

Pope creates Vatican watchdog laws that criminalize environmental pollution

Rich Heffern | Dec. 30, 2010 Eco Catholic

On the NCR Today blog, senior correspondent John L. Allen Jr. [reports](#) [1] on Pope Benedict's creation of a new in-house watchdog to promote compliance with international rules against financing terrorism, money-laundering, insider trading and market abuse. In addition to creating new penalties for financial misconduct, Benedict XVI has also criminalized environmental pollution.

In article 18, the new law establishes a penalty of up to six months imprisonment and a fine of \$3,500 to \$35,000 for anyone who pollutes the soil or water, and establishes the same penalties for polluting the atmosphere. The jail term rises to a year, and the fines range from \$7,000 to \$70,000, if the pollution occurs with hazardous substances.

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[1] <http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/facing-financial-scandals-pope-creates-new-vatican-watchdog>