

chicago style for environmental law citations

Understanding Chicago Style for Environmental Law Citations

chicago style for environmental law citations is a crucial element for legal scholars, practitioners, and students navigating the complex world of environmental regulations and case law. Accurately citing environmental statutes, regulations, judicial opinions, and scholarly articles ensures the integrity of research, facilitates verification, and adheres to academic and professional standards. This guide delves into the intricacies of Chicago style as applied to environmental law, covering fundamental principles, common source types, and the specific nuances of referencing diverse environmental legal documents. Mastering these citation practices is not merely about following a format; it is about contributing to a transparent and credible body of legal knowledge. We will explore the foundational elements of Chicago style, then move on to detailed guidance for citing primary and secondary sources relevant to environmental law, offering clarity and practical examples to demystify the process for all users.

Table of Contents

- Introduction to Chicago Style for Environmental Law
- Core Principles of Chicago Style Citation
- Citing Primary Environmental Law Sources
 - Federal Statutes and Codes
 - State Statutes and Codes
 - Federal Regulations (Code of Federal Regulations)
 - State Regulations
 - Judicial Opinions (Case Law)
 - Administrative Decisions
- Citing Secondary Environmental Law Sources
 - Environmental Law Treatises and Books
 - Environmental Law Journal Articles

- Environmental Law Reports and Manuals
- Other Scholarly Works
- Specific Considerations for Environmental Law Citations
 - Agency Guidance Documents
 - International Environmental Agreements
 - Legislative Histories
- Bibliography and Footnote Formatting

Core Principles of Chicago Style Citation

The Chicago Manual of Style (CMOS) offers two primary citation systems: the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system. For legal scholarship, especially within environmental law, the notes-bibliography system, which relies on footnotes or endnotes, is generally preferred. This system allows for more detailed explanations and citations within the text without disrupting the narrative flow. The core principle is to provide sufficient information for the reader to locate the source accurately and efficiently. This involves consistently presenting author, title, publication details, and locator information (such as page numbers or volume and reporter designations).

Key elements of a Chicago style citation, whether in a footnote or bibliography entry, include the author's name (reversed for bibliography), the full title of the work, publication information (city, publisher, year), and specific locators like page numbers. The exact format will vary depending on the type of source being cited, but the underlying goal remains the same: clarity and precision. Understanding the relationship between the footnote citation and its corresponding bibliography entry is also essential, as the bibliography provides a consolidated list of all sources consulted.

Citing Primary Environmental Law Sources

Primary sources form the bedrock of environmental law research, encompassing statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions. Accurate citation of these materials is paramount for demonstrating the legal basis of arguments.

Chicago style provides specific guidelines for each of these categories.

Federal Statutes and Codes

When citing federal statutes, the citation typically includes the title number of the United States Code (U.S.C.), the abbreviation for the code, the section number, and the year of the code edition. For example, the Clean Water Act might be cited as 33 U.S.C. § 1251 (2018). If referencing a public law number, which is often more precise for specific legislative acts, this can also be included. The Public Law number includes the Congress number and the sequential law number within that Congress. It is important to consult the most recent edition of the U.S.C. or a reliable legislative database for the correct citation.

State Statutes and Codes

Citing state statutes follows a similar pattern to federal statutes but uses the specific abbreviation and numbering system of the relevant state's codified laws. Each state has its own official or commonly used compilation of its statutes. For instance, a citation to the California Public Resources Code would include the relevant division, part, title, chapter, section, and the year of the code. Examples might include Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000 (West 2022) for the California Environmental Quality Act. Always verify the correct abbreviation and format for the specific state you are researching.

Federal Regulations (Code of Federal Regulations)

Federal regulations are primarily found in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Citations to the CFR include the title number, the part number, and the section number, followed by the year of the CFR edition. For instance, a regulation concerning hazardous waste management under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act might be cited as 40 C.F.R. § 262.11 (2023). It is crucial to use the most up-to-date version of the CFR, as regulations can be amended frequently. Including the specific publication year ensures the reader knows the version of the regulation being referenced.

State Regulations

State regulations are published in state administrative codes. Similar to state statutes, the citation format will vary by state. Generally, it will include the state's administrative code abbreviation, the relevant title or chapter, the article or section number, and the year of publication. For

example, a citation to the California Code of Regulations might look like Cal. Code Regs. tit. 22, § 66262.11 (2023). Accuracy in identifying the correct administrative code and section is vital for legal research validity.

Judicial Opinions (Case Law)

Citing judicial opinions in Chicago style, particularly for legal contexts, often follows conventions established by legal citation manuals, which can sometimes diverge slightly from the broader CMOS guidelines for non-legal texts. However, the core principles of identifying the court, case name, volume and reporter, and starting page number remain. For environmental law cases, this might involve citing a Supreme Court decision like *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007). The citation includes the case name, the volume number of the reporter, the reporter abbreviation, the page number where the case begins, and the year of the decision. Specific regional reporters or official reports should be used as appropriate.

Administrative Decisions

Environmental law often involves decisions from administrative bodies, such as those issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or state environmental agencies. Citations to these decisions should include the agency name, the decision title or docket number, the date of the decision, and any available reporter or compilation where the decision can be found. For example, a citation might appear as *In re Hazardous Waste Disposal*, E.A.B. No. 92-10, slip op. at 5 (E.P.A. Admin. Law. Aug. 3, 1993). The specific details required will depend on how these decisions are officially published or archived.

Citing Secondary Environmental Law Sources

Secondary sources provide analysis, commentary, and interpretation of environmental law. Properly citing these materials is essential for supporting research and acknowledging the work of other scholars. While CMOS offers general guidelines for books and articles, adaptations may be necessary for highly specialized legal publications.

Environmental Law Treatises and Books

When citing environmental law treatises or books, the citation in a footnote typically includes the author's name, the title of the book in italics, the

publication information (city, publisher, year), and the specific page number(s) referenced. In the bibliography, the author's last name comes first. For example, a footnote might read: William H. Rodgers Jr., *Environmental Law: Air and Water Pollution*, § 2.1, at 57 (1986). The bibliography entry would be: Rodgers Jr., William H. *Environmental Law: Air and Water Pollution*. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1986. Consistency in detailing publication information is key.

Environmental Law Journal Articles

Citing articles from environmental law journals follows the standard CMOS format for periodicals, with specific attention to legal journal conventions. A footnote would typically include the author's name, the article title in quotation marks, the journal title in italics, the volume number, the first page of the article, and the specific page number(s) referenced. For example: Emily J. T. Jones, "Climate Change Litigation and the Future of Environmental Justice," *Environmental Law Review* 45 (2015): 301, 315. The corresponding bibliography entry would be: Jones, Emily J. T. "Climate Change Litigation and the Future of Environmental Justice." *Environmental Law Review* 45 (2015): 301-350. The use of precise page numbers ensures easy retrieval.

Environmental Law Reports and Manuals

Reports and manuals published by environmental organizations, government agencies, or legal publishers require careful citation. The format will depend on whether the document is treated as a report, a handbook, or a chapter within a larger compilation. Generally, it will include the authoring organization or individual, the title of the report or manual, publication details, and specific page references. For instance: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations," *EPA Fact Sheet*, EPA 816-F-97-004 (1997). The accuracy of the report number and issuance date is important for identification.

Other Scholarly Works

This category encompasses a wide range of materials, including conference proceedings, working papers, and unpublished manuscripts related to environmental law. The citation format should provide as much identifying information as possible, including author, title, date, and any available identifiers or retrieval locations. For unpublished works, information about the author's affiliation or where the document can be accessed is crucial for verification.

Specific Considerations for Environmental Law Citations

Environmental law is a dynamic field that draws upon a variety of international agreements, agency guidance, and legislative histories. Chicago style accommodates these specialized sources with specific formatting nuances.

Agency Guidance Documents

Guidance documents issued by environmental agencies like the EPA provide interpretations and directives for regulations. These should be cited with the issuing agency, the title of the document, the document number if available, and the date of issuance. For example: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Guidance for Remediation of Contaminated Sediments," EPA 823-B-98-001 (1998). If the guidance is available online, a URL and access date may also be included if appropriate for the specific publication context.

International Environmental Agreements

Citing international treaties and agreements requires identifying the agreement's title, its status (e.g., treaty, protocol), the date it was opened for signature or entered into force, and its official publication source, such as the United Nations Treaty Series (U.N.T.S.). For example, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted Dec. 11, 1997, U.N.T.S. No. 30822 (entered into force Feb. 16, 2005). Clarity on the treaty's status and publication is key.

Legislative Histories

A legislative history is a collection of documents related to the passage of a particular law, including committee reports, floor debates, and amendments. Citing a legislative history involves identifying the specific law and then listing the key documents that comprise its history, often sequentially by the congressional session and type of document. For instance: Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-549, 104 Stat. 2399 (1990) (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.). A detailed legislative history would then enumerate the Congressional Record citations and committee report numbers.

Bibliography and Footnote Formatting

The bibliography in Chicago style is an alphabetized list of all sources cited in the text, providing a comprehensive overview of the research. Footnotes, conversely, provide the specific citations for each piece of information drawn from a source. For footnotes, the author's name is typically given in first name-last name order, while in the bibliography, it is reversed. Titles of books and journals are italicized, while article titles are enclosed in quotation marks. Page numbers in footnotes are generally preceded by "at" or just indicated numerically, whereas bibliography entries focus on the range of pages for articles or the entirety of a book.

Precision in punctuation, capitalization, and the order of elements is critical for both footnotes and bibliography entries. For environmental law citations, ensuring that all relevant statutory or regulatory identifiers, case reporter details, and publication years are accurately presented enhances the credibility and utility of the work. Regular consultation of the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*, along with legal citation guides, is recommended for addressing any ambiguities or highly specific citation needs in environmental law scholarship.

FAQ

Q: What is the primary difference between the notes-bibliography system and the author-date system in Chicago style for environmental law citations?

A: The primary difference lies in how sources are referenced within the text. The notes-bibliography system uses footnotes or endnotes for citations, allowing for more detailed explanations alongside the citation, while the author-date system uses parenthetical in-text citations (Author Year, page) that correspond to an alphabetized reference list at the end of the document. For legal scholarship, especially in environmental law, the notes-bibliography system is generally preferred due to its flexibility and capacity for supplementary information.

Q: How do I cite a specific section of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in Chicago style for an environmental law paper?

A: To cite a specific section of the CFR, you include the title number, the abbreviation "C.F.R." (with periods), the section symbol (§), the section number, and the year of the CFR edition. For example: 40 C.F.R. § 262.11

(2023). Ensure you use the most current edition available and consult The Chicago Manual of Style for any specific nuances.

Q: What is the correct way to cite a federal statute like the Clean Air Act in Chicago style for environmental law?

A: Federal statutes are typically cited using the title number of the United States Code (U.S.C.), the abbreviation "U.S.C.", and the section number. For example, the Clean Air Act could be referenced as 42 U.S.C. § 7401 (2018). Including the year of the U.S.C. edition is standard practice. If referring to a specific public law, that can also be included for greater precision.

Q: How do environmental law treatises differ in citation from standard books in Chicago style?

A: The citation format for environmental law treatises in Chicago style is largely the same as for other academic books, but it's crucial to be precise with legal terminology and volume/section numbers. In footnotes, you'll include the author, title (*italicized*), publication details, and specific page(s). In the bibliography, the author's last name comes first, followed by the title and publication details. For example: Rodgers Jr., William H. *Environmental Law: Air and Water Pollution*. St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1986.

Q: Should I include URLs for online environmental law sources when using Chicago style?

A: While Chicago style has traditionally focused on print sources, it allows for the inclusion of URLs and access dates for online materials when they are essential for locating the source. For dynamic online content or sources that are not easily found in print, including the URL and the date you accessed the material is recommended in footnotes or the bibliography. However, for well-established online versions of statutes or regulations, this might be less critical if a standard print citation exists.

Q: What are the key components of citing a judicial opinion in Chicago style for environmental law cases?

A: Citing judicial opinions in Chicago style for environmental law typically involves the case name, the volume number of the reporter, the abbreviation for the reporter (e.g., U.S. for the Supreme Court, F.3d for federal circuit courts), the page number where the case begins, and the year of the decision. For example: *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, 549 U.S. 497

(2007). Legal citation manuals often provide more specific guidance that supplements Chicago style.

Q: How do I cite international environmental agreements like the Paris Agreement in Chicago style?

A: Citing international environmental agreements involves identifying the agreement's title, its official publication source (e.g., United Nations Treaty Series), the date it was opened for signature or entered into force, and any relevant treaty number. For instance, the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, done at Paris, Dec. 12, 2015, T.I.A.S. No. 16-1104, 3049 U.N.T.S. 164 (entered into force Nov. 4, 2016).

Q: What is the purpose of a legislative history in the context of environmental law citation?

A: A legislative history is a collection of documents that trace the development and intent behind a particular piece of legislation, such as an environmental statute. In citations, it serves to provide deeper context and evidence of legislative intent beyond the statutory text itself. It can include committee reports, floor debates, and amendments, offering valuable insights for interpreting the law.

Q: Are there specific rules for citing EPA guidance documents in Chicago style?

A: Yes, when citing EPA guidance documents, you should generally include the issuing agency (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), the title of the document, any document numbers (like EPA numbers), and the date of issuance. If the guidance is primarily available online, providing a URL and access date can be beneficial for locating the resource.

Q: How should I handle newly enacted environmental laws that may not yet be fully codified in the U.S.C. or state codes?

A: For newly enacted environmental laws that are not yet codified, it is best to cite them by their Public Law number (for federal laws) or their chapter or act number (for state laws), along with the year of enactment. For example: The American Innovation and Choice Online Act, Pub. L. No. 117-257, 136 Stat. 2346 (2022). This ensures accuracy as the law may not yet appear in standard code compilations.

Chicago Style For Environmental Law Citations

Chicago Style For Environmental Law Citations

Related Articles

- [chicago style for educational leadership](#)
- [chicago style for digital publishers](#)
- [chicago style film bibliography](#)

[Back to Home](#)