

Energies and Sustainable Development



Deregulation of energy markets, combined with the increasing intervention of Governments to promote sustainable development, creates many economic opportunities. This entails complex regulation which is constantly changing and has to be regularly reviewed by the major players in this business sector so as to monitor the inherent risks of their projects.



The lawyers in Bignon Lebray's **Energies and Sustainable Development** team are specialised in public law, town planning, classified installations and environmental law, real estate, industrial contracts, project finance, corporate and tax law so as to enable their clients to benefit from comprehensive expertise in this field.



The team advises industrial companies, project operators, investors, banks and public entities. Our specialists are involved in M&A and project finance transactions as well as construction and town planning operations, public tenders, industrial contract negotiations and litigation (in matters such as town planning, classified installations, CO² emission quotas...).

The team also accompanies its clients in their global expansion through the Bignon Lebray China team in Paris and Shanghai and in other countries through Meritas, the international network of law firms of which Bignon Lebray has been an active member for many years. Furthermore, Bignon Lebray's office locations in Paris, Lille, Lyon and Aix-en-Provence enable its clients to be close to local decision-makers.

Recent credentials

- Advising a metropolitan authority to organize the conduct of public enquiries regarding the creation of concerted development areas, which comprised feasibility studies on the potential growth of renewable energies (2010).
- Advising an industrial group with regard to the setting-up and operation of a cogeneration plant on a classified site (contracts in relation to the site use, negotiation of industrial supply agreements...) (since 1998).
- Advising an industrial group with regard to the negotiation of its gas and electricity supply agreements within the framework of market deregulation (since 2007).
- Advising a French Company with regard to the setting up in China through a Joint Venture, for the manufacturing and the distribution of windmills (2010).
- Advising an industrial group with regard to CO² quota allowances and applicable regulations (2010).
- Advising an investment fund with regard to the acquisition of wind farms whose installed capacity exceeds 160 MW (2009).
- Advising an operator with regard to the development of an off-shore wind farm project (2009).
- Advising an investor with regard to the acquisition, in France and abroad, of bio-gas facilities (2009).
- Advising operators in their submissions for invitations to tender from various cities for the creation of 12 and 30 MW photovoltaic farms - procurement contracts, market concessions, subsidies (2009).
- Advising an operator as to the feasibility of the creation of a photovoltaic farm in compliance with applicable town planning regulations (2008).
- Audit of photovoltaic projects for banking institutions prior to their financing – building permits, licence to operate, power purchase contracts and obligations (2009).
- Audit of wind farm projects for investors and banking institutions (since 2005).
- Advising an operator on regulations applicable in French overseas territories as regards the subsidizing of renewable energy facilities (2009).
- Advising a bank with regard to the financing of two wind farm projects (2006).
- Advising an electricity company with regard to the construction of a gas-fired power station with combined cycles ("CCGT"): estimating the amount of business tax to be due over the first five years of operation (2006).

Our team



Alain Vamour
Partner

**Public
Law/Environment**

A former director of the Public law Department of Ernst & Young, Alain is an expert in public and administrative law, with an emphasis on public real estate law. He holds a specialization certificate in public law and environmental law.
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Philippe Larivière
Partner

Contracts/Environment

Philippe mainly advises in matters related to contract law and environmental law. As the advisor of major industrial groups, he has acquired significant experience in cogeneration matters and CO² emission quotas.
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Laurence Defontaine
Partner

Financing/Real Estate

Laurence mostly advises financial institutions both in banking law and real estate law matters, whether litigious or non-litigious. She has developed a particular expertise in renewable energy project finance.
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Jacques Goyet
Partner

Corporate Law/Financing

Jacques' main practice is in the field of mergers & acquisitions, company restructuring and corporate finance, in regard to listed and non-listed companies. He also advises private shareholders, investment companies and industrial corporations.
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Jérôme Granotier
Partner

Tax Law

Jérôme advises companies on tax matters, with an emphasis on complex group-related issues (restructuring, profit recovery, transfer price...). He has also gained expertise on local taxes (land tax and territorial economic contributions).
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Sébastien Pinot
Of Counsel

**Public
Law/Environment**

A former associate of the Project Finance / Public law Department of Linklaters, Sébastien's expertise is more specifically focussed on administrative, environmental and town planning law in connection with project finance and M&A transactions in the renewable energies sector.
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