

From: [Smith, Randy](#)
To: [Johnston, Renee](#); [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
Cc: [Sutherland, Sue](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Griffiths, Rob](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Duffy, Lisa](#); [Hunt, Ryan](#); [Pintor, Lauren](#); [Wilson, Robyn](#); [Washburn, Shannon](#); [Kress, Cathann](#); [Talbot, Ann](#); [Warren, Adam](#); [Eveland, Jessica](#); [Brown, Trevor](#)
Subject: Proposal to revise the Environmental Policy and Decision Making BS ENR, including a name change to the program
Date: Friday, July 24, 2026 12:18:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Jeanne and Renee:

The proposal from the School of Environment and Natural Resources to revise the Environmental Policy and Decision Making major, including changing the major's name to Environmental Policy, was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on July 23, 2026. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

Due to the name change, the proposal will now be sent to the Board of Trustees for action at its meeting on **August 20, 2026**. If approved by the Board, my office will work with you on the approval process with the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

Once fully approved, the Office of the University Registrar will work with you on any implementation issues.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions please contact the Chair of the Council, Professor Sue Sutherland (.43), or me.

Randy



W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

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From: [Osborne, Jeanne](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#)
Cc: [Reed, Katie](#); [Violet, Cynthia](#); [Lewandowski, Monica](#); [Fries, Sara](#); [Pintor, Lauren](#); [Johnston, Renee](#); [Lower, Brian](#)
Subject: Requesting CAA Approval for revision to the Environmental Policy and Decision Making BS ENR, including a name change to "Environmental Policy"
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 2:13:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[EP Major Eff AU27 Combined Files.pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Smith,

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences is requesting Council on Academic Affairs approval for revision to the current Environmental Policy and Decision Making BS ENR, including a name change to Environmental Policy BS ENR, as summarized below and outlined in the attached proposal, effective AU27.

The proposed changes to the major, proposed to be titled Environmental Policy, involve the simplification of degree requirements and expansion of flexibility for students to achieve the completion of their degree program in a timely and straightforward manner. The changes also align with the academic expectations of the School for undergraduate programs and strengthen applied skills and career-relevant training for students in the major. The proposed changes follow a thorough review by the faculty in the School, and were inclusive of student and advisor comments as well as consideration of the needs of students in their educational journey.

Overall, it is estimated that the change to the major is less than 20% and there is no anticipated impact on the assessment plan for the major. Current students will not be affected by these changes, and any impacts will be managed by petition.

This proposal has been approved by the Academic Affairs Committee of the School of Environment and Natural Resources and endorsed by the CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs. Please let me know if any additional information is needed in support of this request.

Sincerely,

Jeanne



Jeanne M. Osborne

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'Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change' (Bob Kerrey)



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March 23, 2026

TO: CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs
FROM: SENR Academic Affairs Committee (AAC)
RE: Environmental Policy (EP) Major Revision

Dear CFAES Committee on Academic Affairs,

The School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) has reviewed and revised the Environmental Policy and Decisions Making (EPDM) major, including changing the major's name from Environmental Policy and Decision Making (EPDM) to Environmental Policy (EP). The updates to the major are intended to strengthen the program, ensure alignment with school expectations, and better serve both current and future students. The SENR Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) approved the revised major on October 14, 2025. Attached you will find the original EPDM major curriculum, an explanation of the changes, and the new EP major curriculum. Please find below a summary addressing the required elements for curricular proposals.

1. Rationale for the Proposed Changes

The proposed revisions are designed to better align the curriculum with emerging trends in student interests and current workforce needs. The changes also incorporate newly developed course offerings, reflect alignment with SENR's revised School core, and support recruitment efforts through a clarified and rebranded program name. Collectively, these adjustments position the major to remain competitive, coherent, and responsive to the evolving academic and professional landscape.

2. Assessment Plan

We do not anticipate any changes to the existing assessment plan for the revised EP major. Our understanding is that the current plan will continue to apply, as the proposed curricular revisions do not alter the major's learning outcomes or assessment framework.

3. Accommodation for Current Students

These revisions will not affect existing requirements for current students. All students will continue to follow the degree requirements associated with the catalog year under which they entered the major, ensuring that no students experience disruption or changes to their planned



academic pathway. Upon approval of the new EP major, the existing EPDM major will be discontinued and will no longer be available to new students.

4. Estimated Percentage Change to the Major

The proposed revisions result in an overall modification of **less than 20%** to the existing major curriculum. Most core components of the major remain intact, and the updates primarily involve reorganizing course groupings, integrating newly developed offerings, and refining language to improve clarity and alignment with the revised program structure. While these adjustments strengthen coherence and better reflect current academic and professional expectations, they do not represent a substantial overhaul of the degree. As a result, the EP major maintains continuity in its foundational learning outcomes while incorporating targeted improvements that will enhance the student experience.

Thank you for your consideration of these revisions. I welcome any questions or feedback from the committee and appreciate your time and attention to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Brian H. Lower, Co-chair AAC

School of Environment and Natural Resources
Environmental Policy & Decision Making

**New GE for students beginning
Autumn 2022 & beyond**

COURSE & NUMBER	Units		COURSE & NUMBER	Units	
UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (GE)					
Foundations	24		Major Prerequisites		
Writing & Info Literacy	3		Math 1130 (College Algebra for Business) or 1148 (College Algebra)	Recommend Overlapping all Major Prerequisite Courses with the GE	
Math & Quantitative Reasoning or Data Analysis <i>Math 1130/1148❖</i>	4				
Literary, Visual & Performing Arts	3				
Historical & Cultural Studies	3				
Natural Science: <i>Chem 1110❖</i>	5		SENR CORE REQUIREMENTS		
Social & Behavioral Sciences: <i>ENR 2300❖</i>	3		ENR 1100 (ENR Survey) AU/SP	1	
Race, Ethnicity, & Gender Diversity	3		ENR 2100 (Intro to Environmental Science) AU/SP/SU	3	
Thematic Pathways	8-12		ENR 3300 (AU/SP/SU) or 3300E (AUTUMN ONLY) (Intro to Forestry, Fisheries & Wildlife)	3	
Citizenship for a Diverse & Just World	4-6		ENR 3400 (Psychology of Environmental Problems) [▲] AUTUMN ONLY	3	
Theme of Choice <i>Recommend overlap with SENR Core</i>	4-6		ENR 3200 (Environment and Natural Resources Policy) [▲] AU/SP	3	
Bookend Courses	2		ENR 3700 (Intro to Spatial Info for Natural Resources) AU/SP	3	
GenEd 1201 (Launch Seminar)	1		ENR 4900.01 (Senior Capstone) AU/SP/SU	3	
GenEd 4001 (Reflection Seminar)	1		EPDM CORE REQUIREMENTS (See page 2)		
Major Supporting Courses	16		- Foundations	9 hrs	
Biology 1114.01 (Form, Function, Diversity, & Ecology)	4		- Human Systems	21 hrs	
ENR 3000 (Soil Science) AU/SP/SU	3		- Natural Systems	5-6 hrs	
ECON 2001.01 / AEDECON 2001 (Microeconomics)	3		EPDM Specializations: (See pages 3-5)		
ENR 2000 (Natural Resources Data Analysis) AU/SP	3		- Communication and Behavior Change		
ENR 2367 (Communicating ENR Info) AU/SP	3		- Environmental and Social Justice		
Free Electives	0-5*		- Policy and Governance		
*electives required will depend on course selection; a minimum of 121 hours is required for graduation. MINIMUM 2.0 CUMUL. GPA REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION MINIMUM 2.0 MAJOR GPA REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION			❖Prerequisite and/or corequisite to EPDM major; recommend taking as part of GE Foundation.		
			▲GE Theme Course		
			MINIMUM HRS FOR GRADUATION		121 Hours

EPDM Core Requirements	Units
Foundations (Take ENR 4400 and select 2 additional courses)	9
ENR 4400 Environmental Law and Legal Process <i>(required)</i> SPRING ONLY	3
AEDECON 4310 Environmental Natural Resources Economics AU/SP/SU	3
COMM 2596 Introduction to Science, Risk, Environmental, and Health Communication <i>(required for CBC specialization)</i>	3
PHILOS 2342 Environmental Ethics OR POLITSC 3450 Ethics and Public Policy	3
PUBAFRS 2110 Introduction to Public Affairs <i>(required for P&G specialization)</i>	3
Human Systems (Select 7 courses for a minimum 21 credit hours total)	21
ENR 3470 or 3470E Religion & Environmental Values in America SPRING ONLY	3
ENR 4450 Climate Change Policy AUTUMN EVEN Yrs. ONLY	3
ENR 5400 Interventions to Promote Pro-Environmental Behavior AUTUMN ONLY	3
ENR 5210 US Environmental Impact Assessment AUTUMN ONLY	3
ENR 5211 International Environmental Impact Assessment SPRING ONLY	3
ENR 5451 Water Policy & Governance <i>(pre-req: 3200)</i> SPRING ONLY	3
ENR 5325 Forest and Public Lands Policy SPRING ODD Yrs.	3
ENR 3500 [▲] (AU/SP) or 3500H (AUTUMN ONLY) Community, Environment and Development	3
ENR/WGSST 3530 Women, Environment and Development SPRING ONLY	3
ENR 5480 Local Peoples and International Conservation SPRING EVEN Yrs.	3
RURLSOC 5540 Population, Place and Environment SPRING EVEN Yrs.	3
ENR 5797.01-.04, .Study Abroad New Zealand, Australia	3
<i>**Other courses may be added with faculty advisor approval</i>	
Natural Systems (Select 2 courses for a minimum of 5 credit hours total)	5-6
EARTHSC 2204 Exploring Water Issues	3
ENR/EARTHSC 2155 Energy and Environment SPRING ONLY	3
ENR 3280 Water Quality Management AU/SP/SU (Stone Lab)	2
EEOB 3410 Introduction to Ecology	4
ENR 3322 Forest Ecosystems AUTUMN ONLY	3
GEOG 3900 Global Climate Change: Causes and Consequences	3
GEOG 5900 Weather, Climate and Global Warming	3
PUBHEHS 3310 Current Issues in Global Environmental Health	3
PUBHEHS 4325 Climate Change and Human Health	3
ENR 5797.01-.05, .06, Study Abroad New Zealand, Australia, or Iceland	3
<i>**Other course may be added with faculty advisor approval</i>	

EPDM Major Specialization	Units
Select courses from 1 of the 3 specialization areas below for a total of 12 credit hours <i>Note: courses cannot double count for EPDM Core Requirements, other courses may be added with advisor approval</i>	
Communication and Behavior Change	12
Select at least two from the following list:	
PSYCH 3325 Introduction to Social Psychology	3
COMM 3340 Principles of Environmental Campaigns	3
COMM 4240 Science Communication	3
PSYCH 4508 Psychology of Judgment and Decision Making	3
Choose additional courses from the following:	
COMM 2331 Strategic Communication Principles	3
COMM 3332 Risk Communication	3
COMM 3333 Crisis Communication	3
COMM 4820 Public Opinion and Communication	3
ENR 5400 Interventions to Promote Pro-environmental Behavior AUTUMN ONLY	3
POLITSC 3170 Political Psychology	3
PSYCH 2303 Positive Psychology	3
PSYCH 3340 Introduction to Life Span Developmental Psychology	3
PSYCH 3550 Psychology of Childhood	3
PSYCH 4630 Attitudes and Persuasion	3
PSYCH 5620 Technology, Efficiency and Happiness	3
Environmental and Social Justice	12
Take the following two courses:	
RURLSOC 5580 Social Impact Assessment AU/SP	3
SOCIOL 3460 Environmental Justice	3
Choose two additional courses from the following list:	
RURLSOC 5500 Diffusion of Innovation AUTUMN ONLY	3
CRPLAN 3500 The Socially Just City	3
ENR / WGSST 3530 Women, Environment, and Development SPRING ONLY	3
RURLSOC 5540 Population, Place, and Environment SPRING EVEN Yrs.	3
PUAFRS 5240 Race and Public Policy in the United States	3

Policy and Governance	12
Select at least two from the following list:	
PUBAFRS 3000 Public Policy Analysis	3
PUBAFRS 4000 Public Policy Evaluation	3
PUBAFRS 3500 Public Management	3
POLITSC 3115 Introduction to the Policy Process	3
Choose additional courses from the following:	
POLITSC 4115 Bureaucracy and Public Policy	3
POLITSC 4125 American State Politics	3
POLITSC 4127 City Politics	3
POLITSC 4175 Women, Government, and Public Policy	3
POLITSC 4335 International Environmental Politics	3
PUBAFRS 2120 Public Service and Civic Engagement	3
PUBAFRS 3140 Nonprofit Management and Governance	3
PUBAFRS 4020 + 4021 + 4191.02 Washington Academic Internship Program*	9
PUBAFRS 4510 Law and Public Affairs	3
PUBAFRS 5600 Science, Engineering and Public Policy	3
PUBAFRS 5591 Lobbying and Government Relations	3

* this three-part sequence counts for 9 credits; students will then take 3 instead of 6 credits from the prior “choose two” list

Proposed Changes to EPDM Major Creating a New EP Major

Summary of Changes

The proposed new Environmental Policy (EP) major retains the academic strengths and core policy foundations of the original Environmental Policy and Decision Making (EPDM) major while streamlining the structure, removing specializations, expanding flexibility, and strengthening applied skills and career-relevant training.

Below is a side-by-side summary of **what remains the same** and **what changes** as SENR transitions the **Environmental Policy and Decision Making (EPDM)** major to the new **Environmental Policy (EP)** major. The focus is on curriculum structure, requirements, and academic emphasis.

Components That Remain the Same

- **Overall academic focus**
 - Both majors emphasize environmental policy, governance, human–environment systems, and interdisciplinary study grounded in natural and social sciences.
- **University (GE) requirements**
 - Students in both majors complete standard university General Education requirements, including Foundations, Bookend courses, Thematic Pathways, and Citizenship for a Diverse & Just World.
- **Key prerequisite courses**
 - Math 1130/1148 (College Algebra)
 - ENR 2100/2101 (Introduction to Environmental Science)
 - ENR 2300 (Society & Natural Resources)
- **Core SENR coursework**
 - ENR 1100 (ENR Survey)
 - ENR 2000 (Natural Resources Data Analysis)
 - ENR 2100 (Introduction to Environmental Science)
 - ENR 2300 (Society and Natural Resources)
 - ENR 2367 (Communicating ENR Information)
 - ENR 3300 (Intro to Forestry, Fisheries, & Wildlife)
 - ENR 3700 (Intro to Spatial Information for Natural Resources)
 - ENR 4900.01 (Senior Capstone)
- **Foundational policy and social science courses**

Proposed Changes to EPDM Major Creating a New EP Major

- ENR 3200 (Environment and Natural Resources Policy)
 - ENR 3400 (Psychology of Environmental Problems)
 - ENR 3500 (Community, Environment and Development)
 - ENR 4400 (Environmental Law and Legal Process)
 - AEDECON 4310 (Environmental Economics)
 - PHILOS 2342 (Environmental Ethics)
 - **Total degree requirements**
 - 121 total credit hours
 - Minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA
 - Minimum 2.0 major GPA
-

Components That Change

- **Major name**
 - *EPDM (Environmental Policy and Decision Making) → EP (Environmental Policy)*
 - New name provides clearer focus and increased visibility for students and stakeholders.
- **Major structure**
 - **EPDM** used a **specialization model** (Communication & Behavior Change; Environmental & Social Justice; Policy & Governance).
 - **EP** replaces specializations with a **more flexible, modular structure**, including:
 - EP Core
 - Directed Electives
 - Policy Skills and Tools
 - Coupled Systems
- **Minimum graduation requirement**
 - C- or better is required for all major coursework, including SENR Core and Major requirements.
- **Core credit distribution**
 - EPDM core included **35–36 required hours** plus a 12-credit specialization.
 - EP reorganizes requirements into:

Proposed Changes to EPDM Major Creating a New EP Major

- 18 credits of EP Core
- 12 credits of Directed Electives
- 9 credits of Policy Skills and Tools
- 6 credits of Coupled Systems
- This maintains overall rigor while improving clarity and student choice.
- **Enhanced skills emphasis**
 - EP introduces a **Policy Skills and Tools** requirement, emphasizing applied competencies such as:
 - Policy analysis and evaluation
 - Public management and nonprofit governance
 - Sustainability metrics
 - Experiential learning (e.g., Washington Academic Internship Program)
 - Emerging tools (e.g., Generative AI)
- **Broader elective flexibility**
 - EP allows greater flexibility in selecting electives across policy, justice, governance, and coupled human–natural systems, rather than limiting students to one specialization track.
- **Updated and expanded course options**
 - New or newly emphasized courses in EP include:
 - ENR 3900 (Sustainability Metrics)
 - ENGR 2194 (Unlocking Generative AI)
 - ENR 5510 (Interdisciplinary Team Science)
 - ENR 2501 (Introduction to Sustainability)
 - Courses are grouped to highlight applied policy competencies and systems thinking.
- **Simplified curriculum presentation**
 - EP curriculum is more streamlined and transparent, making degree planning easier for students and advisors.

School of Environment and Natural Resources
Environmental Policy
Revision for AU '27 and beyond

COURSE & NUMBER	Units	COURSE & NUMBER	Units
UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS (GE)	34-38	MAJOR PREREQUISITES	11
Foundations	23-24	Math 1130 (College Algebra for Business) or Math 1148 (College Algebra)	4
Writing & Info Literacy	3	ENR 2100/2101 (Intro to Environmental Science)	4
Math & Quantitative Reasoning or Data Analysis <i>Math 1130/1148 ✦</i>	4	ENR 2300 (Society & Natural Resources)	3
Literary, Visual & Performing Arts	3	SENR CORE REQUIREMENTS	16
Historical & Cultural Studies <i>ENR 3470 ^</i>	3	ENR 1100 (ENR Survey)	1
Natural Science <i>ENR 2100 and 2101 ✦</i>	4-5	ENR 2000 (Natural Resources Data Analysis)	3
Social & Behavioral Sciences: <i>ENR 2300 ✦</i>	3	ENR 2367 (Communicating ENR Info)	3
Race, Ethnicity, & Gender Diversity	3	ENR 3300 (Intro to forestry, fisheries, & wildlife)	3
Thematic Pathways	8-12	ENR 3700 (Intro to Spatial Info for Natural Resources)	3
Citizenship for a Diverse & Just World <i>ENR 2400 ^</i>	4-6	ENR 4900.01 (Senior Capstone)	3
Theme of Choice <i>Recommend overlap with EP Core ^</i>	4-6	EP MAJOR REQUIREMENTS	45
Bookend Courses	2	EP Core	18
GenEd 1201 (Launch Seminar)	1	ENR 3200 (Environment and Natural Resources Policy) [▲]	3
GenEd 4001 (Reflection Seminar)	1	ENR 3400 (Psychology of Environmental Problems) [▲]	3
MAJOR SUPPORTING COURSES	7	ENR 3500 (Community, Environment and Development) [▲]	3
ECON 2001.01 / AEDECON 2001 (Microeconomics)	3	ENR 4400 (Law and Legal Process)	3
Additional Natural Science GEOG 1900, ANTHROP 2200, ENR 3000/3001, BIOL 1101, BIOL 1114 [▲]	4	AEDE 4310 (Environmental Economics)	3
		PHILOS 2342 (Environmental Ethics)	3
FREE ELECTIVES	~5-9*	EP Directed Electives (page 2)	12
*Electives required will depend on course selection; a minimum of 121 hours is required for graduation. ✦Prerequisite to EPDM major; recommend taking as part of GE Foundation. ^ Recommended GE option ▲GE Theme Course		Skills and Tools (page 2)	9
		Coupled Systems (page 2)	6
		MINIMUM 2.0 CUML. GPA REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION MINIMUM 2.0 MAJOR GPA REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION C- or better required for all ENR core & major courses	
		MINIMUM HRS FOR GRADUATION	121

Environmental Policy Directed Electives (Select 4 courses for a minimum 12 credit hours total)	12
Environmental Policy and Governance	
ENR 4450 Climate Change Policy (<i>every other year</i>)	3
ENR 5325 Forest and Public Lands Policy (<i>every other year</i>)	3
ENR 5451 Water Policy & Governance	3
ENR 5649 Wildlife Conservation Policy	3
Environmental and Social Justice	
ENR/RURLSOC 4500 Asset-based Community Development	3
RURLSOC 5540 Population, Place and Environment (<i>every other year</i>)	3
<i>**Other course may be added with faculty advisor approval</i>	
Policy Skills and Tools (Select 3 courses for a minimum of 9 credit hours total)	9
ENGR 2194 Unlocking Generative AI	3
PUBAFRS 3000 Public Policy Analysis	3
PUBAFRS 3500 Public Management	3
PUBAFRS 3140 Nonprofit Management and Governance	3
ENR 3900 Sustainability Metrics	3
PUBAFRS 4000 Public Policy Evaluation	3
PUBAFRS 4020 + 4021 + 4191.02 Washington Academic Internship Program*	9
ENR 5210 US Environmental Impact Assessment	3
ENR 5211 International Environmental Impact Assessment	3
RURLSOC 5580 Social Impact Assessment	3
ENR 5400 Interventions to Pro-Environmental Behavior	3
PUBAFRS 5591 Lobbying and Government Relations	3
<i>**Other course may be added with faculty advisor approval</i>	
Coupled Systems (Select at least 2 courses for a minimum 6 credit hours total)	6
ENR 2155 Energy and Environment	3
ENR 2501 Introduction to Sustainability [▲]	4
ENR 3280 Water Quality Management	2
ENR 5480 Local People and International Conservation (<i>every other year</i>)	3
ENR 5600 Sustainable Ag and Food Systems	3
ENR 5797.01-.05, .06, Global Education New Zealand, Australia, or Iceland	3
<i>**Other course may be added with faculty advisor approval</i>	