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Green Technology: Legal, Ethical, and Moral Considerations

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INTRODUCTION

GREEN TECHNOLOGY: LEGAL, ETHICAL, AND MORAL CONSIDERATIONS

The adverse impact of human activities on the natural environment has led many to push towards greener sources of energy and infrastructure. Countless scientists, researchers, policymakers, academicians, and concerned citizens have been working towards identifying sustainable development possibilities, increasing recognition of eco-friendly energy technology, and promoting green initiatives.

For this Symposium issue, the *Note Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy* is honored to present a collection of articles from experts across a number of fields which evaluates the role of technology in helping to achieve a greener world.

The Symposium engages such questions as our moral obligation to take serious action against climate disruption, the future of natural gas production as a result of improved hydrofracturing extraction methods, and the proper role of the federal government in implementing green technology.

Technological advancements, however, can result in harm as well as benefits. The continuing development of green technology demands that we consider how this type of technology will affect human health and, ironically, the environment. As such, the Symposium also addresses some of the risks associated with green projects, focusing on shale gas extraction in particular, and the importance of adopting a balanced approach to green technology.

In addition, the Symposium highlights the importance of how issues are framed. Whether it be changing the lens through which we look at climate change to that of a human rights perspective or restyling the renewable energy paradigm as uniquely American and a bold move forward, several of the authors address how framing plays a critical role in shaping public opinion and government regulation.

As the push towards green technology has intensified, so too has criticism that such technology may sink the fossil fuel industry, negatively impact the American economy, compromise the

nation's global position, and potentially harm communities. The current debate surrounding green technology, alternative sources of energy, and the obligation of the United States, if any, to move towards a greener future is dynamic and exciting. The Symposium's distinguished authors recognize the complexities inherent in this debate and contribute insightful and innovative ideas to this ongoing dialogue.