**Mission**

The National Association of Environmental Law Societies (NAELS) is a 501(c)(3) organization made up nearly seventy member law student groups, a distinguished Board of Directors, and an Executive Director. NAELS seeks to:

- Mobilize environmental law students in support of the environmental public interest movement.
- Train, support, and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders.
- Enhance the law school experience for students by fostering and expanding their study of environmental law.
- Promote the awareness of environmental issues and environmental rights among the general public and the legal community and encourage responsibility and activism in the public interest by environmental law practitioners.

**Statistics**

- NAELS has Member student groups at nearly seventy schools in over thirty states.
- With an estimated twenty students per group NAELS reaches nearly 1500 students.
- NAELS elects a national student governing board of 32 students each year. Through their activities these students receive training in various fields including law and policy, advocacy, organizing, and management, as they run NAELS.
- With an estimated budget of $1000 per member group, NAELS members have access to nearly $70,000 per year in funding for education, training, and advocacy in the environmental law and policy sector in addition to an extensive set of law school resources including environmental law and policy experts, facilities for events, and AV equipment.
- NAELS Executive Director recently developed a set of online resources and will use them to launch several national programs to connect these students to opportunities while helping the public interest environmental law and policy sector.

**History**

Beginning in 2000, NAELS has expanded from a loose coalition of student groups to a growing professional organization. Over the past four years NAELS has incorporated, appointed a Board of Directors, hired an Executive Director, created a professional website, increased our student and alumni networks, and connected students to opportunities, and laid the groundwork to launch programmatic efforts. In addition, NAELS groups run an annual environmental law conference and publish a quarterly newsletter.

Recent funding from the V. Kann Rasmussen Fund and the Hewlett Foundation of our new project, Campus Climate Neutral, have allowed NAELS to launch its first major national project. These accomplishments provide just a glimpse of the potential of NAELS. During that time the number of NAELS chapters has tripled.
Programs / Projects

In 2007-2008, NAELS will pursue three projects intended to use the power of our Member student groups and the Internet to mobilize law students in support of public interest environmental solutions.

The metrics below only represent projections for the coming academic year but the long-term potential for these projects is enormous and includes an annual return of tens of thousands of dollars to the sector, free student hours, and dozens of regional events.

**Campus Climate Neutral**
The goal of "CCN" will be to mobilize law students and other graduate students to work on campus and global climate change solutions as part of their graduate education. CCN will begin with a series of climate change events organized by NAELS member groups. At these events NAELS will solicit projects for graduate students to pursue through externships, independent studies, senior writing requirements, and volunteer efforts and list them in an online database.

**2006-2007 Goals:**
- 10 Regional events in Fall 2007
- 150 law students signed up for climate change projects
- 1000 graduate students educated on issues of climate change and potential solutions
- Enhance campus greening efforts and launch efforts on 25 new campuses

**Online NAELS Resource Center**
NAELS will work with non-profit organizations, law schools, and environmental law professors to create, collect, and market national and international resources and opportunities in environmental law and policy. NAELS will list these opportunities online in a searchable database.

**Online ELS Support Center**
NAELS will create and maintain an online center to support the creation and development of environmental law student groups. The center will support these groups as they launch projects, educate and train their student members, connect to regional professionals, and plan events. Center resources will include a list of regional speakers, a list of group activities and opportunities, and tips and tutorials on forming an ELS, developing a budget, raising funds, etc.

**2007-2008 Goals:**
- Sign Up 150 Member ELSs
- Develop a network of 3000 students
- 10 Regional CCN/NAELS Events
- 50 State CCN/NAELS Events
- 150 ELS CCN/NAELS Events
- Expand Alumni Network to 500 NAELS Alumni
- Bring together 250+ students for national conference at Vermont Law School
- Raise $100,000 to hire additional central staff to support general NAELS activity.