

Transition to green energy

We support our clients engaging in and affected by the green energy transition as they develop new and innovative solutions and adapt their businesses toward transformation of the global energy sector from fossil-based to low and zero-carbon energy sources.

The issue

Energy transition describes the global pathway in energy production and consumption away from fossil fuels towards meeting global energy demand through the implementation of clean energy targets. This is being driven by:

- the increasingly widespread deployment of renewable and low carbon electricity generation and progress in energy innovation, in particular, solar, wind, nuclear, hydro, tidal, geothermal, biomass, and hydrogen
- technology and digitalisation that are enabling a more diverse, flexible, decentralised, low carbon electricity generation mix
- the electrification and decarbonisation of transport, heat and energy intensive industrial processes
- an increasing consumer and investor focus on climate change and corporate responsibility linked to a new collection of hard and soft laws which drive sustainability

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDGs”) 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and 13 (Climate Action) are highly relevant to achieving universal access to reliable and sustainable energy sources.

What we do

We have a leading green energy and low carbon practice advising many clients on the transition to renewable energy and reducing their carbon footprint while ensuring regulatory and legislative compliance. We have one of the largest energy practices in the world and carry out a significant amount of green finance work. In addition, we take our own impact on the climate very seriously and support the UN SDGs.

From the Clean Air Act to the European Green Deal and UK Climate Change Act, to the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, hard and soft law in this area is growing in volume and impact.

We advise on:

- meeting increasing global demand for energy with reduced emissions
- delivering on Paris Agreement and UN SDG commitments
- deploying renewables and nuclear generation
- sustainability and social impact principles and best practices, training governments, corporates and investors
- moving towards natural gas, LNG, hydrogen fuels and carbon capture, utilisation & storage as lower carbon solutions
- complying with new laws and regulations requiring increased disclosure, energy efficiency and low carbon solutions

Our impact

We have partnered with numerous clients to achieve their energy transition goals and drive change. Examples include:

- Introducing a sustainability pricing mechanism indexing the margin of a client’s €4 billion syndicated revolving credit facility to its environmental, social and governance criteria
- Advising The Crown Estate on the delivery of 7-8.5GW of new offshore wind generation in England and Wales
- Advising the largest U.S. developer of solar photovoltaic projects on project, tax, and renewable energy credit issues, including supply agreements, construction contracts, and power purchase agreements
- Sponsoring and contributing to the Chancery Lane Project where we are working with clients to “Rewire Contracts and Laws to fight Climate Change”
- Advising offshore wind developers in the nascent U.S. market regarding federal permitting, cultural protection, and land use clearances
- Advising on the licensing of the first advanced reactor project in the United States and the first commercial fusion demonstration facility.
- Advising on the first and largest PPP deal in the energy-from-waste sector in Poland in relation to designing, building, financing, and operating an energy-from-waste facility

Useful links

- [Climate Change](#)
- [Business Integrity Group](#)
- [Business Integrity and Sustainable Development](#)
- [Renewable Power](#)
- [Energy Regulatory](#)
- [Energy Legislation and Power](#)
- [Impact of COVID-19 on the Infrastructure and Energy Sector](#)

Relevant contacts

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|---|---|
|  | Alex Harrison
Partner, London
alex.harrison@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Brian Chappell
Partner, Baltimore
brian.chappell@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Amy Rorna
Partner, Washington, D.C.
amy.roma@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Carla Luh
Consultant, Hamburg
carla.luh@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Alex Wong
Partner, Singapore
alex.wong@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Hilary Tompkins
Partner, Washington, D.C.
hilary.tompkins@hoganlovells.com |
|  | Philip Brown
Partner, London
philip.brown@hoganlovells.com |

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www.hoganlovells.com

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