

	Primary Environmental Law	Scope	Legal mention of climate change	Impact assessment measures	Analysis
EU	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive	Mandates member states to assess environmental impacts, including GHG emissions, for various public and private projects, including gas and oil pipelines, refineries and oil extraction exceeding 500 tonnes/day.	Explicitly includes climate change considerations within environmental impact assessments.	Urges member states to incorporate climate-related mitigation measures when risks are identified.	The EU provides guidance on integrating climate change considerations into impact assessments , but its effectiveness varies among member states due to differences in implementation, resources and enforcement.
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	Complements the EIA Directive, focusing on strategic environmental assessments for plans and programs with potential environmental harm.			
UK	Environment Act 2021	Imposes binding targets for air quality, water, biodiversity and waste reduction. Creates the Office for Environmental Protection (OPE) to enforce compliance and hold government and public bodies accountable.	Underscores the imperative of addressing climate change. Mandates collaboration between the OPE and the Committee on Climate Change.	Lacks impact assessment measures. GHG emissions assessments are instead regulated by the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA) and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. CCA introduced legally binding national carbon budgets. EIA mandates project developers to evaluate and mitigate environmental impacts, including direct and indirect GHG emissions.	Despite climate considerations, the Act leaves gaps in addressing the country's ecological footprint, potentially undermining the government's credibility in leading global efforts to combat climate change and biodiversity loss .

US	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	<p>NEPA establishes a national policy for harmonising human activities with the environment, preventing damage, and promoting understanding of ecological systems and natural resources. The Environmental Quality (CEQ) was created to oversee federal agency compliance.</p>	<p>No specific mention of climate change. However, CEQ offers guidance to federal agencies on integrating climate considerations into their impact assessments and encourages them to include resilience and climate adaptation measures in their project proposals.</p>	<p>NEPA requires federal agencies to perform thorough environmental impact assessments, using Environmental Impact Statements for significant impact projects and Environmental Assessments for less impactful ones, but lacks mention of GHG assessments.</p>	<p>A study revealed insufficient consideration of climate change in federal energy project reviews. In response, in July 2023, CEQ proposed NEPA reforms, including more emphasis on climate change and environmental justice in the assessment of major federal projects.</p>
CA	Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA)	<p>CEPA provides federal authority for the regulation of a range of environmental concerns, including pollution, toxic substances and air quality, with the aim of protecting human and ecosystem well-being.</p>	<p>CEPA makes no specific mention of climate change within its text.</p>	<p>CEPA doesn't address project environmental assessments; the Impact Assessment Act (IAA) instead handles them. The IAA, managed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, assesses projects impacting 20 listed factors, including climate change. Projects like coal mines over 5,000 tonnes per day or fossil fuel projects exceeding 200 MW capacity trigger an automatic assessment.</p>	<p>CEPA has undergone recent reforms to incorporate the right to a healthy environment, but it has yet to include explicit references to climate change. Additionally, a review of the IAA revealed that it does not mandate assessments of small-scale fossil fuel projects, and proposals for new coal mines in biodiverse habitats persist.</p>
NZ	Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)	<p>The RMA governs land use, resource management and environmental protection in New Zealand. It covers a range of activities, including land development and environmental conservation.</p>	<p>Specifies that government representatives and local authorities should have particular regard for the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>The RMA allows authorities to assess a project's GHG emissions and its environmental impact with regard to climate change when deciding whether to approve or reject resource consent applications. For fossil fuel-related activities, applicants must show the infeasibility of</p>	<p>By the end of 2023, the New Zealand government plans to replace the RMA, viewed as lacking national direction, with three new frameworks. This move aims to enhance national environmental performance and tackle complex</p>

				low-emission alternatives, except for those emitting under 500 tonnes of CO2 per year.	challenges related to climate change and adaptation funding.
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