



LITERARY RESOURCES

Reviewed by JoAnne L. Dunec

BOOKS

Global Climate Change and US Law

Michael B. Gerrard and Jody Freeman, eds.

ABA SECTION OF ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND RESOURCES,
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Since the 2007 publication of the first edition of *Global Climate Change and US Law* “[g]lobal average temperatures have continued to rise,” note the editors, “carbon dioxide levels and sea levels are steadily increasing, and arctic sea ice is demonstrably shrinking.” The editors observe that “although a comprehensive legal regime for climate change has yet to emerge either domestically or internationally, much has changed since 2007,” which is reflected in this new edition.

“The new edition,” the editors note, “features a number of notable additions”:

In recognition that climate change is largely an energy problem (with over 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States sourced to combustion of fossil fuels), we have added an entirely new section on energy regulation. This edition also includes new chapters on two topics that were relatively marginal in 2007, but that are now of growing importance and openly discussed: adaptation (now seen as a real necessity and increasingly referred to as “resilience”) and geoengineering (for many a dreaded and possibly catastrophic last resort, known also as “climate remediation”). There are also new chapters on subjects that were not well appreciated in 2007 (climate-related water issues, and agriculture and forestry), as well as a chapter devoted to cap-and-trade, a regulatory technique that, while rejected by the U.S. Congress in 2010, has been adopted by a group of northeastern states and California and may yet be the policy instrument of choice at the federal level. We have also added a new chapter on the use of nonclimate international agreements to reduce emissions and address climate impacts and a final chapter contemplating what U.S. legislation might look like if Congress were prepared to turn back to climate policy.

In addition to new chapters, the balance of the book has been thoroughly updated and, in some instances, rewritten from scratch.

Thirty-five authors, including the editors, contributed to this comprehensive second edition. According to the editors, “[t]he volume is current to November 2013. More recent developments are tracked by the Center for Climate Change Law, www.columbiaclimatelaw.com, which posts numerous databases about judicial, regulatory, and legislative developments.”