

Climate change impacts society, consumer demand, business, government and investors of every size, in every jurisdiction and across every industry. From the Clean Air Act to the European Green Deal and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, hard and soft law in this area is growing in volume and impact.

## The issue

Climate change has become a disruptive force in every sector of society, from governmental regulation and investment strategies to human rights and supply chain planning. Companies are adjusting their business strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change to stay competitive and ensure business continuity.

Investors and shareholders are setting expectations about managing climate risk, and similarly, consumers and employees are expressing their views through brand and worker activism. Climate change is also front and center on the geopolitical stage, with almost 190 countries participating in the Paris Agreement. With the United States re-joining the Paris Agreement, there will be an amplified efforts to achieve climate targets on a global scale.

The new European Commission has made the management of climate risk a prerogative of its policy making. In its “Green Deal”, the European Union commits as an example to the ambitious aim to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases within the European Union to zero by 2050.

We bring experience across multiple sectors to ensure that our clients achieve competitive advantage as well as climate risk management through resiliency planning.

## What we do

We support clients around the world across the diverse areas of practice that are touched by climate change:

- In the United States, we use our deep knowledge of the federal government’s inner workings to help clients navigate. Our team includes former officials at the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, among other agencies. We stay abreast of new rulemaking efforts and can assess what they mean for business planning. Areas of focus include environmental emissions regulations, social cost of carbon and other analytical tools, permitting processes, and tax subsidies and cost structures. We also provide clients with practical, timely advice on Clean Air Act and related emission regulatory issues to help them navigate shifting regulatory regimes, such as related to power plant regulation, methane emissions, and vehicle emissions.
- In Europe, we also provide clients with a broad range of experience in the area of climate change. From supporting our clients on the upcoming policies, advising on all governmental regulatory issues, assessing climate change risk management as well as developing, financing and disposing clean energy solutions. We assist clients with the transition from fossil fuel to renewable energy development including related transactional, permitting, and land use matters.
- We provide clients worldwide with guidance on pending climate change litigation and potential impacts on business strategies.
- We advise on innovative and complex projects globally dealing with solar, wind (onshore and offshore), hydroelectric, geothermal, energy storage, biomass, biofuels, waste-to-energy, smart grid applications, and other advanced technologies, as well as on the far-reaching implications of the use of hydrogen as a climate friendly energy source in the heating market, the transportation sector and energy-intensive sectors such as steel or chemical.
- We connect our colleagues worldwide so that they can help shape the legal framework for hydrogen. This enables our clients to benefit not only from our regional expertise, but especially also from our active involvement in shaping the relevant legal developments and the cross-border exchange of experience.

## Our impact

- Providing advice to renewable and other companies seeking to invest and develop renewable energy projects on tribal lands in the US.
- Advising on the construction of numerous landmark hydrogen infrastructure projects as well as on investments in other infrastructure projects which will be a cornerstone of the energy transition.
- Advising clients across the globe – from green financings, governance overhauls and sustainable commercial transactions through to regulatory compliance and litigation.
- Publishing the handbook “Offshore Wind Worldwide – Regulatory Framework in Selected Countries”. Equipped with excellent industry knowledge, this handbook provides a comprehensive overview of the legal framework conditions in the international offshore wind market, which is characterised by a large number of different regulations due to the lack of a uniform global policy.
- Participating in Stanford University’s Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy initiative, devoting pro bono hours to representation of clients in areas of climate adaptation projects, renewable energy, and climate innovation technologies.

## Useful links

- [Climate Change Practice](#)
- [Offshore Wind Worldwide](#)
- [January 2021 US Executive Orders](#)
- [The European Green Deal and Competition Law](#)

## Relevant contacts



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