

**Centre for Law and the Environment, UCC**

***Law and the Environment 2025***

**21st Annual Conference**



***Reframing Environmental Law for Accountability, Circularity, Sustainability and Justice***

**Thursday, 1st May 2025**

**Boole Lecture Theatres 1, 3, 4 and 6**

[Online Registration Now Open](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconference.ucc.ie%2Flaw-and-environment-conference-2025%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7Cafraser%40ucc.ie%7Ccf6aeaee774b4e4182f208dd7674fd31%7C46fe5ca5866f4e4292e9ed8786245545%7C0%7C0%7C638796967004132887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=60asOt%2BFw2ghCbA1dkA8vrpnJfckoHJ1iD7efM34nHc%3D&reserved=0)

  



**8:30 am Registration and Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)**

8:50 am Welcome: Prof Mark Poustie, Dean of the School of Law, UCC (Boole 3).

**Parallel Session 1: Materials, Waste & Circularity (Boole 4)**

Chair: Prof Owen McIntyre, School of Law, University College Cork:

9:00 am Prof Noreen O’Meara, Synnott Family Chair in EU Law, School of Law, University College Cork:

*Bridging High and Low Ambition in the Global Plastics Treaty Negotiations.*

9:30 am Prof Michael Morris, Prof. of Surface and Interface Chemistry, Trinity College Dublin:

*Emerging European Standards and Legislation for Circular and Sustainable Construction.*

10:00 am Dr Mary Dobbs, School of Law and Criminology, Maynooth University:

 *The Lost Purpose of “end-of-waste” Designation.*

**Parallel Session 2: Environmental Developments in International Law (Boole 3)**

Chair: Prof Ursula Kilkelly, Vice-President for Global Engagement, UCC

9:00 am Prof Giovanni Chiarini, College of Law and International Relations, Alfaisal University:

*The 2024 ICC OTP Policy on Environmental Crimes: Exploring Rome Statute Amendments to Ensure International Criminal Accountability.*

9:30 am Mr Naveed Ur Rehman, Advocate, High Courts of Pakistan:

*Impact of International Environmental Treaties on Pakistani Law and Environmental Justice in Displaced Communities.*

10:00 am Dr Wannette Van Eg Dom–Tuinstra, The Open University Law School & Arden University School of Law:

 *Sustainability and Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples.*

**Parallel Session 3: Developments in Marine Environment Law (Boole 1)**

Chair: Prof Mark Poustie, Dean, School of Law, University College Cork

9:00 am Dr Vincent Power SC, A&L Goodbody LLP / Adjunct Professor, School of Law, University College Cork:

*European Union Maritime Environmental Law: Evolution, Influences and Lessons*

9:30 am Mr Eoin Fannon BL, Law Library Dublin:

 *The Law on Undersea Cables and the Irish Environment.*

10:00 am Mr Kieran Kelleher, Fisheries, Oceans & Marine Law Specialist:

*Development of Regional Ocean Governance under the Nairobi Convention.*

**10:30 – 11:00 am Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)**

**Parallel Session 4: Developments in Climate Law and Litigation (Boole 4)**

Chair: Ms Finola McCarthy, RDJ LLP

11:00 am Ms Justine Schönfeld-Quinn, Centre for Environmental Justice, Community Law and Mediation (CLM):

*Strategic Climate Litigation in Ireland and the Centre for Environmental Justice at Community Law and Mediation (CLM).*

11:30 am Dr Rónán Kennedy, School of Law, University of Galway:

*Judicial Review Challenges to Government Climate Action Plans.*

12:00 pm Prof Jennifer McKay AM, University of South Australia:

*Long-term Detriments Trump Short-term Economics in Projects Contributing to Climate Change: Youth Verdict v Waratah Coal (Queensland).*

12:30 am Prof Patrick Parenteau, Professor of Law Emeritus and Senior Fellow for Climate Policy Vermont Law and Graduate School (online):
*Slapped! The Chilling Effect of the $600M Greenpeace Verdict.*

**Parallel Session 5: Key Sectoral Challenges in Environmental Governance (Boole 3)**

Chair: Ms Alison Fanagan SC, A&L Goodbody LLP

11:00 am Dr Alison Hardiman, Phillip Lee Solicitors, Dublin:

*Challenges & Opportunities in the Business of Restoring Ireland’s Peatlands*

11:30 am Prof Sarah Hendry, Dundee Law School, University of Dundee:

*Environmental Governance and Environmental Justice in Scotland – Drowning in Detail?*

12:00 pm Ms Patrycja Dorniak-Gelzer, German Federal Ministry of Environment, Berlin:

*Beyond Gestures: Why the EU Must Regulate Animal Agriculture for Real Climate Action.*

12:30 pm Dr Elena Kavanagh, School of Law, University College Cork:

*Indigenous Knowledge and Global Governance: Strengthening Legal Frameworks Through Synergies.*

**Parallel Session 6: Landscape, Property and Spatial [In]Justice in Intl. Law (Boole 1)**

Chair: Dr Karen Ray, Centre for Planning Education and Research, University College Cork

11:00 am Dr Amy Strecker, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin

 *Landscape, Property and Spatial [In]Justice in International Law.*

11:30 am Dr Amanda Byer and Dr Amy Strecker, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin:

*Placing Property in International Law: The Roots of Environmental Injustice.*

12:00 pm Dr Sonya Cotton, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin

*Who Stands on Land? Community (Dis)placement in South African and Namibian Land Claims and the Role of International Law.*

12:30 pm Ms Sinéad Mercier, UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin:

*A Legal Geography Analysis of the Corrib Gas Project.*

**1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch (Boole Basement, UCC)**

**Parallel Session 7: Planning, Development and Heritage Law (Boole 4)**

Chair: Dr Phyllis Comerford, School of Law, University College Cork

2:00 pm Mr Mark O’Brien O’Reilly BL, Francis Taylor Building, London:

*Heritage Assets and Development: The Approach of English and Irish Planning Law.*

2:30 pm Mr Sean Kirwan, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage:

 *The Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in Irish Law.*

3:00 pm Dr Maria Hallinan, Policy Manager, Irish Solar Energy Association:

*Shining a Light on Solar and Built Heritage: Balancing Ireland’s Renewable and Non-Renewable Resources.*

3:30 pm Ms Attracta Uí Bhroin:

*Chapters 2 and 3 of Part 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2024: A Paradigm Shift on Environmental Legal Costs and Public Accountability.*

**Parallel Session 8: Sunny Side Up: Exploring Solar Energy Developments, Opportunities and Challenges** **(Boole 3)**

Chair: Dr Rhoda Jennings, Office of the Attorney-General

2:00 pm Dr Eva Barrett, Director of Policy and Regulation at the Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA):

*Brief Introduction to the Solar Sector and the Supporting Renewable Energy Policy and Legal Framework.*

2:30 pm Mr Conor Linehan SC, Clarke Hill:

*Solar Sector Planning Opportunities and Challenges: Recent Developments, Decisions & Cases Reframing Environmental and Planning Law and Practic.*

3:00 pm Mr Steve McCarthy, Harmony Solar (formerly Fehily Timoney Consultants):

*Opportunities & Risks of Irish Solar Development: A Developer Perspective*.

3:30 pm Mr Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney Consultants:

*Best Practice in Solar Development, Public Engagement and Ecological Considerations.*



**Parallel Session 9: Disaster Preparedness & Response in Ireland and New Zealand** **(Boole 1)**

Chair: Dr Marie Aronsson-Storrier, School of Law, University College Cork

2:00 pm Mr David Joyce, Director of Services, Roads & Environment Operations Directorate, Cork City Council:

 [*Topic TBC*]

2:30 pm Dr Dug Cubie, School of Law, University College Cork:

Sea-level Rise and Human Mobility: The Legal Implications for Ireland’s Foreign and Domestic Policies.

3:00 pm Dr Holly Faulkner, MaREI Centre, University College Cork:

*Legal Preparedness for Large-scale Urban Disasters: Lessons from New Zealand.*

3:30 pm Panel Discussion

**4:00 – 4:30 pm Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)**

**Parallel Session 10: Renewable Energy and Climate Action: The *Coolglass* Case and Its Implications (Boole 4)**

Chair: Prof Aine Ryall, School of Law, University College Cork

4:30 pm Ms Fionna O'Regan BL, Cork Bar Library:

 *Coolglass v An Bord Pleanala*: *An Outline of the Judicial Position.*

5:00 pm Mr Alan Roberts, A&L Goodbody LLP:

*Coolglass v An Bord Pleanala: Implications for Renewable Energy Development.*

5:30 pm Mr Alan Doyle BL, Law Library, Dublin:

 *Coolglass* *and the Requirements of the 2015 Climate Act.*



**Parallel Session 11: The Onward March of Environmental (Human) Rights (Boole 3)**

Chair: Dr Dug Cubie, School of Law, University College Cork

4:30 pm Dr Richard Scriven, UCC Research & Innovation, University College Cork:

*Intersectional Environmental Justice: Interconnections Between Disability Rights and Environmental Law.*

5:00 pm Mr Tom Flynn SC, Law Library, Dublin:

*Recent Case Law of the European Court of Human Rights and Environment.*

5:30 pm Prof Aoife Daly, School of Law, University College Cork:

*How Child and Youth-Involved Climate Litigation is Child Participation: From Children’s Rights to Everyone’s Rights.*

**Parallel Session 12: Transnational Environmental Regulation (Boole 1)**

Chair: Prof Femi Amao, School of Law, University College Cork

4:30 pm Ms Chelsea Cunningham, Senior Regulatory Compliance Specialist & Head of Knowledge Partners, Compliance & Risks:

*The Compliance Conundrum: Untangling Product and ESG Regulations in the EU.*

5:00 pm Prof Catherine Malecki, Professor of Private Law, Rennes 2 University:

 *People, Planet and New Corporate Environmental Directors Duties.*

5:30 pm Ms Amy O’Halloran, School of Law, University College Cork:

 *Dispute Settlement and Legal Enforcement in the Transnational Arena.*

**6:00 pm Closing Remarks (Boole 3)**

**6:15 pm Conference Reception (Staff Common Room, Quad North Wing)**

Generously sponsored by RDJ LLP





Due to the very generous support of McCann FitzGerald, it has become possible to make this event free of charge for all participants. **Advance registration at the link below is essential. Early registration is advised.**

[Online Registration Now Open](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconference.ucc.ie%2Flaw-and-environment-conference-2025%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7Cafraser%40ucc.ie%7Ccf6aeaee774b4e4182f208dd7674fd31%7C46fe5ca5866f4e4292e9ed8786245545%7C0%7C0%7C638796967004132887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=60asOt%2BFw2ghCbA1dkA8vrpnJfckoHJ1iD7efM34nHc%3D&reserved=0)

**Continuing Professional Development:**

8 Hours Group Study CPD

If you require a CPD Certificate please tick [ ] here or e-mail aguinee@ucc.ie

All CPD Certificates will be forwarded following the Conference.

**Registration:**

Delegates may register online [here.](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconference.ucc.ie%2Flaw-and-environment-conference-2025%2Fregistration&data=05%7C02%7Cafraser%40ucc.ie%7Ccf6aeaee774b4e4182f208dd7674fd31%7C46fe5ca5866f4e4292e9ed8786245545%7C0%7C0%7C638796967004132887%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=60asOt%2BFw2ghCbA1dkA8vrpnJfckoHJ1iD7efM34nHc%3D&reserved=0)

**Conference Convenor Conference Secretary**

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**Conference Programme Overview**

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| **8:50 – 9:00 Welcome (Boole 3)** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 4)**Materials & Circularity**Noreen O’MearaMichael MorrisMary Dobbs | 9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 3)**International Env. Law**Giovanni ChiariniNaveed Ur RehmanWannette Tuinstra | 9:00 – 10:30 (Boole 1)**Marine Env. Law**Vincent PowerEoin FannonKieran Kelleher |
| **10:30 – 11:00 Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)** |
| 11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 4)**Climate Law & Litigation**Justine Schönfeld-QuinnRónán KennedyJennifer McKayPatrick Parenteau | 11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 3)**Sectoral Env. Challenges** Alison HardimanSarah HendryPatrycja Dorniak-GelzerElena Kavanagh | 11:00 – 1:00 (Boole 1)**Intl. Spatial [In]Justice**Amy StreckerAmanda Byer/Amy StreckerSonya CottonSinéad Mercier |
| **1:00 – 2:00 Lunch (Boole Basement)** |
| 2:00 - 4:00 (Boole 4)**Planning, Dev. & Heritage**Jones /O’Brien O’ReillySean KirwanMaria HallinanAttracta Uí Bhroin | 2:00 – 4:00 (Boole 3)**Solar Energy Development**Eva BarrettConor LinehanSteve McCarthyJim Hughes | 2:00 – 4:00 (Boole 1)**Disaster Preparedness & Response**Niall O’ConnorDavid Joyce / Peter Medway |
| **4:00 – 4:30 Tea / Coffee (Boole Basement)** |
| 4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 4)***Coolglass Case***Fionna O’ReganAlan RobertsAlan Doyle | 4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 3)**Env. Human Rights**Richard ScrivenTom FlynnAoife Daly | 4:30 – 6:00 (Boole 1)**Transnational Env. Law**Chelsea CunninghamCatherine MaleckiAmy O’Halloran |
| 6:00 – 6:15 (Boole 3)**Concluding Remarks (Boole 3)** |
| **6:15 – 8:00 Conference Reception (Staff Common Room, North Wing)****Journal Special Issue Launch** |

