

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH GUIDE

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Introduction and purpose

Alternative energy is becoming a hot topic as global awareness about climate change grows and affects citizens throughout the world. This means that more time and money is being devoted to developing alternative sources of energy.

The following guide will give a brief overview of alternative energy, outline some print and electronic resources available at the Oklahoma City University Law Library, and mention freely available resources.

Defining alternative energy

Alternative energy can be defined as anything that generates power to run a vehicle or electric grid other than traditional fossil fuels. Examples of alternative energy sources are biofuels, the wind, the sun, or even trash.

Alternative energy research

The resources you will use depend on the facts presented. When conducting legal research about alternative energy you may begin with environmental law generally, and then look for references to alternative energy.

OCU Law Library Resources

Below is a sample list of materials you may find helpful when researching an environmental law issue. These resources are available electronically or at the Oklahoma City University Law Library. **This list is not all-inclusive and is not a substitute for independent legal research or legal advice.**

Secondary Materials

***Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.**

Treatises/Casebooks

Treatises are written for practitioners and present background information about specific topics. Casebooks present similar information but are more general and cater to law students.

1. *Environmental and natural resources law* / by Eric Pearson is available at [KF3775 .P43 2002](#).
2. *Environmental dispute resolution : an anthology of practical solutions* / editors, Ann L. MacNaughton, Jay G. Martin is available at [KF3775 .E4674 2002](#).
3. *Environmental law in a nutshell* / by Roger W. Findley, Daniel A. Farber is on reserve at [KF3775.Z9 F56 2004](#).

4. *Environmental law : examples and explanations / Steven Ferrey* is on reserve at [KF3775.Z9 F45 2007](#).
5. *Environmental law / by Margaret C. Jasper* is available at [KF210.E5 J37 1997](#).
6. *Environmental law (treatise) [electronic resource] / by William H. Rodgers, Jr.* is available at [KF3775 .R6 1994](#) and electronically via the subscription database Westlaw.
7. *Quest for environmental justice : human rights and the politics of pollution / edited by Robert D. Bullard* is available at [GE220 .Q47 2005](#).
8. *Treatise on environmental law [electronic resource] / Frank P. Grad* is available until 2006 at [KF3775.A7 G733](#) and electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.
9. *Ensuring compliance with multilateral environmental agreements : a dialogue between practitioners and academia / edited by Ulrich Beyerlin, Peter-Tobias Stoll & Rüdiger Wolfrum* is available at [K3585 .E57 2006](#).
10. *Environmental law of armed conflict / Nada Al-Duaij* is available at [K3585 .A43 2004](#).
11. *Environmental law / by Jeffrey M. Gaba* is available at [KF3775 .G33 2001](#).

Journals/Law Reviews

Journal and law review articles provide researchers with an excellent starting point because the authors usually analyze an issue in-depth and give detailed citation information. The following are accessible either in print or in one of the subscription databases available from the Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library_databases.php.

1. *Albany Law Environmental Outlook* is available from v.1 (1995) to v.5 (2000) in the library's periodicals wing or electronically via the subscription database Hein Online. This periodical continues with the title *Albany Law Environmental Outlook Journal*.
2. *Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review* is available from v.7 (1978/1979) to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online. This periodical was previously called *Environmental Affairs*.

3. *Eco-notes : environmental law & policy / the Environmental Law Society, the American University Washington College of Law* is available from v.1 (1995) until v.3 (1999) in the library's periodicals wing.
4. *Buffalo Environmental Law Journal* is available from v.1 (1993) to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
5. *Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy* is available from v.1 (1990) to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
6. *Columbia Journal of Environmental Law* is available from v.1 (1974/75) to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
7. *Dickinson Journal of Environmental Law & Policy* is available from v.1 (1992) to v.9 (2000) in the library's periodicals wing.
8. *Duke Environmental Law & Policy Forum* is available from v.1 (1991) to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
9. *Environment, Energy, and Resources Law* is available from v.16 (1999) to present at [KF5505.Z95 N38 date](#).
10. *Environmental & Energy Law & Policy Journal* is available from v.1 (2005) to present in the library's periodicals wing.
11. *Environmental law (Northwestern School of Law) (Online)* is available electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
12. *Greenlaw : Journal of the Pace Environmental Law Program* is available from v.6 (2003) to present in the library's periodicals wing.

Primary Materials

***Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.**

The materials listed below are primary federal and state legal authority.

Federal Statutory Materials

1. *U.S.C.* (U.S. Code) is available in print at [KF62 1958 .A2](#) and electronically via various Web sites such as <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/> and <http://uscode.house.gov/>.
2. *U.S.C.A.* (U.S. Code Annotated) is available in the library at [KF62.5 .W45](#) and electronically via the subscription database Westlaw.

3. *U.S.C.S.* (U.S. Code Service) is available in the library at [KF48 .U54](#) and electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

4. *Federal environmental laws* is on reserve at [KF3775 .A31 2006](#).

Federal Legislative History Materials

1. *Thomas* has legislative history materials freely available at <http://www.thomas.gov>.

2. *Lexis-Nexis Congressional* is a subscription database that contains legislative history materials. It is available from the OCU Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library_databases.php.

3. *Hein Online* is a subscription database that contains compiled legislative histories and citations to compiled legislative histories. This database is available from the OCU Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library_databases.php.

4. *USCCAN (U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News)* is available in the library at [KF48 .U54 date](#) and in the subscription database Westlaw.

5. The OCU Law Library has legislative histories in print that you can access from the *Library Catalog* at <http://lawlibdb.okcu.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First>.

Federal Administrative Materials

1. *C.F.R.* (Code of Federal Regulations) is available in print at [KF70 .A3 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.

2. *Federal Register* is available in print at [KF 70 .A2 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://origin.www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

Federal Case Law

1. *U.S. Reports* are available at [KF101 .U54](#) and via the subscription database Hein Online.

2. *Supreme Court Reporter* is available at [KF101 .W4](#) and via the subscription database Westlaw.

3. *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition* are available at [KF101 .U58](#) and via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

4. *Federal Reporter 1st, 2d, 3d* is available at [KF105 .F4](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

5. *Federal Supplement 1st and 2d* is available at [KF120 .F42](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

State Statutory and Administrative Sources

1. *Oklahoma Statutes Annotated* are available at [KFO1231 .O52 date](#).
2. *Oklahoma Statutes* are available at [KFO1230 .O5](#) and freely available via the Oklahoma State Courts' Web site <http://www.oscn.net> .
3. *Oklahoma Administrative Code* is available at [KFO1236 .O451](#) and freely available via the Oklahoma Secretary of State's Web site at <http://www.sos.state.ok.us/> .

Subscription Databases

To access materials in a subscription database, you will need a username and password.

1. Westlaw contains several sections that may be helpful for alternative energy research. To find the appropriate section, go to the directory and search using terms such as energy, solar, or wind. You can also add the Environmental Practitioner or Energy tabs by going to add/delete tabs.
2. Lexis-Nexis has environmental or energy sections that may be helpful for research. You can go to Find a Source and look for information topically under environment or energy.

Freely available resources

Governmental

1. <http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets/partnership.htm> -The Environmental Protection Agency summarizes its role in the Methane to Markets program.
2. <http://www.nrel.gov/> -National Renewable Energy Laboratory develops technologies and strategies that use alternative sources of energy.
3. http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Environment_Agriculture.shtml -The federal government addresses the issues of the environment, energy, and agriculture.

Nongovernmental organizations

1. <http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/about> -Greenpeace works to eradicate threats to humans and the environment.
2. <http://www.worldwatch.org/> -Worldwatch conducts research about important issues worldwide and provides that information to policymakers and other interested parties.
3. <http://cms.iucn.org/> -The International Union for Conservation of Nature works to find practical solutions to environmental problems and issues worldwide.

4. <http://www.un.org/climatechange/> -This is the United Nations' portal for information about climate change and its initiatives.

Alternative Energy

1. <http://www.crest.org/> -The Center for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technology and Renewable Energy Policy Project work together to “conduct policy research” that encourages the adoption of alternative fuels.

2. http://www.nativeenergy.com/pages/about_us/19.php -Native Energy helps Native American farmers build sustainable energy projects. Consumers and businesses can purchase carbon offsets and these offsets fund alternative energy projects.

3. <http://www.windenergy.org/> -The Alternative Energy Institute operates out of West Texas A&M University. This organization supplies data about wind power and loans anemometers to Texas landowners interested in tracking wind data.

4. <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/> -Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, this site contains information about vehicles, fuel usage, and alternative fuels.

Environmental news

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science/earth/index.html> -Environmental news from the *New York Times*.

2. http://pubs.acs.org/journals/esthag/index_news.html -*Environmental Science and Technology* contains scholarly articles from a variety of disciplines designed to help solve environmental issues.

3. <http://www.grist.org/> -Grist provides no-nonsense news and resources for those interested in environmental issues.

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