



Michael Wara

Senior Research Scholar

Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Michael Wara is a lawyer and scholar focused on climate and energy policy.

Wara is Director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program and a senior research scholar at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment as well as Senior Director for Policy at the Sustainability Accelerator within the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability.

Wara organizes and manages cross-functional teams that provide fact-based, bipartisan, technical and legal assistance to policymakers, environmental justice advocates, and tribes engaged in the development of novel climate and energy law and regulation. He also facilitates the connection of Stanford faculty and students with cutting edge policy debates on climate, energy and climate impacts, leveraging Stanford's energy, climate and natural resource expertise to craft real world solutions to these challenges.

Wara's legal and policy scholarship focuses on wildfire, climate policy, electricity regulation, and insurance.. He collaborates with economists, engineers and scientists in research on the design and evaluation of technical and regulatory solutions to society's climate and energy challenges.

Wara has served as a Wildfire Commissioner for California, as a member of the California Catastrophe Response Council, the oversight body of the California Wildfire Fund, as a consultant to the Senate pro Tem on wildfire issues, and as a consultant to CPUC and OEIS on utility wildfire risk management. Wara has served on multiple National Academy of Sciences and California Council on Science and Technology reports.

Prior to joining Woods, Wara was an associate professor at Stanford Law School and an associate in Holland & Knight's government practice. He received his J.D. from Stanford Law School and his Ph.D. in Ocean Sciences from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Sr Research Scholar, Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Senior Director for Policy, Sustainability Accelerator, Doerr School of Sustainability, (2023- present)
- Director, Climate and Energy Policy Program, Woods Institute for the Environment, (2017- present)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Public Policy

LINKS

- Climate and Energy Policy Program: <https://woods.stanford.edu/research/climate-and-energy-policy-program>
- Stanford Sustainability Accelerator: <https://sustainability.stanford.edu/school/sustainability-accelerator>

Teaching

COURSES

2024-25

- Policy Practicum: Building A Sustainable, Transparent, and Humane Food System: LAW 809T (Spr)

2023-24

- Energy Law: LAW 2503 (Spr)
- Influencing Policy: SUSTAIN 232 (Win)
- Policy Practicum: Building A Sustainable, Transparent, and Humane Food System: LAW 809T (Spr)
- Policy Practicum: Smoke: Wildfire Science and Policy Lab: LAW 808D (Aut)

2022-23

- Policy Practicum: Smoke: SUSTAIN 329 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Policy Practicum: Buildings in the Energy Transition: Resilient, Clean and Just: LAW 808U (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Policy Practicum: Smoke: Wildfire Science and Policy Lab: LAW 808D (Aut, Win, Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Master's Program Advisor

Evan Ludington