

Catherine CAINE: Renewable Energy Construction and Habitat Protection: A Study of the legal mechanisms employed in the construction of a renewable energy project and the extent to which they protect the existing environment

Climate change presents an imminent threat to the world which cannot be ignored. In order to combat this problem, many states including the United Kingdom have agreed to take measures to reduce their carbon emissions, including committing to increase renewable energy generation. However, married to the notion of installing a renewable energy project, is the need for land to develop on which is affected by a specific natural element. This locational need often means that the construction of a renewable energy project will need to take place in an environmentally sensitive area in order to obtain an efficient energy output, thus causing a conflict between the environmental principle of carbon neutral energy production and the need to protect habitats and prevent biodiversity loss. This poster will demonstrate planned research that aims to explore the consistency between the legal mechanisms that are designed to protect the environment in construction projects, and understand what level of environmental protection they achieve.