

Report urges overall strategy for national security and climate crisis

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The Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL) and Annenberg Public Policy Center have released "[Lessons from the Arctic: The Need for Intersectoral Climate Security Policy](#)," a report on critical climate-change security issues with recommendations written by Alexandra A.K. Meise, a senior fellow at CERL.

"The 2018 National Defense Authorization Act affirmed that '[climate change](#)' presents a direct threat to national security," but most people don't fully understand the repercussions—not just to the environment but

also to the economy, military readiness, [human security](#), spread of disease, migration, and more," Meise said. "This report aims to educate people about these threats and make clear why an all-encompassing security strategy is imperative."

Drawing on the documented effects of climate change in the Arctic region and beyond, Meise identifies [security threats](#), challenges, and opportunities posed by climate change across economic, human, and hard security sectors. The report details fragmented approaches to climate change policy; calls for coordinated policy support from federal, state, and local government; and makes recommendations for how the Biden-Harris administration should prioritize institutional expertise, appointments, and international outreach to facilitate an integrated climate security approach and agenda.

"CERL views climate change as a national [security](#) threat that raises myriad ethics and rule of law issues, especially with regard to the communities and livelihood of Indigenous peoples as well as nations' unilateral territorial shifts to capitalize on new commercial opportunities," said Claire Finkelstein, law professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and faculty director of CERL. "Xander's report sheds vital light on these and other areas of intense concern."

Meise added, "To secure the United States against climate's threats, there needs to be a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach on a scale that so far has been out of our country's reach. But the Biden-Harris administration has committed to taking bold action to address climate change as a [national security](#) threat. Given the appointments the transition has announced so far, we anticipate progress on this front, especially if the new Congress also supports climate action."

More information: Lessons from the Arctic: The Need for

Intersectoral Climate Security Policy: www.law.upenn.edu/live/files/1...y-policy-paper-meise

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