



Climate change
and clean
technologies

Steven McNab is an “excellent thinker” and a “real environmental specialist,” according to sources. He is very experienced working in the state sector, having advised both the MoD and Cabinet Office on environment law”
Chambers UK 2016

“The individuals I have dealt with at Simmons are supremely capable, pleasant to work with, available literally 24/7 and able to deliver no matter how complex the deal.”
Chambers UK 2015

Core strengths

Simmons & Simmons has a world class climate change practice. We understand how significant climate change issues are for global business and our clients and we demonstrated our commitment when we became the world’s first carbon neutral international law firm.

We are trusted by clients ranging from global corporations and Government agencies to smaller clean-tech innovators to deliver practical and innovative solutions for the implementation of climate change initiatives. Our lawyers advise on all aspects of the law and regulations applicable to climate change. We advise project developers, investors and sponsors on carbon reduction and renewable energy schemes, helping them to successfully manage commercial risks and seize new business opportunities.

Our experienced lawyers are located in key geographies worldwide including Europe, the Middle East and Asia and advise on matters across the world including, in particular Africa. Our multidisciplinary team brings together specialist lawyers from the firm’s environmental, projects, funds, corporate finance, venture capital and private equity, intellectual property, real estate and tax practices to provide all-encompassing solutions.

Our services

Our market-leading reputation for excellence in climate change means that our clients bring us their toughest climate change challenges, whether they be in relation to regulatory compliance, projects or financing.

Projects

- development and structuring of emission reduction and renewable energy projects to ensure compliance and capitalise on national and international incentives
- financing capital structure and tax benefits
- all aspects of design, engineering & O&M
- environmental, project and micro-insurance and carbon credit guarantees
- fuel supply, power sales, interconnection and transmission agreements
- adaptation and carbon capture and storage projects
- technology commercialisation, joint ventures and intellectual property

Regulatory compliance and emissions trading

- maximising benefits and minimising liability under national and international regulations
- participation in emission trading systems including negotiation of carbon trading contracts in regulated and voluntary markets
- planning, sustainability and permitting
- director duties and corporate responsibility

Financing

- carbon, clean-tech and renewable energy fund formation
- renewable energy and climate change projects for institutional, private equity and venture capital investors
- tax and accounting treatment of carbon assets, liabilities and alternative group structure
- documentation of investments in environmental instruments
- venture capital and private equity investment in clean tech and carbon assets
- private placements, initial public offerings and other equity fundraisings (including on AIM, the Official List and other international exchanges)

Climate change litigation

- judicial review and planning inquiries into the delivery of projects with major climate change implications
- protestor action and strategies for working with NGOs
- advising on issues in relation to the EU ETS including judicial review proceedings

Visit our climate change microsite on our award winning legal resource elexica.com for international law and regulatory developments to address climate change

We support Leapfrog, a business led charity that manage professionals who volunteer their core skills to provide free advice to carbon reduction projects.

For further details please see www.carbonleapfrog.org

Members of the Executive Committee of the Legal Sector Alliance, a group of organisations committed to working collaboratively to reduce their carbon footprint and adopt environmentally sustainable practices.

Expertise in practice

Our lawyers' key experience includes advising:

Carbon Trust Enterprises Limited

- on the ground-breaking £500m Partnerships for Renewables project, a joint venture between Carbon Trust Enterprises Limited and HSBC Environmental Infrastructure Fund in relation to developing renewable energy projects on public sector sites

A bidder

- on the Desertec pathfinder project the Ouarzazate Project in Morocco, a 500 MW concentrated solar power project, the first concentrated solar project in Africa and one of the largest in the world

The lenders

- in relation to the financing of the development by Mainstream Renewable Power and Globeleq of three photovoltaic solar power projects in South Africa as part of the South African Renewable IPP programme

Programmatic CDM

- on several CDM projects from inception of concept to funding including wind farm and biodiesel developments in the Caribbean (and other small island states) and fuel efficient stoves in South America

Just Energy

- on the development of low-income community owned wind power developments in South Africa with Oxfam, Bank of America and Leapfrog

BP Alternative Energy Holdings

- on the constraints imposed on the storage of CO₂ in sub-sea bed geological formations

Insource Energy Ltd

- in relation to six energy-from-waste projects, including drafting model partnering agreement, development and service agreements, as well as supporting contracts

Rhodia Energie (Orbeo)

- on 2 of the World's largest CDM projects in Brazil and Korea

Department of Innovation, Universities & Skills

- on the establishment of the new £1bn Energy Technologies Institute to develop new low carbon energy technologies

Leading investment banks and hedge funds

- on documenting the trade of high volume contracts for the sale and purchase of CERs

An oil and gas major

- on the world's largest wind farm project on the Thames estuary

EIDA

- on managing the largest artificial lake in Europe and the associated hydropower infrastructure in Alentejo, Portugal

Deutsche Bank AG

- on the financing of several plants for the production of

electric and thermal energy from renewable sources in Italy

4RAE

- on a secured, convertible loan facility to Sustainable Forestry Management Limited with a view to generating and selling the resulting carbon credits

UN ICAO

- on the design of an international emissions trading system for aviation

Greenko, Solar Integrated Technologies and Agcert

- on their successful UK IPO's

Carbon Trading Platform

- on a major joint venture collaboration with a major global bank

Rhodia

- on strategic and compliance advice regarding their participation in UK Emissions Trading Scheme

Commercial Offset Retailer

- on the negotiation of a "Gold Standard" VER emission reduction purchase agreements

Oxara Energy Group and its subsidiaries

- in relation to their litigation proceedings in relation to the purchase of biogas plants in France

Transport for London

- on the implementation of the London Low Emissions Zone scheme

Key international contacts

Key contact biographies can be viewed at simmons-simmons.com

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