

PROFESSIONAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Environmental law is the field of law that deals with the maintenance and protection of the natural environment, including measures to prevent pollution, conserve natural resources, and protect endangered species, as well as legislation to assign liability and remedy environmentally harmful incidents. This quick reference guide highlights the environmental law resources on Westlaw and shows you how to retrieve relevant documents.

Environmental Law

Environmental law practice typically involves issues such as those relating to land use restrictions; pollution; and disposal of radioactive, solid, and toxic wastes. Since the late 1960s, environmental law has grown quickly and become vastly more complex.

Environmental Law Resources on Westlaw

Westlaw includes an extensive collection of environmental law materials, including primary law, secondary sources, and federal briefs. News and business information databases cover developments in environmental issues and science. In each category listed below, a few key databases are highlighted. These databases and other environmental law–related resources can be accessed at the tabbed Environmental Practitioner page (Figure 1), or you can type a database identifier, e.g., **menv-st** for the Annotated Multistate Environmental, Health, and Safety Statutes database, in the *Search for a database* text box in the left frame. You can also click **View Environmental Directory** in the left frame to display the *Environmental Law* section of the Westlaw Directory.

Remember that the easiest way to retrieve a specific document when you know the citation is to use the Find service. Type your citation in the *Find by citation* text box in the left frame of a tabbed page and click **Go**.

STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

The Federal Environmental Law–Code and Regulations database (FENV-CODREG) contains federal statutes and regulations that relate to environmental protection and conservation. The ENFLEX® Environmental, Health and Safety U.S. Code Annotated database (ENFLEX-USCA) contains federal statutes pertaining to environmental and health and safety compliance issues. The MENV-ST database contains statutes covering environmental and health and safety matters from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Category:

Practice Area Fundamentals

For research assistance 24 hours a day, seven days a week, call the West Reference Attorneys at 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378)

or click **Help** on Westlaw® for a live help session.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATERIALS

Decisions by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other agencies interpret laws and regulations and are often a component of environmental law research. EPA decisions are contained in the Federal Environmental Law–EPA Decisions database (FENV-EPA), as well as in a variety of other databases containing decisions, memoranda, and releases.

CASE LAW

Court decisions that construe and review environmental laws, regulations, and agency decisions are another important source of information when you research environmental law. The Federal Environmental Law–Cases database (FENV-CS) includes cases from the federal courts that relate to environmental protection and conservation.

SECONDARY SOURCES

The Environmental Law–Law Reviews, Texts, and Bar Journals database (ENV-TP) includes analytical texts, law reviews, practice materials, and legal periodicals that discuss environmental protection and conservation.

FORMS AND CHECKLISTS

The Drafting Tools: Multistate Environmental Forms and Checklists database (ENVFORM-ALL) contains forms and checklists that are helpful in the practice of environmental law. To retrieve official federal environmental forms or forms and checklists in a particular area of environmental law, click a link, e.g., **Official Federal Environmental Forms**, in the *Forms, Checklists, and Clauses* section of the Environmental Practitioner page.

The screenshot shows the Westlaw website interface for the Environmental Practitioner page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'Law School', 'Westlaw', 'Law Review', 'moot Court', 'Ohio', and 'Environmental Practitioner'. Below the navigation bar, the page is organized into several columns and sections. On the left, there are 'Shortcuts' and 'Find by citation' fields. The main content area is divided into 'Resources' and 'Environmental Administrative Materials'. The 'Resources' section includes 'Search Combined Sources' and 'Statutes & Regulations' with a list of links such as 'United States Code Annotated', 'Code of Federal Regulations', 'Federal Register', 'Ohio State Statutes', 'Ohio Administrative Code', 'Ohio Legislation Tracking', 'Ohio Regulation Tracking', '50 State Survey - Environmental Law', and 'View Entire Statutes & Regulations Collection'. The 'Environmental Administrative Materials' section includes links for 'Federal Administrative Decisions', 'Environmental, Health & Safety Agency Guidance & Analysis', 'Ohio Environmental Law Administrative Decisions', 'Federal EDR Resources', 'Ohio Environmental Records', and 'View Entire Environmental Administrative'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Browse & Search Key Environmental Topics' (including 'KeySearch - Environmental Law') and 'Environmental News & Current Developments' (including 'Environmental News', 'Federal Environmental Law - News Releases', 'Environment & Energy Daily', 'Environmental Law Reporter News and Analysis', 'Greenwire', 'Land Letter', 'BNA Daily Environment Report', and 'View Entire News & Current Developments Collection'). At the bottom right, there is a section for 'Forms, Checklists & Clauses' with a description: 'Access a wide range of environmental forms, clauses and checklists from West's practice guides and statutes. Topics include discovery, audits, reporting, and more!' and 'OHIO: Discovery Audits'.

Figure 1. Environmental Practitioner page

For assistance using Westlaw, call 1-800-850-WEST (1-800-850-9378).
For free reference materials, visit west.thomson.com/westlaw/guides.