

Post Graduate Diploma in Environmental Law and Policy
June 2022-2023

Last date for submission: 8th August 2022

Total Marks: 50

The world limits and marks allocated to each question are mentioned after the question

Course 1: Introduction to Environmental Law

Assignment 1

Question 1

Electric Vehicles (EVs) are growing in popularity throughout the globe. In 2021, EV sales more than doubled to 6.6 million, representing close to 9% of the global car market.¹ However, several issues are being raised that challenges EVs as “clean” by taking into consideration the entire life-cycle emissions and not just tailpipe emissions. At the same time, EVs are being discussed as a mechanism for creating a carbon credit scheme.² In light of the above, answer the following questions:

- a) What is carbon offsetting? Is utilising EVs as a carbon offset mechanism effective in tackling climate change? If not, what policy measures may be undertaken to ensure EVs mitigate climate change to its fullest potential?

(15 marks, 1000-1200 words)

- b) What are carbon credits? Discuss the viability of promoting EVs through carbon credits in India.

(5 marks, 600-800 words)

¹ Leonardo Paoli & Timur Gül, ‘Electric cars fend off supply challenges to more than double global sales’, (IEA, 30th January, 2022) Available at: <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/electric-cars-fend-off-supply-challenges-to-more-than-double-global-sales>.

² See: Kok Yufeng, ‘Carbon credits scheme based on electric vehicle charging launched to support green transition’, (The Straits Times, 13th April, 2022), Available at: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/carbon-credits-scheme-based-on-electric-vehicle-charging-launched-to-support-green-transition>.

‘Towards net-zero: How EV industry can earn carbon credits’, (Financial Express, 12th March, 2022) Available at: <https://www.financialexpress.com/auto/electric-vehicles/towards-net-zero-how-ev-industry-can-earn-carbon-credits/2458678/>.

Question 2

The Sustainable Development Report, 2022 states that for the second year in a row, the world is no longer making progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The International Fund for Animal Welfare released the second edition of their report titled ‘thriving together: the critical role of animals in achieving the SDGs’ which “*examines the connections between animal welfare, wildlife conservation and the natural world and their critical role in achieving the SDGs.*”

In light the above, examine how animal welfare is vital in achieving the objectives of SDG 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life under water) and 15 (Life on Land)?

SDG Report, 2022:

<http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/sustainable%20development%20report%202022.pdf>

IFAW Report: <https://www.ifaw.org/resources/role-animals-achieving-sdgs>

(15 marks, 800-1000 words)

Question 3

What is an eco-centric approach? How is it different from an anthropocentric approach? Giving examples, does India’s environmental law and policy framework follow an eco-centric or anthropocentric approach? Discuss the need to shift towards an eco-centric approach in light of relevant judicial decisions.

(15 marks, 1000-1200 words)