

The Chancery Lane Project: Lawyers Enabling Solutions to the Climate Crisis



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Born out of conversations during London Climate Action Week 2019, *The Chancery Lane Project* (TCLP) is a collaborative initiative of commercial lawyers from around the globe whose vision is a world where every contract enables solutions to the climate crisis.

Lawyers draft and negotiate the contracts that govern transactions and relationships across the whole economy, presenting the opportunity to achieve more direct and immediate climate action rather than waiting for legislation that can take years to come into effect. The legal profession is in a unique position to enable solutions to the climate crisis and accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy. In addition, the risks presented by climate change are both dynamic and unprecedented. Relying on precedent-based approaches to contractual drafting for these unprecedented risks results in the failure to identify, efficiently price and allocate risk.

TCLP aims to raise awareness and mobilise the legal community about the role of commercial lawyers in the fight against climate change.

Work to date (including resources)

The project has over 1,300 active participants, across 250 organisations including 50% of the global elite law firms, and it has reached 73 countries so far. Its *100+ climate clauses* have been rigorously peer reviewed by experts, and are free for lawyers to include in precedents and a variety of legal agreements.

As well as its climate clauses that span the entire legal lifecycle from company inception to dispute resolution, TCLP has also published a comprehensive glossary to ensure consistent drafting across its resources and a range of other resources, including guidance notes and checklists to help lawyers use the clauses.

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As governments and organisations worldwide continue to make net zero commitments, TCLP resources offer practical tools to operationalise those commitments. In preparation for COP26 and to assist lawyers to meaningfully implement net zero into their organisations, TCLP launched its *Net Zero Toolkit* (Toolkit) last month. The Toolkit includes a suite of resources to help legal professionals understand the concept of net zero, how to align contractual drafting with climate goals, and how to strengthen net zero ambitions to align with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The Toolkit comprises:

- 95+ climate clauses, including over 30 ‘best-in class,’ high ambition clauses aligned with the Paris Agreement;
- net zero implementation tools to help lawyers understand the concept of net zero and the key issues to look out for when including net zero commitments in contracts;
- a drafting checklist and sample drafting for key net zero concepts;
- a net zero dashboard setting out the key concepts and what low top high climate ambition looks like (to help ratchet up ambition over time);
- a clause timeline; and
- a net zero transition map.

Phoebe Roberts and Charlotte Turner recently launched the Net Zero Toolkit in APAC.

TCLP’s resources are available at www.thechancerylaneproject.org, and are open source, and free to download.

Case studies

The clauses have been embedded in precedents of global law firms and multinational companies and incorporated into university law courses. In June 2021, LexisNexis UK published TCLP clauses and definitions for the first time in its practical guidance product [LexisPSL](#).

Further case studies can be found on the [TCLP website](#).



TCLP Net Zero Toolkit

TCLP APAC

The APAC arm of TCLP has been growing rapidly over the last 12 months, and just completed its own series of Net Zero Workshops that took place during the two weeks of COP26. There will be a range of APAC TCLP events taking place in 2022, details of which can be found in the 'ways to get involved' section below.

Ways to get involved in TCLP

No matter your practice area, sector or seniority, your perspective is needed to develop tangible, contractual solutions to the climate crisis we are all facing.

The easiest way to get involved and start creating impact is to embed the TCLP climate solutions into your precedents and commercial agreements. You can help TCLP to change market norms to reflect net zero ambitions by familiarising yourself with our [climate clauses](#), identifying the ones that are relevant to your practice, and starting to use them. Be sure to sign up to the [TCLP newsletter](#) to receive information about new resources and upcoming events.

Spread the word

TCLP has a range of resources on their [website](#) to help you spread the word about the project. These range from basic explainers to detailed presentations, everything you need to explain TCLP to your colleagues and peers.

Join the community

Join the TCLP [Slack group](#) and [LinkedIn group](#), and join conversations with inspiring professionals using contracts to fight the climate crisis.

Become a TCLP facilitator

TCLP is currently offering facilitator training where you will learn how to deliver TCLP's climate clauses in action and net zero drafting events within your organisation and professional network. Not only will you gain an in-depth knowledge of TCLP resources but you will make connections with other lawyers implementing climate clauses and 1:1 support from the TCLP events team. See the website for more information and the EOI form. Please state you are from the APAC region when you complete the EOI form so we can arrange training in the APAC time zones in the new year.

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Charlotte Turner is the Co-Lead of APAC at The Chancery Lane Project. Charlotte is also a Senior Associate in MinterEllison's climate risk governance team. Building on her background as an experienced litigation and administrative lawyer, Charlotte now specialises in climate risk through a finance, corporate governance and liability lens.



Phoebe Roberts is the Director of Implementation and Co-Lead of APAC at The Chancery Lane Project. Phoebe is also a Senior Associate in MinterEllison's climate risk governance team. She advises on contractual climate risk exposures (and opportunities) and the implementation of decarbonisation strategies across the value chain. With a background in construction projects both in Australia and the UK, Phoebe brings a specialist understanding of the complex legal and commercial nature of procurement and supply chains to climate risk advisory.



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