

HARVARD ENVIRONMENTAL LAW REVIEW Q&A FOR SCHOLARS

When and how do I submit an article?

HEL R's submissions window is open twice a year. We publish two issues per year, and accept four articles per issue. Typically, the Issue 1 submissions window opens in August and the issue is published in April, and the Issue 2 submissions window opens in February and the issue is published in August. HEL R accepts submissions on a rolling basis and leaves the window open until it selects the four pieces that will fill each Issue. Authors can submit their pieces during the submissions window either via Scholastica, or by emailing hlselrsubmit@gmail.com; HEL R reviews Scholastica and email submissions equally. Authors will be notified when the submissions window is open and closed via Scholastica and HEL R's X account (@HarvardELR).

How does HELR select which articles it publishes?

HELRL reviews articles in multiple rounds. The submissions committee, which is made up of HELRL members, conducts a first-round review of submitted articles. The submissions committee reviews articles along several criteria and recommends whether the managing editors for submissions should advance the article to the next stage of review. The rubric that the committee fills out is attached.

In the second round of review, the managing editors for submissions review the rubrics and the articles. The managing editors fill out a similar rubric, and recommend whether the editors-in-chief should advance the article to the next stage of review.

In the third round, the editors-in-chief review articles that have made it through the first two rounds of review. The editors-in-chief and the managing editors for submissions discuss which pieces they would like to extend an offer to. HELRL does attempt to fill each issue with articles of various topics, but above all else, HELRL values articles that are thorough, rigorous, well-supported, and BlueBooked correctly. Authors typically have a week to accept the publication offer. HELRL receives many submissions, and so while we wish we could respond to each article submission, it is impossible to respond to each submission.

What does HELR look for in articles?

The attached rubric provides a useful, but not comprehensive, sense of the characteristics that HELR looks for in the articles it publishes. In general, HELR looks at the novelty of the article, the strength and accuracy of the source citations, the quality of writing, the potential impact of the article in addressing and resolving gaps in environmental law or policy. HELR gives preference to articles between 20,000-25,000 words.

Where can I learn more?

You can learn more by visiting HELR's website (<https://journals.law.harvard.edu/elr/submissions/>) or email the editors-in-chief at hlselrsubmit@gmail.com.

Preview Review Form

Overview questions

Overview questions are required for all reviews submitted on Scholastica.
 All responses are **visible only to editors** and will not be shown to the author.

Overall Rating * 1 2 3 4 5

For this manuscript, I recommend: * Accept Reject

Comments for the editor *

bolditaliclink

Please give

feedback intended to help the editor make a publication decision

Rating scale questions

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Does the article have a clear and interesting thesis? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Does the article provide novel and well developed legal insight on a timely environmental topic? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Are the article's arguments fully developed? Does the article engage in deep critical analysis (e.g., address counterarguments)? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the article well written and enjoyable to read? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the article well-supported by citations to authority? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Are the footnotes and citations complete and properly formatted? * <i>only editors will see response</i> can't be blank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Open response questions

Does the article pertain to environmental law? It's a broad academic field, but consider if the article addresses one or more of the following (not an exhaustive list): pollution, land use, environmental justice, energy policy, climate matters, etc. *

only editors will see response

Please provide the article's thesis. Explain briefly why you believe this article does or does not make a timely contribution to the field of environmental law. *

only editors will see response



Please provide brief comments on the writing quality of the article, including if you found it enjoyable to read, the status of citations, and whether or not the article would need substantial improvements during the editing process. *

only editors will see response

