

# Everyday Environmentalism

*Law, Nature & Individual Behavior*

by Jason J. Czarnezki

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## About the Author

Jason J. Czarnezki is a Professor of Law in the Environmental Law Center at Vermont Law School, home to one of the nation's leading environmental and natural resources law and policy programs. He has held academic appointments at Marquette University Law School, DePaul University College of Law, and Sun Yat-sen (Zhongshan) University in Guangzhou, China, as a J. William Fulbright Scholar. Previously, Professor Czarnezki served as a law clerk to the Honorable D. Brock Hornby of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine and as a law clerk for the Bureau of Legal Services at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Professor Czarnezki, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from The University of Chicago, was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and currently lives in Montpelier, Vermont.



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## How to Use This Book & Acknowledgements

My goal in writing this book is to raise awareness of core environmental policy concerns that are implicated in individual daily decision-making and that to this point, in my view, have gone unnoticed and underappreciated. This book is for any person interested in the environment and conservation, the impacts of modern consumption and consumerism, and the relationship between humanity and nature. The book raises awareness about the environmental effects of everyday life and the roles that government and law can play in shaping consumer decision-making. It also provides individuals with ideas on how to change their choices and influence policy within their communities.

The book's contents will also prove useful to undergraduate and graduate students studying in fields such as environmental studies, ecology, environmental law, natural resources, public policy, economics, agriculture, and political science, as well as government officials and policy-makers interested in influencing the environmental effects of everyday decision-making.

I would encourage the adoption of this book in university and college classrooms and graduate school seminars. Professors and teachers may choose to assign individual chapters as well, perhaps as supplemental reading in traditional law school courses, especially introductory courses on regulatory policy, environmental law, and natural resources law. However, when assigning singular chapters, I strongly recommend including the Introduction and Conclusion in the required reading.

For introductory students, this book is designed to provide both solid grounding in environmental literacy and a set of comprehensible and actionable solutions. Often instructors of standard university "Introduction to Environmental Studies" courses hear students lament that the environmental field is "hopeless," "sad," "full of problems," or simply "depressing." While the substantive chapters do outline serious consequences of consumption and pollution, the thrust of the book is positive and action oriented. Instructors can use the text to reassure college students that there are, indeed, individual actions that can make a difference, both in their everyday actions and as a way to influence policy within their communities. Each chapter provides opportunities to discuss specific and immediate steps, as well as the impact of individual choices on regional and global events.

For use of individual chapters, Chapter One, on the history and consequences of consumption, may be a useful supplement to courses on environmental history, economics, and natural resources law; Chapter Two (on climate change), to courses

on international environmental law, climate change, and air pollution; Chapter Three (carbon and waste footprints), to courses on regulation of toxic substances, waste generation, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, transportation policy, the Clean Air Act, climate change, energy policy, development, and informational labeling; Chapter Four (food), to courses on agriculture, pesticides law, food systems and food labeling, growth management, and eco-labeling; Chapter Five (sprawl), to courses on zoning, land use planning, property law, natural resources law, the Clean Water Act and wetlands and water resources; and Chapter Six (unforeseen destruction of small organisms), to courses on wildlife policy, endangered species, and biodiversity.

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