The Center for Climate Change Law (CCCL) at Columbia Law School develops new legal techniques to fight climate change and trains people in their use. It does so in conjunction with the renowned scientists of Columbia University, and in close cooperation with the governmental and nongovernmental organizations that are grappling with the legal and policy issues raised by climate change. The Center addresses a critical need for the systematic development of legal techniques to fight climate change outside of the realm of judicial litigation, and the compilation and dissemination of information for lawyers in the public, private and NGO sectors. CCCL is led by the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice and Director of the Center for Climate Change Law Michael Gerrard.

The Center for Climate Change Law engages in a number of activities, including:

- **Legal Resource Center**
  Sources of law on climate change are quite disparate and difficult to find. CCCL has created a website that organizes and links a wide range of materials in a searchable format, such as judicial and administrative decisions, pleadings, and legislative histories, to name but a few. This site is now recognized as the leading source of continually updated climate change legal information in the United States, and it is followed by lawyers around the world via Facebook, Twitter, and our listserv.

- **Development of Model Laws and Best Practices**
  CCCL is working to prepare model laws and best practices to address the problem of climate change. Examples of the Center’s work in this area include preparing model ordinances for mandating green building practices, energy efficiency, and use of renewable energy resources, and for considering future flood and weather risks in land use planning and construction; and guidelines for disclosure of climate risks in securities filings.

- **Regulatory Tracking and Participation**
  CCCL systematically tracks regulatory processes relating to climate change, identifying the policy choices inherent in them, alerting groups that could be affected, and directly participating in some of the processes. Most recently, the Center submitted comments on the Council on Environmental Quality’s guidance regarding the consideration of greenhouse gases and climate change impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act.

- **Book Series**
  Several aspects of the solution to climate change involve so many legal issues that practitioners in all sectors would benefit from book-length treatments. These could best be done as multi-author works, so that chapter authors could bring their own specialties to bear. The Center has completed a book titled *The Law of Green Building*, to be published by the American Bar Association in August 2010. We are now preparing a book titled *The Law of Clean Energy: Efficiency and Renewables*.

- **Public Events**
  CCCL holds and participates in a number of events including conferences, debates, seminars, and panel discussions. Past events include a three-way debate on the Waxman-Markey bill, a panel discussion on the Obama Administration’s actions leading up to the December 2009 Copenhagen negotiations, a conference on bio-sequestration and climate law and policy, and a conference held at the U.S. House Office Building on implementation of climate policy.

- **A Global Approach**
  CCCL strives to find ways to bring together legal scholars, government officials and practitioners from other parts of the world for the purpose of sharing knowledge of legal and regulatory techniques to address and adapt to climate change. We host visiting scholars from around the world who spend one or two semesters working with us on climate issues.
CCCL has released a draft model green building ordinance based on analysis of practices in existing municipal green building regulation and research on possible legal impediments. Unlike other model ordinances that detail technical specifications, this ordinance presents a framework for the implementation of existing technical standards and a streamlined procedure for their compliance and enforcement. The model ordinance is accompanied by commentary and legal analysis.

**CLIMATE LEGISLATION RESOURCE CENTER**
CCCL is tracking legislative action on climate change in the 111th Congress. The website contains news, blog links, and commentaries on Senate and House of Representatives deliberations, including previous versions, floor debates, markups, hearings, key house correspondence, and analyses of the American Clean Energy and Security Act H.R. 2454 (“Waxman-Markey”) and the American Power Act (“Kerry-Lieberman”).

**CLIMATE REGULATION TRACKING SERVICE**
CCCL tracks climate regulation and maintains an up to date compilation of rule texts, agency responses, regulatory impact analyses, transcripts of public hearings, analyses, and other documents. CCCL has prepared a searchable database of all federal agency mandates contained in Waxman-Markey, and is preparing a similar database for federal agency mandates in Kerry-Lieberman.

**DRAFT MODEL MUNICIPAL GREEN BUILDING ORDINANCE**
CCCL has released a draft model green building ordinance based on analysis of practices in existing municipal green building regulation and research on possible legal impediments. Unlike other model ordinances that detail technical specifications, this ordinance presents a framework for the implementation of existing technical standards and a streamlined procedure for their compliance and enforcement. The model ordinance is accompanied by commentary and legal analysis.

**CLIMATE LAW BLOG**
CCCL maintains a blog that comments on and provides insight into timely issues relating to climate change law and regulation at the local, state, and federal levels. Professor Gerrard contributed a widely-circulated blog from the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Most recently, the blog has featured a series summarizing provisions of the proposed Kerry-Lieberman bill and comparing these provisions to ones in the Waxman-Markey bill.

**Other Online Resources**
- Compilation of offset protocols
- Securities disclosure resources
- Climate law bibliography

**In development:**
- NEPA and State NEPA protocols and environmental impact statements
- Database of green building incentives

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