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Ecologic Legal

Welcome to Ecologic Legal - the legal team of the Ecologic Institute.

Ecologic Legal links environmental analysis and policymaking to legal frameworks and the law-making process. Our aim is to enhance the design and implementation of environmental policy and governance.

Drawing on the expertise of a team of specialized lawyers, we advise decision-makers on all aspects of international, EU and domestic environmental law and governance. We also work closely with economists, policy analysts and environmental scientists as part of Ecologic's interdisciplinary projects and with external organizations and policymaking institutions.

Ecologic Legal works on a broad range of topics, but has particular expertise in the following areas:

Development and implementation of international environmental law

Ecologic Legal supports the German government in the [international climate change negotiations](#) [1] on an ongoing basis. Ecologic Legal has also completed several [projects](#) [2] on how geoengineering could be regulated at the international level. Another area of expertise are international legal rules on how public funding for environmental purposes is provided and distributed. The team has also worked on the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements such as the [PRTR Protocol](#) [3] adopted under the Aarhus Convention and the [Nagoya Protocol](#) [4] on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing.

International economic law and its impact on environmental regulation

Ecologic Legal has completed various projects on the trade-environment interface. These include studies on [regulatory cooperation](#) [5] and [investor-state dispute settlement](#) [6] in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) as well as

reports on the compatibility of [support measures for renewable energy](#) [7] or [border adjustment measures](#) [8] with WTO law. Members of Ecologic Legal also organize the [Trade Nights](#) [9], a forum to discuss trade law and policy in an informal setting among experts.

Implementation and enforcement of environmental law

Ecologic Legal is dedicated to understanding environmental law as applied in reality and to providing recommendations on how to improve its implementation and enforcement. Our work on this topic includes a project on how to [more effectively combat environmental crime](#) [10] and a study on the potential of harmonizing [rules on environmental inspections](#) [11] at the EU level.

EU and national energy law with a focus on renewable energy sources (RES)

Ecologic Legal is conducting various projects that address *inter alia* the legal framework of RES supply and promotion. These include the [mid-term evaluation of the Renewable Energy Directive](#) [12] and the legal assessment of [technical requirements for producers and consumers in an electricity system with a large share of renewable energy](#) [13] as well as [scientific support of the federal ministries in the course of the German energy transition](#) [14]. The latter focused on the further development of existing instruments to promote RES in both the electricity and heat sector. Members of Ecologic Legal also collaborate with Ecologic Institute's economists and political scientists on the design of future governance frameworks such as the [EU Climate and Energy Package](#) [15] as well as [regional cooperation](#) [16] within the policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030.

The legal team combines a strong academic background with substantial professional experience as practising lawyers and policy advisers. Our books, studies, lectures and articles in peer-reviewed journals contribute to academic and policy debates on key environmental issues. The team at Ecologic Legal also provides specialized training to German trainee lawyers.

For an overview of our [projects](#) [17], [publications](#) [18] and [team](#) [19] please follow the links on this website.

For inquiries concerning Ecologic Legal, please contact [Arne Riedel](#) [20].

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