



## Climate Legislation and Litigation Update

### April 2026

#### **Major News and Litigation**

**Hawaii:** Hawaii was trying to sue fossil fuel companies. The Trump administration claimed by doing so, Hawaii was impeding the national effort to secure reliable sources of domestic energy. A [federal judge dismissed](#) the administration’s attempt to block Hawaii’s climate lawsuit, 4-17-2026.

**Louisiana:** Chevron was previously ordered to pay \$740m+ to remedy damage to Louisiana’s coastline. The [Supreme Court sided with fossil fuel](#) companies and allowed a series of coastal erosion lawsuits to be moved from state to federal court. Justice Alito recused himself due to financial ties to ConocoPhillips, 4-27-2026.

**Michigan:** A federal judge dismissed the Trump administration’s attempt to stop Michigan from filing climate litigation against fossil fuel companies and ruled the federal government’s alleged harms were too speculative. Michigan proceeded with its suit, 4-2026.

**Vermont:** Vermont is defending its Climate Superfund Act against a [federal lawsuit](#) filed by the Trump administration, 4-2026 through 5-2026.

#### **International:**

- The first-ever [international summit](#) focused on specific transitioning away from fossil fuels was held in Colombia. The summit emphasized ending fossil fuel subsidies, restricting methane emissions, financing a just transition, and advancing a fossil fuel non-proliferation framework, 4-2026.
- The [High Seas Treaty](#) entered force in early 2026 and created new legal mechanisms for protecting biodiversity in international waters and strengthened international environmental governance, 2026. The US has not ratified this treaty.
- International momentum is growing around the proposed [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#). Governments and civil society organizations are framing fossil fuels similarly to nuclear arms control and advocate for coordinated global limits on expansion, production, and subsidies, 4-17-2026.

#### **Superfund Legislation**

##### **Successful (2) Superfund Legislation**

<b>State</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>Vermont</b>	Passed 5-2024	<a href="#">S.259</a> : Climate Superfund Act	Recover damages from fossil fuel companies
<b>New York</b>	Passed 12-2024	<a href="#">S.2129-B/A.3351-B</a> : Climate Change Superfund Act	Fossil fuel companies pay for climate change adaptation

**Pending (9) and Failed Legislation**

<b>State</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Law</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>California</b>	Failed	<a href="#">SB 684</a> / <a href="#">AB 1243</a> : Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act.	Establish climate superfund.
	Failed 2025-26	<a href="#">CA SB684</a> : Polluters Pay Climate Superfund Act.	California EPA to determine costs of climate damages and identify responsible parties based on emissions since 1990.
<b>Connecticut</b>	Failed 6-2025	<a href="#">HB 5156</a> : Act Concerning The Establishment of A Climate Change Superfund.	Establish climate superfund.
<b>Hawaii</b>	Pending	<a href="#">SB 1652</a> : Climate Change Superfund Act. In Senate Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee.	Establish \$10b cost recovery program.
<b>Illinois</b>	Pending 2025-26	<a href="#">S.B. 2981</a> / <a href="#">H.B. 4773</a> : Climate Change Superfund Act. Introduced early 2026; in House Rules Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee.	Recovers costs from polluters for state infrastructure, directing 40% to disadvantaged communities.
<b>Maine</b>	Passed 2025-26	<a href="#">L.D. 1870</a> : An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters. Carried over from 2025.	Fees on major emitters for climate adaptation, 35% for environmental justice. <b>Scaled back amid litigation and implementation concerns.</b> State study is required.
<b>Maryland</b>	Pending	<a href="#">H.B. 1199</a> / SB0590: Study on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Economy-Wide Cap-and-Invest Program. In Environment and Transportation Committee, Education, Energy, and the Environment.	Designs a "cap-and-invest" program to fund resiliency and reach net-zero by 2045.
	Passed 4-2025	<a href="#">HB128/SB149</a> : Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation: Total Assessed Cost of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Study and Reports.	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.

<b>Maryland, cont.</b>	Failed 2023-24	<a href="#">SB958</a> : Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act.	Fossil fuel companies pay a one-time fee based on their emissions.
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Pending 2025-26	<a href="#">H. 1014</a> / <a href="#">S. 588</a> : Climate Adaptation Superfund. In committee on Environment and Natural Resources.	Charges billion-ton emitters for adaptation projects, with 40% reserved for vulnerable areas.
	Failed 2023-24	<a href="#">S.481</a> : Establish a climate change superfund.	Establish climate superfund.
<b>Minnesota</b>	Pending	<a href="#">SF4886</a> : Greenhouse Gas Pollution Superfund Act; pending in Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee.	Create a greenhouse gas pollution cost-recovery program.
<b>New Jersey</b>	Pending 2026-27	<a href="#">S. 2388</a> / A. 3735: Climate Superfund Act. In Senate Environment and Energy Committee, Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee.	Requires major fossil fuel polluters to fund state climate adaptation and resiliency projects based on their historical emissions.
	Failed 2024-25	<a href="#">S3545</a> / <a href="#">A4696</a> : Climate Superfund Act.	Impose liability on fossil fuel companies for damages caused by climate change.
<b>Oregon</b>	Pending	<a href="#">SB 1541</a> : Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program. In Senate Committee on Energy and Environment. No House bill yet.	Establish interagency Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program.
	Failed 2025	<a href="#">SB 1187</a> : Establishes 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.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Pending 2026	<a href="#">H. 7004</a> / <a href="#">SB2024</a> : Rhode Island Climate Superfund Act of 2026. In House Environment and Natural Resources Committee.	Mandates fossil fuel companies fund state climate remedial infrastructure based on historical emissions.

## **Countries with Ecocide Laws**

### **Successful**

Armenia	Kazakhstan
Belarus	Kyrgyzstan
Belgium	Moldova
Chile	Russia
Ecuador	Tajikistan
European Parliament	Ukraine
France	Uzbekistan
Georgia	Vietnam

### **Proposed/Pending**

Brazil  
Council of Europe's  
Parliamentary Assembly  
Italy  
Mexico  
The Netherlands  
Scotland  
Spain  
United Kingdom