

Geographies of Energy and Natural Resources

ENVS316

Climate change, pollution, desertification and population explosions have posed severe threats to natural resources. The rising demands for energy, water, land and forests have also pushed our ecosystem to a 'tipping point'. This means we need to radically re-think how we accommodate the rapid growth of our economy, without compromising the sustainability of our natural environment.

This module will touch on agriculture, energy, marine and waste resources and consider how technology, governance and stewardship may offer solutions to these complex issues. Students are expected to analyse the dynamic relationships of the 'land-water-energy' nexus and to understand the inter-dependence between developed and developing countries over natural resource management. Students will also gain critical knowledge of the possible technological and governance interventions and solutions.

During lectures and workshops, students read case studies of different natural resources and explore the dilemmas of the most efficient and most equitable distributions of resources between different social groups. Students are expected to write a policy brief in an attempt to influence the governments to re-think their approaches to resources. Students will also sit an examination at the end of the module.

