



GARN  
YOUTH CIRCLE

Earth Law Center (ELC) is a U.S.-based environmental nonprofit working to transform the law to recognize and protect Nature's inherent rights to exist, thrive and evolve. ELC seeks to advance environmental protection by incorporating Earth-based law or the Rights of Nature into environmental governance, including through educational initiatives.

ELC is a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature (GARN), and developed the curriculum for the first-ever Earth Law course at Vermont Law School. In addition to the only organization teaching Earth Law, we are creating the first Earth Law textbook with Wolters Kluwer; the final manuscript is expected to be completed March 2020.

Youth around the world are advocating for the Rights of Nature, and we have built a robust intern/volunteer program with a high volume of undergraduate and graduate students. Seeing a gap of youth involvement in the movement, we are helping law schools and their students incorporate the global Rights of Nature movement into their curriculums and student activities.

One such way is to start an Earth Law Club at your school, in partnership with ELC and the Youth Circle for the Rights of Nature. The Youth Circle Hub of GARN has the objective to empower youth to become ambassadors of the movement, generate positive impact and advocate successfully on behalf of the Rights of Nature and future generations.

We provide some great resources for steps you can take to start a club at your school! It starts with defining your vision and objectives.

- <https://www.pearsoned.com/you-can-start-your-own-club-in-college/>
- <https://blog.prepscholar.com/how-to-start-a-club-in-high-school>

### **What is the goal/purpose of the Earth Law Club?**

- Provide the opportunity for student-led/youth action and participation, whether starting up a new legal initiative or petitioning local governing bodies, in the Rights of Nature movement.
- Create a platform where we broaden the discussion and awareness on environmental justice and Rights of Nature.
- Offer hands-on experience for students interested in environmental law and policy
- Educate students on Earth Law/Rights of Nature and allow them to pursue practical applications of its concepts



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**What can you do in the Club?** The activities of the club are up to the students, but we offer some ideas and thoughts on what you can do!

- Prepare and practice legal arguments in mock trial setting, and write judgements;
- Draft local ordinances and/or resolutions; amend with a Rights of Nature perspective
- Comparative law and policy research and analysis of environmental laws or policies within the schools jurisdiction
- Draft comment letters and amendments to proposed law and policy
- Organize a conference or event with Rights of Nature experts
- Identify local environmental resources in need of protection and working with local/state governments to enact legal protections
- Read a Rights of Nature book or article every week and have “book-club” discussions
- Work with the school to petition for ‘greener’ or ‘earth-based’ products; recycling infrastructure etc.

Reporting and partnership with ELC? We are happy to help you along your Earth Law Club journey. Feel free to utilize us to:

- Review or provide insights into proposed activities
- Provide you with needed resources or experts in the field
- Provide expertise on legal initiatives
- Support legal initiatives through outreach and communications

We also would love to receive updates on what your Club is up to. We can share this information on our website, social media channels, and in our monthly newsletters! For more information, and to partner with ELC on creating a Club, contact Grant Wilson at [gwilson@earthlaw.org](mailto:gwilson@earthlaw.org).