federal resource professional working toward environmental enforcement.
- **The Wilderness Society**: Conservation organization working to protect America’s wild lands.
- **World Wildlife Fund**: Partners with and advocates for the U.S. government, foreign governments, and international institutions to protect wildlife and their habitats.

## STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**: DNR helps develop mineral, oil and gas resources; protects the quality of water; provides outreach and education; and preserves the state's natural landscapes and cultural features.
- **Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Energy**: The Division of Energy assists, educates, and encourages Missourians to utilize use of diverse energy resources.

## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**: With environmental sustainability as a guiding principle they work to strengthen our Nation’s security by building and maintaining America’s infrastructure.
- **US Department of Agriculture**: Mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues.
- **U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service**: Works in collaboration with state and local agencies to improve, protect, and conserve natural resources on private lands.
- **U.S. Department of Energy**: Addresses energy, environment, and nuclear challenges in the United States through science and technology.
- **U.S. Department of Energy, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**: Is an independent government agency whose purpose is to protect public and energy customers, ensuring that regulated energy companies are acting within the law.
- **US Department of the Interior**: Works with the conservation of federal lands, national parks, wildlife refuges, and tribal nations.
- **U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Environment and Natural Resources Division (ENRD)**: Handles environmental and natural resources on behalf of the United States. (Pathways available)
- **U.S. Department of Transportation**: Promotes environmentally sound policies with fuel economy standards, regulates oil pipelines, governs disposal of hazardous materials, and finances public transit.
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**: Has the mission to protect human health and the environment.
- **U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission**: Developed to ensure the safe use of radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while protecting people and the environment.
- **White House Council on Environmental Quality**: Coordinates Federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives.

## INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- **EarthRights International**: Nongovernmental, nonprofit that works to defend human rights and the environment.
- **International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement**: Partnership of government and non-government enforcement and compliance practitioners from all over the world.
United Nation Development Program, Climate & Disaster Risk Reduction: UNDP helps develop the capacity of governments in over 60 countries to respond to disasters and mitigate the risk they pose on things like the environment.

United Nations Environment Programme: UNEP is a global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the implementation of sustaining environmental development in the UN system and serves as an advocate for the global environment.

United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO): FAO is attempting to achieve food security and provide people with regular access to high-quality food through sustainable management and utilization of natural resources.

California Sea Grant State Fellowship Program: The Program provides a unique educational opportunity for graduate students interested both in marine resources and the policy decisions affecting these resources.

Early Career Fellowship, Center for Ocean Solutions: The fellows will work with COS staff, marine managers and policymakers to advance legal and policy practice to address innovations in science and technology.

Graduate Fellowship Program, Property and Environment Research Center (PERC): Research Fellows possess an interest in natural resources and environmental issues. Fellows spend three months researching and writing papers under the supervision of the PERC Associates.

Louis B. Sohn Fellowship in Human Rights and Environment, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL): The Fellow will seek to identify and develop connections between human rights and environmental protection, integrate the theoretical and advocacy approaches of the two movements and provide a more just, equitable and sustainable approach to natural resource management.

Center for a New American Security: Has a research area dealing with energy, economics, and security, analyzing the changing global marketplace and implications for U.S. national security.

Center for American Progress: Is a nonpartisan policy institute and has a research area in energy and environment.

Center for Clean Air Policy: Independent nonprofit that works exclusively with climate and clean air policy.

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions: Independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to advance policy in the area of energy and climate change.

Resources for the Future: Environmental and natural resource policymaking worldwide through objective social science research.

World Resources Institute: Works toward moving human society to live in ways that protect Earth’s environment.

SOURCES: Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Office of Career Advancement handout on Energy and the Environment; University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, Policy Area Guidebook; Government and nonprofit websites.