



Ecocide Law Update 11-26-2025

Domestic Lawsuits

Case	Case number	Issues	Status
<i>Environmental Defense Fund, Inc v. Wright</i>	1:25-cv-12249	Lawsuit asserting that establishment and utilization of the Climate Working Group to produce a report to provide justification for rescinding the Clean Air Act endangered finding for greenhouse gases for was unlawful.	<p>8-12-25: Complaint filed</p> <p>9-4-25: Memorandum filed by defendants in opposition to plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction</p> <p>9-4-25: Memorandum filed by EPA defendants in support of their partial motion to dismiss.</p> <p>9-15-25: Response filed by defendants to plaintiffs' notice of outcome of further discussions among the parties.</p> <p>9-15-25: Plaintiffs filed notice of outcome of further discussions among the parties.</p> <p>9-17-25: Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction denied and plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment granted.</p> <p>9-18-25: Opposition filed by plaintiffs to EPA defendants' motion to dismiss.</p> <p>10-20-25: Defendants filed motion for a stay of proceedings in light of lapse in appropriations.</p> <p>10-20-25: Motion for scheduling order filed by plaintiffs.</p>

			<p>10-22-25: Opposition filed by plaintiffs to defendants' motion for stay of proceedings.</p> <p>10-22-25: Defendants' motion to temporarily stay proceedings granted.</p>
<p><i>Dunn v. Wisconsin Public Service Commission</i></p>	<p>2025CV002797</p>	<p>Fifteen children in Wisconsin are suing state regulators alleging existing energy laws block the shift to renewable power and lock in harmful pollution, violating their constitutional rights. Plaintiffs claim to have suffered climate crisis-related harms, including asthma and respiratory illnesses, mental health trauma tied to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, flooding of homes and communities, and loss of access to lakes and rivers.</p>	<p>8-22-25: Complaint filed</p>
<p><i>US v. State of New York</i></p>	<p>1:25-cv-03656</p>	<p>Action brought by the US asserting that NY's Climate Change Superfund Act is unconstitutional, unenforceable</p>	<p>5-1-25: Complaint filed</p> <p>7-2-25: US filed motion for summary judgement</p> <p>7-15-25: US, EPA filed memorandum of law opposing motion to transfer</p> <p>7-24-25: Letter filed by the State requesting that the court decline to set a briefing schedule for a summary judgment motion.</p> <p>7-28-25: Reply memorandum filed in support of the State's motion to transfer venue.</p> <p>7-28-25: Letter filed notifying the court of environmental organizations' intent to file a motion to intervene.</p>

			<p>8-4-25: The federal district court for the Southern District of New York denied New York State officials' motion to transfer the United States and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's challenge to the New York Climate Change Superfund Act to the Northern District of New York, finding the "balance of convenience" favored the U.S.'s chosen forum over the earlier-filed case by 22 states, trade associations, and a mining company, and granted the U.S.'s request to set a summary judgment briefing schedule.</p> <p>8-15-25: Memorandum of law filed in support of Food & Water Watch et al.'s motion to intervene.</p> <p>8-29-25: Declaration filed in support of plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment.</p> <p>8-29-25: Memorandum of law filed by plaintiffs in support of motion for summary judgment.</p> <p>9-8-25: Reply memorandum of law filed in support of Food & Water Watch et al.'s motion to intervene.</p> <p>9-19-25: Pre-motion letter submitted by defendants regarding intention to file a cross-motion for summary judgment and proposing revision to current briefing schedule.</p> <p>9-22-25: Letter filed by United States opposing proposed cross-motion and briefing schedule.</p> <p>9-23-25: Letter filed by defendants in response to U.S. opposition to proposed cross-motion and proposed schedule.</p> <p>9-24-25: Defendants' letter motion terminated.</p>
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<i>Chamber of Commerce, USA v. James</i>	1:25-cv-01738	Business groups' lawsuit challenging the New York Climate Change Superfund Act	<p>2-28-25: Complaint filed.</p> <p>4-25-25: Response filed.</p> <p>9-8-25: Motion to transfer granted.</p>
<i>West Virginia v. James</i>	1:25-cv-00168	West Virginia and 21 other states, along with coal, oil, and gas trade associations and a mining company challenge constitutionality of the NY's Climate Change Superfund Act	<p>2-6-25: Complaint filed.</p> <p>3-17-25: Response filed.</p> <p>4-7-25: Amended complaint filed.</p> <p>5-19-25: Response filed.</p>
<i>US v. State of Vermont</i>	2:25-cv-00463	Action brought by the US asserting that VT's Climate Superfund Act is unconstitutional, unenforceable	<p>5-1-25: Complaint filed</p> <p>6-25-25: Briefing schedule set</p> <p>7-9-25: Motion to intervene filed by Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont and Conservation Law Foundation</p> <p>7-23-25: Response filed by plaintiffs in opposition to motion to intervene.</p> <p>7-29-25: Reply memorandum filed by Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont and Conservation Law Foundation in support of motion to intervene.</p> <p>8-8-25: Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont and Conservation Law Foundation's motion to intervene granted.</p>

			<p>8-15-25: Memorandum of law filed in support of defendants' motion to dismiss.</p> <p>8-22-25: Memorandum of law filed in support of intervenor-defendants' motion to dismiss.</p> <p>8-26-25: Brief filed by economists Joseph E. Stiglitz et al. as amici curiae.</p> <p>9-15-25: United States and EPA filed consolidated response in opposition to motions to dismiss and memorandum in support of motion for summary judgment.</p>
<i>US v. State of Michigan</i>	1:25-cv-496	Trump seeks to block MI from pursuing a climate change lawsuit against fossil fuel companies	<p>4-30-25: Complaint filed</p> <p>6-20-25: Brief filed in support of motion to dismiss</p> <p>7-11-25: Amended complaint filed</p> <p>7-15-25: Defendants' motion to dismiss dismissed as moot due to filing of amended complaint</p> <p>7-31-25: Brief filed in support of renewed motion to dismiss</p> <p>9-29-25: Memorandum filed by the United States in opposition to defendants' motion to dismiss.</p> <p>10-13-25: Reply brief filed in support of renewed motion to dismiss.</p>
<i>US v. State of Hawaii</i>	1:25-cv-00179	Trump seeks to block HI from pursuing a climate change lawsuit against fossil fuel companies	<p>4-30-25: Complaint filed.</p> <p>6-30-25: US requested that default be entered; answer filed.</p> <p>7-3-25: Defendants' request for default denied.</p> <p>7-25-25: Motion for judgment on the pleadings filed by the defendants.</p> <p>9-24-25: Memorandum filed by plaintiff United States in opposition to defendants' motion for judgment on the pleadings.</p>

			10-22-25: Reply filed by defendants in support of motion for judgment on the pleadings.
<i>State of Hawai'i v. BP p.l.c</i>	1CCV-25-0000717	HI alleges fossil fuel industry misrepresented, concealed climate impacts of fossil fuel products and led to climate change harms	5-1-25: Complaint filed 6-17-25: Motion to stay proceedings filed by defendants

These lawsuits follow Trump's EO 14260 which directs the DOJ to take action against state laws that "burden" the use or production of domestic energy and interfere with federal authority over interstate commerce and foreign relations.

DOJ is arguing that the federal government, not individual states, should have the primary authority to address climate change and regulate fossil fuel emissions.

Legislation

State	Status	Law	Details
Vermont	Passed 5-2024	S 259 : Climate Superfund Act	Recover damages from fossil fuel companies
Maryland	Passed 4-2025	HB128/SB149 : Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Total Assessed Cost of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Study and Reports	Expert study due by 12-2026 to determine state budget impacts of climate change and project adaptation costs re flooding, extreme heat, sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion
	Failed 2023-24	SB958 : Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act	Fossil fuel companies to pay a one-time fee based on their emissions
New York	Passed 12-2024	S.2129-B/A.3351-B : Climate Change Superfund Act	Fossil fuel companies pay for climate change adaptation
New Jersey	Pending 2024-25	S3545 : Climate Superfund Act ; in Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee 12-2024; fiscal estimate produced 7-14-25	Imposes liability on fossil fuel companies for damages caused by climate change

		A4696 : Out of Asm. Comm. with Amendments, Referred to Assembly Commerce, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee, 3-10-2025	
California	Pending 2025-26	CA SB684 : Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act ; introduced 4-10-2025, hearing canceled 4-22-2025 by author	California EPA to determine costs of climate damages and identify responsible parties based on emissions since 1990
Oregon	Died in committee 4-2025	SB 1187 : Establishes the Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program ; no vote in Senate Committee on Energy and Environment	Hold fossil fuel companies accountable for the costs of climate change damage
Massachusetts	Failed 2023-24	S.481 : Establish a climate change superfund; promoting polluter responsibility	Establish climate superfund

International

European Union

5-20-2024: Environmental Crime Directive entered into force; EU Member States must incorporate into national law by 5-21-2026

Country	Adopted	Country	Adopted	Country	Adopted
Austria		Belgium	5-2024	Bulgaria	
Croatia		Cyprus		Czech Rep.	
Denmark	Opted out	Estonia		Finland	
France	2021 (partial)	Germany		Greece	
Hungary		Ireland	Opted out	Italy	2021 (proposed)
Latvia		Luxembourg		Lithuania	
Malta		Netherlands	2023 (proposed)	Poland	
Portugal		Romania		Slovakia	
Slovenia		Spain		Sweden	

5-14-2024: Legal opinion authored by Dr. Stephan Sina how **Germany** could incorporate Environmental Crime Directive into German national law, considered 'legal roadmap to ecocide law'

Council of Europe

5-14-2025: [Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law adopted](#), will enter into force once ratified by at least 10 states including 8 Council of Europe members*

International Criminal Court

9-9-2024: ecocide formally introduced for consideration by ICC member states

12-18-2024: Office of the Prosecutor published [Draft Policy](#) on Environmental Crimes under the Rome Statute

Countries

<i>With ecocide law</i>			<i>Proposed law</i>
Armenia	Georgia	Russia	Argentina
Belarus	Kazakhstan	Ukraine	Brazil
Belgium	Kyrgyz Republic	Uzbekistan	Italy
Chile	Moldova	Vietnam	Mexico
France	Tajikistan		The Netherlands
			Peru
			Scotland
			UK

NEWS

Global

- [Rights-of-nature laws](#) (giving ecosystems legal personhood) and proposed ecocide jurisprudence could jointly build a stronger, more ecocentric legal system, 11-14-25.
- A report from United Nations [shares personal testimonies](#) from people in Haiti, Ethiopia, and elsewhere about how floods, heatwaves, droughts and storms are displacing millions and forcing them to move within their countries, 11-13-25.
- The [UN warns that armed conflicts cause deep ecological damage](#), including destroyed ecosystems, polluted water and soil, and biodiversity loss, which puts millions of lives at risk and perpetuates cycles of poverty and displacement, and urged for stronger legal protections for the environment during and after war, 11-8-25.
- The [U.S. military is identified as one of the largest institutional contributors to carbon emissions](#) and global environmental destruction, 10-29-2025.

Africa

Ghana

- The Ghanaian government launched a GH¢22 billion [reform program to overhaul its energy sector](#), add value to its gold industry, and strengthen environmental protection, 11-21-25.
- The Asantehene (king) warned that [illegal small-scale gold mining known as *qalamsey* is evolving into a mafia](#) that is destroying water bodies and farmlands and could engulf the country if leaders fail to act, 11-9-25.
- [Illegal small-scale mining](#) is rendering farmland infertile and contaminating water supplies, thereby threatening food and human security, 11-3-2025.
- Environmental groups condemn a mining company's [illegal attempt to divert the sacred Birim River](#), calling the act an assault on natural heritage and seeking swift intervention to stop it, 8-18-2025.
- The government is [set to launch a responsible mining program](#) aimed at formalizing and reforming the small-scale mining sector by establishing a technical committee to audit existing licenses, enforcing environmental standards, and promoting sustainable, community inclusive operations across the country, 7-25-2025.
- The [University Teachers Association of Ghana has issued a three-month ultimatum](#) to President Mahama's government to eradicate illegal mining, threatening a nationwide strike if no significant action is taken, citing ongoing environmental destruction, water and farmland contamination, and unfulfilled campaign commitments, 7-21-2025.

Ethiopia

- The [Tigray Genocide Inquiry Commission's environmental research](#) uses rigorous scientific sampling and forensic methods to document war-driven ecological destruction as part of its investigation, 11-16-25.

Nigeria

- The Bayelsa State Government urged Nigeria's environmental agency NESREA to [hold multinational oil companies accountable](#) for long-standing ecological damage in the Niger Delta, 11-15-25.
- [Nigeria reaffirmed its climate action commitment](#) at the Nigeria Climate Change Forum, emphasizing inclusive, gender-responsive strategies to drive sustainable, equitable adaptation, 8-27-2025.

South Africa

- The proposed [Mineral Resources Development Amendment Bill \(2025\)](#) would institutionalize environmental destruction and corruption by legalizing destructive illegal mining through vague definitions like "artisanal" methods, weak enforcement, and overlapping permits, 8-14-2025.
- [Shell received environmental clearance](#) to drill up to five ultra-deep wells off the Northern Cape coast, a move touted for enhancing national energy security and economic growth but sharply criticized by environmental groups and fishing communities for the potential devastation from oil spills and ecological harm, 7-23-2025.

Antarctica

- [Rapid and potentially irreversible climate-driven changes in Antarctica](#), including melting ice, changes in ocean circulation, and shifting migration patterns, could trigger catastrophic global impacts including multi-meter sea level rise and widespread environmental disruption, 8-20-2025.
- [Extreme rainfall across much of China](#) has caused about \$2.2 billion in road damage, 8-27-2025.

Asia**China/Tibet**

- [A firework display on the Tibetan Plateau](#) exemplifies how commercial spectacles and state-led development are damaging one of Earth's most fragile ecosystems, 11-1-2025.
- [Construction of a massive dam](#) on the Yarlung Zangbo River has raised concerns about environmental damage and its potential use to control the Brahmaputra River and pressure downstream countries, 8-2-2025.

Gaza

- *Al Jazeera* reports that [Gaza's water and sanitation systems have been devastated by the war](#), leaving contaminated sources that threaten disease outbreaks and public health amid ruined infrastructure, 11-8-25.
- The article argues that [Israel's use of environmental destruction in wartime](#) is a deliberate tool rather than a side effect of genocide and colonialism, 10-15-25.
- [Israeli bombardment has devastated Gaza's environment](#) and crippled its health system, causing pollution, infrastructure collapse, and widespread ecological and medical hardship, 8-3-2025.

India

- Approximately 10,000 new mangrove plants have [naturally regenerated](#) in Uran after illegal destruction, 11-25-25.
- The [Supreme Court issued a warning](#): unless unchecked construction, booming tourism, hydropower projects, and climate-driven ecological degradation are urgently addressed, Himachal Pradesh risks complete devastation, 8-1-2025.
- [Expanded monitoring of glaciers](#), glacial lakes, and water resources across the Indian Himalayan Region is intended to improve climate resilience and protect long-term water security, 7-31-2025.

Indonesia

- An environmental group cautions that [Indonesia's new mining regulation](#) granting large land permits to small entities could accelerate forest loss, water pollution, and ecological harm, 10-13-25.

Iran

- An Iranian NGO, the Center for Peace and Environment, [urged the international community to stop wars](#) to prevent global environmental disasters, highlighting the ecological toll of conflicts in the Middle East, 11-23-25.

Myanmar

- [Kachin State is exporting rare earth magnets to China](#) under mining operations causing severe environmental damage and health crises in local communities, prompting mounting environmental and human rights concerns, 7-21-2025.

North Korea

- North Korea replaced officials at its uranium refinery after [satellite images revealed contaminated wastewater](#) flowing into a river, triggering concerns of environmental harm, 8-27-2025.

Pakistan

- Islamabad residents [object to a proposed cricket stadium](#), citing threats to green space, ecology, children's recreation, and security, 8-17-2025.
- Gilgit-Baltistan government implemented a [five-year moratorium on all new hotel and commercial construction](#) near the environmentally sensitive Attabad, Borit, and Duiker lakes to combat pollution and protect fragile ecosystems, 7-19-2025.

Palestine

- [Prosecutors at the International People's Tribunal on Palestine](#) in Barcelona accused Israel of ecocide, arguing that its destruction of farms, water sources, and land in Gaza was used to make the territory uninhabitable and guarantee genocide, 11-24-25.
- A new book unveiled at COP30 documents over [130 alleged cases of environmental destruction by Israel](#) in the occupied territories, framing it as "regional ecocide," 11-15-25.

Philippines

- A Greenpeace International and Oxfam International study found that [84% of respondents support taxing corporations](#) for environmental damage contributing to wildfires, floods, droughts and health issues, 8-5-2025.

Turkey

- In Dersim (Tunceli), demonstrators protested against mining, dams, and [proposed laws they say threaten over-exploitation](#) of nature and sacred sites, 11-16-25.
- Bertül Valley at the base of Mount Gabar, once known for its waterfall and natural pools, is being [destroyed by road construction](#) to facilitate oil exploration, 8-12-2025.

Europe

- Record wildfires, deadly heat waves, and debates over adaptation show how climate change is transforming European summers and forcing societies to confront health, economic, and cultural challenges. A five-day heat wave from late June to early July resulted in 2,300 heat-related deaths across 12 European cities, 8-27-2025.

Cyprus

- [Wildfires have caused major economic losses](#) with an estimated €100 million in physical damage and an additional €20 million in environmental costs due to destroyed ecosystems, 8-2-2025.

Italy

- Greta Thunberg and other activists poured [green dye into the Grand Canal in Venice](#) to protest Italy's opposition to fossil-fuel restrictions at the recent UN climate summit. Activists hung a banner which read, 'stop ecocide,' 11-24-25.

International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands

- The ICJ [issued an advisory opinion](#) ruling that States are obliged to reduce GHG emissions and protect the environment from harm, and that breaches incur legal responsibility and potential reparations, 7-23-2025.

Scotland

- The [Scottish Environment Protection Agency](#) logged around 4,000 pollution incidents and issued 118 fines, highlighting persistent problems in environmental regulation, 11-2-2025.
- A [Scottish Parliament committee is calling on the public](#) to share their views on proposed climate legislation that sets binding targets and stricter regulations for polluters, 6-27-2025.

Ukraine

- A student from Kakhovka made a short [documentary called "Road Home" that depicts the ecological devastation](#) and loss of home caused by war in her native Kherson region, 11-23-25.
- A Wisconsin professor discusses how [Russia's invasion has produced widespread environmental destruction in Ukraine](#) and frames ecocide as both a lived experience and a legal and cultural issue for Ukrainians, 11-6-25.
- Ukrainian briefings say [fuel oil from a tanker accident in the Kerch Strait](#) has reached Odesa's coast, harming hundreds of birds and cetaceans (whales, dolphins, porpoises) and prompting calls for international monitoring, 11-6-25.
- Ukraine's foreign ministry and officials have documented [thousands of cases of environmental damage attributed to Russia](#), calling for international action to stop and remediate ecocide, 11-6-25.
- [Warfare in Ukraine](#) is destroying habitats, poisoning rivers and forests, and inflicting an ecocide on wildlife that may take generations to reverse, 10-30-2025.

United Kingdom

- Human rights expert Mary Lawlor warns that [governments are increasingly repressing or criminalizing climate defenders](#) even while publicly supporting climate goals, 10-13-25.
- Persistent degradation of the UK's natural environment could [reduce the country's GDP growth](#) by approximately 4.7 percent this decade, urging a nature-positive economic shift, 8-26-25.

North America**Caribbean**

- [Hurricane Melissa](#) is being tracked as it approaches Jamaica, Haiti, and Cuba, underscoring the growing risk of intense storms in the region, 10-31-2025.

Dominican Republic

- In the Dominican Republic [armed criminal networks are illegally extracting sand and stone](#) from rivers, causing environmental devastation and violence, 8-23-2025.

United States

- [Protesters in Texas](#) accused companies like Chevron and Caterpillar of fueling genocide and ecocide, 11-25-25.
- In the [first half of 2025 extreme weather events](#) caused between \$93 billion and \$126 billion in damages. This is far above past records, and is driven by climate change, development in vulnerable areas, and catastrophic disasters like the Los Angeles wildfires, 10-10-25.
- Fifteen [children in Wisconsin are suing state regulators](#) alleging existing energy laws block the shift to renewable power and lock in harmful pollution, violating their constitutional rights, 8-20-2025.
- The Trump administration's [EPA granted exemptions to three industrial facilities](#) in California, allowing them to exceed federal limits on carcinogenic emissions, 8-19-2025.
- ['False solutions' to waste management](#) such as recycling schemes, waste-to-energy incineration, chemical recycling, and bioplastics perpetuate pollution rather than reducing plastic production and waste, 8-4-2025.

Oceania**Australia**

- [New South Wales has emerged as a global deforestation hotspot](#), with vegetation loss on par with Indonesia's annual averages, threatening endangered species, 7-29-25.
- The [government won a court case against Torres Strait Island indigenous leaders](#), with the judge ruling it did not owe a duty of care to protect the islands from the impacts of climate change, 7-15-2025.

South America

Brazil

- [President approved a controversial environmental licensing bill](#), dubbed 'the Devastation Bill,' but vetoed 26 provisions and altered 37, preserving some protections while keeping streamlined reforms, 8-9-2025.
- [Chamber of Deputies passed the "Devastation Bill"](#) enabling online permits for medium-risk projects, stripping environmental review and Indigenous consultation, sparking warnings of severe environmental and human rights risks unless vetoed by President Lula, 7-17-25.

Chile

- Chile: A new sediment study shows prolonged drought beginning in the mid-16th century reshaped Rapa Nui's environment and [challenges the simple ecocide narrative of Easter Island](#). The scientists found that rainfall on Rapa Nui began a sustained decline of roughly 600–800 mm per year around 1550, a change that coincided with shifts in monument-building, ritual sites, and social hierarchy, suggesting the islanders adapted to environmental stress rather than collapsing due to purely human-caused deforestation, 11-6-25.

Ecuador

- [Ecuadorians overwhelmingly rejected a referendum](#) that would have rewritten their constitution, which means the country will continue to uphold its pioneering constitutional recognition of the rights of nature, 11-17-25.

Latin America

- [Mercury essential for unregulated gold mining is being trafficked across the Amazon](#), poisoning the environment and harming Indigenous communities, 8-4-2025.

Peru

- [Advancing toward domestic criminalization of ecocide](#) by consolidating legislative proposals into a unified text, though it still requires congressional approval and enactment, 7-29-25.

Global

- IUCN member states adopted a [global resolution recognizing environmental crime](#) as a serious threat and calling for enhanced cooperation among governments, law enforcement, and conservation bodies to fight illegal logging, mining, trafficking, and other nature-related crimes, 10-9-25.

Contact 952-693-5206 or info@worldwithoutgenocide.org for more information.