Kia maia 35TH ANNUAL ILANZ CONFERENCE 2023 Kia tū ngātahi Stand Tall Together

Can lawyers save the world? Part A: ESG, climate governance and climate-aligned contracting



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We're in the early stages of a global sustainability revolution that has the magnitude of the industrial revolution coupled with the speed of the digital revolution.

- Al Gore



The human project as a whole is experiencing a great metamorphosis. The collapse of the old paradigm is symptomatic of the demise of the old rules and norms, as it makes way for the emergence of new systems.

- Dr Nafeez Ahmed



Source: S&P 500, Morrison Foerster/Corporate Counsel Survey 2023, Morningstar/Sustainalytics









NZGIF/NEW ZEALAND GREEN INVESTMENT FINANCE

NZGIF/ NEW ZEALAND GREEN INVESTMENT FINANCE



NEW ZEALAND CLIMATE CLAUSE BANK



Boilerplate clauses (for all relevant documents)

Clause 1 - green dispute resolution (adapted from Toby's Clause)

Why you might use it

This clause can be used in any commercial agreement. It provides certainty that any dispute must be handled in a manner that minimises travel and reduces the use of paper. The clause also includes a commitment by both parties to offset emissions arising from any dispute and to consider how such dispute may be handled in a way that minimises greenhouse gas emissions.

The climate issue

Litigation and arbitration create considerable and unnecessary amounts of physical paperwork and printing. Paper is energy intensive and has a significant carbon and water footprint. Litigation and arbitration can also require significant travel commitments, for parties, lawyers, witnesses and experts (generally by air). Short-haul aviation is one of the most emissions intensive means of travel.

The clause

1. GREEN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- (a) In the event of any dispute arising out of, or in any way connected to, this document:
 - (i) [all notices and communications between the parties will be sent by electronic means;] $^{\rm I}$
 - the parties will use reasonable endeavours to ensure that meetings and dispute resolution processes (such as mediation and arbitration) relating to the dispute will, where reasonably practicable, be held virtually;
 - (iii) subject to paragraph (iv) below, where reasonably practicable, electronic documents will be used in negotiations, meetings and dispute resolution processes (such as mediation and arbitration) in preference to printed documents; and



The clauses

- Green Dispute Resolution
- Electronic Notices
- Further Climate Assurances
- Electronic Execution
- Virtual Board Meeting Requirements
- Simple Carbon Neutrality



- Carbon Footprint Management
- Termination for Greener Supplier
- Supply Chain Carbon Footprint Monitoring
- Environmental Lease

The New Zealand Climate Clause Bank is available to download for free at: https://nzgif.co.nz/investing/new-zealand-climate-clause-bank/

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Discussion



You are all climate lawyers now.

- John Kerry