

TUWaterWays

Water News and More from the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
January 25, 2019

Get that resume in!

The Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy is in the market for our next postgraduate research fellow to start up in August! And this is the last week of our search. The window closes on January 31st. If you're graduating from law school (JD or LLM) in Spring 2019 or already graduated in 2018, and you're interested in joining us here at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy, then check out [this job posting](#) and send your resume on in! We'd love to hear from you.

Small water systems struggling across Louisiana

Try not to fixate on the fact that someone named a subdivision "Ozone Pines," and check out this new [story](#) from TheLensNOLA. Drinking water infrastructure in the state as a whole grades "D-." That's like a typo away from completely failing. So, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the [New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board](#) isn't the only drinking water system on the [struggle bus](#). It seems that only an emergency on the scale of St. Joseph can get these smaller systems out of the tough spot they're in, but that would leave rate payers facing bills larger than they're used to. Have we simply reached a moment where many poor, rural Americans simply cannot afford clean water?

It's time to end plastic pollution (but not plastic itself) say multinational corporations that make or depend on plastic.

The Alliance to End Plastic Waste [launched](#) a new campaign last week, with companies [pledging](#) \$1 billion to combat plastic waste, especially through collection and recycling programs in East and Southeast Asia. The timing wasn't an accident, either. It launched last week in London so they could court others this week in Davos. Of course, all of these companies have [billions of dollars invested](#) in the continued production of plastic, so they had to do something to counter [plastic bans](#) and the like. The launch even quoted Sir David Attenborough, who has [documented and spoken out against](#) plastic pollution in the oceans. Either way, we should listen to him. After all, it was his brother who [brought back the dinosaurs](#).

Maybe someone should [spare no expense](#) in developing [hagfish slime](#) as a plastic replacement. The stuff can already best everything [from a shark to a Prius](#). Let's turn it into biodegradable bottles and shopping bags!

Americans are paying more attention to climate change than ever, but it's coming for your groundwater, nonetheless.

The **Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy** is a program of the Tulane University Law School.

The Institute is dedicated to fostering a greater appreciation and understanding of the vital role that water plays in our society and of the importance of the legal and policy framework that shapes the uses and stewardship of water.

Coming up:

[Coastal Law CLE](#)

March 14-15, 2019
New Orleans, LA

Tulane Environmental Law Summit

March 22 & 23, 2019
New Orleans, LA

Water jobs:

[Senior Research Fellow](#)

Institute on Water Resources Law & Policy
New Orleans, LA

[Program Manger](#)

Water Education for Latino Leaders
Los Angeles, CA

[2019 Summer Internship](#)

Center for Water Security and Cooperation
Washington, DC

[Gulf Program Manager](#)

SouthWings
New Orleans, LA

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Like [Wrigley's Gum](#), climate change's impacts on groundwater will last longer! A new [report](#) from scientists at Cardiff University has used a global-scale model to show that climate change will have massive impact on aquifers, and that those aquifers will be responding to those changes for hundreds of years. A press release used the term "time bomb" to describe the study, so publications ranging from those catering to [peyote enthusiasts](#) to those catering to [power tool enthusiasts](#) stood up and took notice.

Perhaps the increasing attention to climate change issues is because of (or responsible for) [record-high levels](#) of climate change concern on the part of our notoriously fact-averse fellow Americans. Polling on the matter shows the good and the bad of it ([no sight of the ugly](#)). [Two polls](#) show that a vast majority of Americans are personally concerned about climate change. Another poll shows that the Green New Deal has "[strong bipartisan support](#)." However, the flipside is polling that shows 57% of Americans are willing to pay a steady \$1/month fee to battle climate change (not bad), as opposed to just 28% of Americans willing to pony up \$10/month (not good!). [Lotsa luck, climate change candidate Jay Inslee!](#) No, really, lotsa luck. We're all going to need it.

This summer in Australia suuuucks.

[Fish have died](#). [Horses have died](#) (don't click if you don't want to see exactly that). Mayors are [petitioning](#) state government to reprioritize water use to favor critical human water use. The nation's longest river has [dried up](#) and left algae-choked puddles behind, and infrastructure projects threaten to make that situation worse. Reservoirs on that river system have gotten below 1% capacity, leading to [debates](#) about whether to raise or eliminate weirs or dams. With temperatures surpassing [42°C](#) so regularly now, installation of desalination facilities for groundwater might be the only option, but how long until that groundwater runs out? Meanwhile, Aboriginal communities in the area are left wondering how resources that they have depended on for hundreds of years are suddenly gone.

Out on the coast, Sydney is getting a [desalination plant](#) of its own up and running, hoping to stave off the worst effects of a drought that has been much more severe inland.

And, just to cap things off, up in far north Queensland, where plentiful rain does fall and keep tropical rainforest healthy, invasive yellow crazy ants are threatening to kill off native small species (like they've done on [Christmas Island](#)), and the government funding for a program to [battle](#) the voracious, invasive, poison-spitting, super colony-forming, scale insect-farming terrors faces uncertain funding this year. A continent famous for animals that could [kill you](#), and it's an invasive species that could be its most dangerous.

We should all probably learn more about coastal law

Because the coasts are [where it's at](#), man! Which is why on March 14 and 15, 2019, this Institute, the Tulane ByWater Institute, and the Seminar Group are hosting exactly the [Coastal Law program](#) you have been dreaming about. It's got all the best stuff: great speakers, continuing education credits for lawyers, engineers and planners, coffee breaks, chairs and tables. It's even now got a special \$100 discount for readers of TUWaterWays! Just use offer code SPP100B at check out. (It suddenly feels like we're hosting every podcast ever). Seating is limited, [so act now](#).