



Environmental Policy and Decision-Making

The Environmental Policy and Decision Making Program (ENVR) is an interdisciplinary program designed to help students integrate their primary major area of study with an understanding of how individual and collective decisions interact with the environment. The term “environment” is considered critically with recognition of the often blurry and even indistinguishable boundary between natural and human-built or managed environments. Environmental issues for study thus range from those related to non-human species and habitats to those concerning social and human health problems associated with population density and industrialization. While environmental issues reflect certain empirical realities about the physical world and its limits, they also engage contests among competing human values and visions for the future. Environmental issues are strategically defined, managed, promoted and challenged by a complex and often conflicting array of social actors. In a word, environmental problems are political.

Students who major or minor in Environmental Policy and Decision Making 1) develop an understanding of the multiplicity of values, norms, interests, incentives, and scientific information that influence decisions on environmental issues, 2) learn to critically examine the social, political, and economic contexts for decisions on environmental issues, and 3) engage in interdisciplinary dialogue and apply systems thinking to address current and projected environmental problems.

Faculty

Executive Committee: Rachel DeMotts, *Environmental Policy and Decision Making, (Administrative Director)*; Lea Fortmann, *Economics*; Kena Fox-Dobbs, *Environmental Policy and Decision Making/Geology*; Peter Hodum, *Environmental Policy and Decision Making/Biology*; Daniel Sherman, *Environmental Policy and Decision Making*; Peter Wimberger, *Biology/Slater Museum*

Additional Affiliated Faculty: Dan Burgard, *Chemistry*; Monica DeHart, *Sociology and Anthropology*; Joel Elliott, *Biology*; Andrew Gardner, *Sociology and Anthropology*; Barry Goldstein, *Geology*; Kristin Johnson, *Science, Technology & Society*; Lisa Johnson, *Business and Leadership*; Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, *International Political Economy*; William Kupinse, *English*; Steven Neshyba, *Chemistry*; Emelie Peine, *International Political Economy*; Doug Sackman, *History*; David Sousa, *Politics and Government*; Stacey Weiss, *Biology*



Requirements for the Major

1. The Environmental Policy and Decision Making major is a secondary major that can be chosen only after a primary major in another field is chosen. A major in Environmental Policy and Decision Making cannot be completed unless a primary major in another department or program is also completed.
2. Completion of the following eight units:
 - a. ENVR 200*
 - b. ENVR 201
 - c. ENVR 202 (0.5 units) or any three courses in the natural sciences (BIO, CHEM, GEO, PHYS)
 - d. ENVR 203 (0.5 units)
 - e. ENVR 400
 - f. A minimum of one policy elective unit (see list below)
 - g. Three additional elective units from the lists of policy or general electives (see list below)
3. At least two of the courses used to fulfill the electives for the Environmental Policy and Decision Making major must be outside of the student's primary major department or program.
4. A maximum of two courses used to meet the requirements of the Environmental Policy and Decision Making major may also be used to satisfy the core curriculum, the requirements of another major, or the requirements of a minor.
5. Seven requirements for the Environmental Policy and Decision Making major must be completed on campus at Puget Sound, including ENVR 200, ENVR 201, ENVR 202 (unless 202 is replaced by three courses in the sciences), ENVR 203, the policy elective, and ENVR 400.
6. Completion of an experiential education requirement, to be approved by the program. Examples of experiential education include, but are not limited to, the following: a study-abroad experience, the field school in conservation development (e.g., ENVR 342A), a summer research experience, an environmentally related internship, an ENVR block semester program, and the Food Systems Northwest summer course (ENVR 360).



Requirements for the Minor

1. Completion of the following five units:
 - a. ENVR 200*
 - b. A minimum of one policy elective unit (see list below) or ENVR 201
 - c. Two additional elective units from the lists of policy or general electives (see list below). ENVR 202 and/or ENVR 203 can count towards this requirement.
 - d. ENVR 400
2. A maximum of one course used to meet the requirements of the Environmental Policy and Decision Making major/minor may also be used to satisfy the core curriculum, the requirements of another major, or the requirements of another minor.
3. Four requirements for the Environmental Policy and Decision Making minor must be completed on campus at Puget Sound, including ENVR 200, the policy elective, and ENVR 400.

Note: It is strongly recommended that at least two of the courses used to fulfill the electives for the Environmental Policy and Decision Making minor be outside of the student's major department or program.

Policy Electives

One unit selected from the following policy courses:

- CONN 410 Science and Economics of Climate Change
- ECON 225 Environmental and Natural Resource Economics and Policy
- ENVR 201 Environmental Policy Tools and Topics (required, not an elective for major; can count as elective in the minor only)
- ENVR 210 Fundamentals of U.S. Environmental Law and Policy
- ECON/ENVR 327 Climate Change: Economics, Policy, and Politics
- ENVR 310 Environmental Decision Making
- ENVR 322 Water Policy
- ENVR/PG 326 People, Politics, and Parks
- ENVR 328 Nuclear Narratives of the American West
- ENVR/PG 382 Global Environmental Politics
- IPE 331 International Political Economy of Food and Hunger
- PG 305 U.S. Environmental Policy
- PG 309 Applied Environmental Politics and Agenda Setting



General Electives

- BIOL 211 General Ecology
- BIOL 370 Conservation Biology
- ENGL 374 Literature and the Environment
- ENVR 202/203 Tools and Topics in Environmental Science (required, not an elective for major; can count as elective in the minor only)
- ENVR 204 Learning in Nearby Nature (0.25 units)
- ENVR 253 Topics in Environmental Justice (0.25 units)
- ENVR 315 Energy Resources
- ENVR/GEOL 324 Biogeochemical Approaches to Environmental Science
- ENVR 325 Geological and Environmental Catastrophes
- ENVR 335 Thinking about Biodiversity
- ENVR 343 Buddhist Environmentalisms
- ENVR 354 Community-Based Methods for Environmental Research
- ENVR 350 Puget Sound Environmental Issues I: Politics and Public Participation (0.25 units)
- ENVR 351 Puget Sound Environmental Issues II: Laws and Land Use Designations (0.25 units)
- ENVR 352 Sustainability in Everyday Life (0.25 units)
- ENVR 353 Environmental Careers and Callings (0.25 units)
- ENVR 354 Contemplative Environments (0.25 units)
- ENVR 355 Sacred Ecology (0.25 units)
- ENVR 495/496 Independent Study
- ENVR 498 Internship Tutorial
- GEOL 310 Water Resources
- GEOL 330 Regional Field Geology
- HIST 364 American Environmental History
- HIST 369 History of the West and the Pacific Northwest
- INTN 497 Internship Seminar
- PHIL 285 Environmental Ethics
- SOAN 230 Indigenous Peoples: Alternative Political Economies
- SOAN 316 Social and Cultural Change
- SOAN 407/IPE 407 Political Ecology
- SOAN 481, Special Topics: Environmental Anthropology
- STS 344 History of Ecology