

Master in Urban Planning Environment, Climate, and Health Concentration 2025–2026

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Environmental planning is a broad field encompassing a range of professional activities employing a variety of skills. Practitioners may work in the government, non-profit or business sector on watershed planning, the design of ecological infrastructure, industrial ecology, community organizing, workforce development, coastal planning, and hazards mitigation; spatial analysis, environmental risk assessment, energy policy and planning, pedestrian and transit-oriented development, on developing urban food systems and open space preservation, preparing environmental impact statements, etc.

The frameworks that tie this wide-ranging work together include sustainable development, and its notion of achieving the “triple bottom-line” in planning activities by reconciling conflicts between economic development, social equity, and ecological protection and restoration. The idea of resilience, or the capacity to manage change, is also key in this specialization.

The breadth of environmental courses available at the GSD and Harvard generally reflect the multiple dimensions of sustainability in the context of planning practice and research. [The Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability at Harvard](#) provides an expanding list of courses offered across the university focused on climate and sustainability: <https://salatainstitute.harvard.edu/courses/>. Please note that courses may require permission from the instructor wherever they are offered.

Note: Course offerings are subject to change. Courses that do not appear in this memo will not automatically have approval. To have a course not listed below count toward your concentration requirement, the Concentration Advisor(s) will need to review the syllabus and send written approval to Sarah Hutchinson.

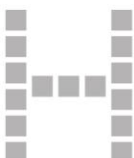
Recommended introductory courses:

The following courses are recommended to those interested in the concentration. They are introductory level courses that give a good overview of the topics and subject matter covered in more depth by other courses in the concentration:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	5464	Do No Harm: Dilemmas in Planning for Health (Spring)	4	Maaoui
GSD	5518	Climate Migration (Spring)	4	Teicher

FALL 2025 APPROVED COURSES:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	3348	The Idea of the Environment	4	Spinak
GSD	5206	Land Use and Environmental Law A ¹	4	Kayden
GSD	5207	Land Use and Environmental Law B ¹	4	Davidson



GSD	6241	Ecologies, Techniques, Technologies III: Ecology and the Design World	4	Matthews, Piana
GSD	6244	Climate by Design	4	Whitesides
GSD	6333	Water, Aquatic Ecology, and Land-Water Linkages	4	Dekker, Nelson
GSD	6380	Working Landscapes: Natural Resiliency and Redesign	4	Zimmerman
GSD	6381	Power Energy: Mapping the Thickened Ground of Labor	4	Monacella
FAS	ESPP 90T	Designing and Implementing International Environment, Climate, and Sustainability Solutions	4	Tingley
FAS	ESPP 90G	The Law and Policy of Climate Change: Influencing Decision Makers	4	Joroff
FAS	ESPP 171	Solid Waste in Developing Countries	4	Thomas
HKS	API 165	Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy	4	Aldy
HKS	API 170	Managing Climate Change Risks: Information, Incentives, and Institutions	4	Aldy
HKS	API 905Y	Seminar in Environmental Economics and Policy (<i>jointly offered with FAS</i>)	2	Stavins, Stock
HKS	IGA 355	Migration, Refugees, and Human Rights	4	Bhabha
HLS	2074	Environmental Law	4	Lazarus
HLS	2123	International Environmental Law	4	Salzman
HLS	2931	Creating Electricity in the U.S.: Exploring the Tradeoffs	4	Peskoe
HLS	8008	Environmental Law and Policy Clinic (<i>bundled with seminar</i>)	4	Mergen
HSPH	GHP 272	Foundations of Global Health and Population ²	4	Bloom
HSPH	NUT 209	Seminars in Food Science, Technology, and Sustainability	2	Apostolidis, Golden
MIT	1.286 11.477	Urban Energy Systems and Policy ³	4	Hsu
MIT	1.303 11.273	Infrastructure Design for Climate Change ⁴	2	Einstein
MIT	1.813 11.466 15.657 IDS.437J	Technology, Globalization, and Sustainable Development ⁴	4	Ashford
MIT	1.834 2.834	Exploring Sustainability at Different Scales	4	Gutowski
MIT	11.148	Environmental Justice: Law and Policy	4	Steil
MIT	11.356	Healthy Cities: Assessing Health Impacts of Policies and Plans	4	Arcaya
MIT	11.373 12.885	Science, Politics, and Environmental ²	4	Solomon, Knox-Hayes
MIT	11.387	Environmental Finance and Political Economy	4	TBA
MIT	11.601	Theory and Practice of Environmental Planning	4	Susskind
MIT	15.366	Climate & Energy Ventures ⁵	4	Hynes
MIT	15.385	Innovating for Impact (Fall 1) ⁵	2	Jay

1. Only if not taken to satisfy Legal and Institutional Methods Requirement.

2. Cross-registrants and Non-Degree Students will be enrolled on a space available basis after the enrollment deadline for the course. Students outside of HSPH must request instructor permission to enroll in this course.

3. Prerequisite: [11.203](#), [14.01](#), or permission of instructor.

4. Requires permission of instructor.

5. Students must participate in [Sloan's Course Bidding](#) to take this subject.

WINTER/J-TERM 2026 APPROVED COURSES:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
HKS	IGA 671M	Policies and Social Innovations for the Changing Arctic ¹	2	Logadottir

1. Priority enrollment is given to HKS students and may not be available to GSD students.

SPRING 2026 APPROVED COURSES:

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	5409	Climate Justice	4	Spinak
GSD	5447	Creating Environmental Markets	4	Zimmerman
GSD	5464	Do No Harm: Dilemmas in Planning for Health	4	Maaoui
GSD	5518	Climate Migration	4	Teicher
GSD	6494	Urban Soil Studies: From Field to Lab to Design	4	Janosky
FAS	ECON 1661	Economics of Climate Change and Environmental Policy (<i>jointly offered jointly with HKS</i>)	4	Stavins
FAS	GOV 1722	Politics of the Environment and Climate Change	4	Ansolabehere
FAS	HIST 1973	Re-Wilding Harvard	4	Chaplin
HKS	API 135	Economics of Climate Change and Environmental Policy (<i>jointly offered jointly with FAS</i>)	4	Stavins
HKS	API 905Y	Seminar in Environmental Economics and Policy ¹	2	Stavins, Stock
HKS	IGA 415	Financing the Clean Energy Transition (Spring 1)	2	Schrag
HKS	IGA 455	Climate Leadership: Persuasion, Advocacy and Negotiation ²	4	Wentworth
HLS	2193	Natural Resources Law	2	Mergen
HLS	2294	Environmental Disasters and Displacement in the US	2	Perls
HLS	2662	Environmental Law after the Biden Administration and During the Trump (2.0) Administration	2	Lazarus
HLS	8008	Environmental Law and Policy Clinic (<i>clinic bundled with seminar</i>)	4	Mergen
HSPH	EH 257	Water Pollution ³	4	Levin
HSPH	EH 278	Human Health and Global Environmental Change (Spring 2) ³	2	Dresser
HSPH	EH 297	Atmospheric Environment ³	4	Koutrakis
MIT	1.811 11.630 15.663 IDS.540	Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention and Control	4	Ashford, Caldart
MIT	1.818 2.65 10.391 11.371 22.811	Sustainable Energy ⁴	4	Shirvan
MIT	4.213 11.308	Ecological Urbanism Seminar ⁴	4	Spirn
MIT	4.255 11.304	Site and Environmental Systems Planning ⁴	4	Ben-Joseph, Ocampo
MIT	11.269	Global Climate Policy and Sustainability	4	Knox-Hayes
MIT	11.382	Water Diplomacy: The Science, Policy, and Politics of Managing Shared Resources ⁴	4	TBA
MIT	11.413	The Economic Approach to Cities and Environmental Sustainability ⁵	4	Zheng
MIT	11.449	Decarbonizing Urban Mobility	4	Salzberg
MIT	11.474	D-Lab: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	4	Murcott, Hsu
MIT	11.631	Regulation of Chemicals, Radiation, and Biotechnology ⁶	4	TBA
MIT	12.387 15.874 IDS.063	People and the Planet: Environmental Governance and Science	4	Siddiqi

1. This course is intended primarily for PhD students in economics, political economy and government, public policy, or related fields with interests in applications in the environmental and natural resource area. Prerequisites include a graduate-level course in microeconomic theory, such as Econ. 2010a, Econ 2020a, API-109, API-110, or permission of

instructor.

2. Students who have not taken a course in negotiation will be required to attend a half-day review session during the first week of class.
3. Cross-registrants and Non-Degree Students will be enrolled on a space available basis after the enrollment deadline for the course. Students outside of HSPH must request instructor permission to enroll in this course.
4. Requires permission of instructor.
5. Prerequisite: [11.220](#), [14.300](#), or permission of instructor.
6. Prerequisite: [IDS.540](#) or permission of instructor.

APPROVED BUT NOT OFFERED IN 2025-2026:

For the below courses to be approved for the current academic year, they must be offered with the same course number, title, and instructor. The course must be reapproved if doesn't match the below version of the course.

SCHOOL	COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	UNITS	FACULTY
GSD	2362	Lost and Alternative Nature: Vertical Mapping of Urban Subterrains for Climate Change Mitigation (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Kim
GSD	3396	Thinking Landscape - Making Cities: Designing Regenerative Futures (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Wall
GSD	3465	Agropolitan Futures (not offered after 2022-2023)	4	Cairns
GSD	4495	Highways, Deforestation, and State-driven Colonization in Amazonia (not offered after 2022-2023)	4	Duran
GSD	5330	Healthy Places: COVID-19 and Cities (not offered after 2020-2021)	4	Forsyth
GSD	5395	Planning for Climate Change (last offered 2021-2022)	4	Kayden
GSD	5456	Climate Change, Real Estate, and Public Policy (last offered 2024-2025)	2	Seth
GSD	5465	Planning Sustainable Built Environments (not offered after 2022-2023)	4	Teicher
GSD	5517	Urban Adaptation (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Teicher
GSD	5519	Rockaway's Housing Superstorm: Between Rising Waters and Climate Gentrification (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Wall
GSD	6323	Brownfields: Remediation and Regeneration Practices (last offered 2019-2020)	4	Kirkwood
GSD	6361	Health Buildings (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Allen
GSD	6374	Advanced Applications in Sustainable Architecture (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Samuelson
GSD	6489	Climate Positive Design Lab (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Conrad
FAS	E-PSCI 239	The Climate Energy Challenge: A Foundation in Science, Technology and Policy (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Schrag
FAS	ESPP 90M	Natural Climate Solutions: Feasible of Fantasy? (last offered 2023-2024)	4	Schrag
FAS	ESPP 90P	Climate Responsibility and Climate Action (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Frumhoff
FAS	ESPP 90W	Global Wetlands: Boundary-spanning ecosystems for science, social justice, and public policy (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Matthes
FAS	GOV 1318	The Great Food Transformation (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Saha
HBS	MBA 1487	Cities, Structures, and Climate Shocks (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Macomber
HKS	IGA 402	The Climate Energy Challenge: A Foundation in Science, Technology and Policy (last offered 2024-2025)	4	Schrag
HKS	IGA 413M	The Energy-Climate Transition (last offered 2024-2025)	2	Lee
HKS	IGA 451M	Controversies in Climate, Energy and the Media (last offered 2019-2020)	4	Russell
HKS	IGA 565M	Analytical Methods for Complex Adaptive Systems (last offered 2022-2023)	2	Siddiqi
HLS	2417	Advanced Environmental Law in Theory and Application Law (last offered 2019-2020)	4	Lazarus
HLS	2662	Environmental Law in and After the Trump Administration Law (last offered 2019-2020)	4	Lazarus

HLS	2921	Climate Solutions Living Lab <i>(last offered 2022-2023)</i>	4	Joroff
HLS	2974	State Energy Law <i>(last offered 2024-2025)</i>	2	Peskoe
HLS	3238	The Law of Climate Adaptation <i>(last offered 2024-2025)</i>	2	Crawford
HSPH	EH 210	Social and Sustainable Innovation Driven by the Sustainable Development Goals <i>(last offered 2023-2024)</i>	2	Spengler
HSPH	EH 212	Food and the Global Environment <i>(last offered 2024-2025)</i>	4	Adamkiewicz
HSPH	EH 249	Built Environment, Nature and Health <i>(last offered 2024-2025)</i>	2	James
HSPH	ID 539	Built Environment, Human Energy Expenditure, and Public Health <i>(last offered 2022-2023)</i>	4	Lusk
MIT	11.376	Urban Sustainability in Action <i>(last offered 2020-2021)</i>	4	Layzer
MIT	11.475	Navigating Power and Politics in Water and Sanitation Planning <i>(last offered 2020-2021)</i>	4	Carolini
MIT	11.533	Ecological Planning with GIS <i>(last offered 2020-2021)</i>	4	TBA
MIT	11.S939	Resilient Code: Mexico City a Proactive Toolkit to Foster Equitable Resilience <i>(last offered 2019-2020)</i>	4	Bello Gomez
MIT	11.204 IDS.524	People and the Planet: Environmental Histories and Engineering	4	TBA
MIT	CMS.875	Reading Climate Through Media <i>(last offered 2024-2025)</i>	4	Tarker

