

# MIT ALUMNI FOR CLIMATE ACTION

## NEWSLETTER



**Dear Fellow Alumni,**

As we start 2025, we are excited to announce the launch of the brand-new **MIT Alumni for Climate Action newsletter**.

Our goal is to share news about upcoming climate events as well as recent events and actions of interest.

We would like to include member ideas, reports, and announcements in upcoming issues. The **directions for submissions** will be provided soon.

In this issue, we invite you to help decide **MACA's website banner**; please be sure to **vote using the link on page 3!**

Let's work together to advance climate action in 2025!

*Shiladitya DasSarma, Ph.D.*  
MACA President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, **January 9** from **11:30 am-12:30 pm (ET)**

MACA's President, **Shiladitya DasSarma** will be on a Second Nature panel discussion entitled "**Engaging Alumni in Your Climate Action Planning.**"

The free event is intended to help universities to harness the power of their alumni network to drive climate action goals.

Tuesday, **January 28** from **19:00 pm (ET) on Zoom** Webinar co-sponsored by the **MIT Club of Rochester**, New York, and **MACA**, featuring **Peter Vedder**, PhD, Senior Director of Methane SAT Mission Systems at the Environmental Defense Fund. Peter manages the commissioning and long-term operations of Methane SAT and will describe the satellite and measurement technologies, and the mission's goals and results.



[REGISTRATION LINK](#)



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## RECENT EVENTS

**MACA's Fourth Annual Meeting** was held on Sunday, **December 8, 2024**, from 1-3:15 pm EST on Zoom. Our guest speaker was **Tom Kiley**, Senior Advisor to the Vice President for Research at MIT who is helping implement MIT President Sally Kornbluth's recently announced **Climate Project at MIT**. Tom gave an overview of the project and described it as having an ambitious overarching goal with accountability. Success will be judged on the basis of whether MIT has a significant impact over a decade.

He briefly described the Climate Missions and contrasted the Climate Project with other large initiatives, pointing out that the whole of MIT is involved rather than a school, institute, or college. Tom also mentioned Climate HQ - an administrative, operational, and coordinating arm for the Climate Project. He highlighted Climate Education and Communication as part of the role for Climate HQ. Tom concluded his presentation with an update on the search for MIT's VP for Climate which is expected to end soon. In closing, Tom shared his thoughts about the possible mentoring role of MIT alumni in general and MACA members in particular as a way to engage in the Climate Project at MIT.

**Breakout room discussions** included the following topics:

- MACA Entrepreneurs for building and supporting a thriving climate startup ecosystem
- Paper to highlight relevance of the Global South in the fight against climate change
- MIT campus decarbonization: Advantages of "Pathway 18," a thermal energy network
- MIT campus adaptation and resilience: Paper on preparing responsibly for climate change
- MACA paper on Carbon dioxide removal: Balancing urgency with scientific unknowns
- Developing a hub for climate action education: Best practices for educators and others
- Issues for EVs: bidirectional charging, vehicle stock turnover, and plug-in hybrids
- Climate advocacy through connections to local legislators and advocacy networks



## RECORDING VIDEO AND SURVEY

You can access the recording video of **MACA's Fourth Annual Meeting** and other interesting contents in our Youtube Channel.

Please, remember to fill out the **post-annual meeting member survey** to get involved in these MACA activities in 2025!

**CLICK HERE** 



**Dr. Susan Murcott**  
MACA's MIT Campus  
Group lead

**MACA's MIT Campus Team Panel Webinar** introduced its **MIT campus decarbonization plan by 2035** in a EESN-sponsored event on **December 3, 2024** from 6:00-7:30 PM EST. The plan was developed by MIT students and researchers in collaboration with MACA alums with expertise in geothermal heating systems, innovation and finance. **Susan Murcott** SM '90, SM '92, an MIT D-Lab instructor and MACA Campus Team introduced the project and moderated the event. Panelists include MACA members **Rick Clemenzi**, **John Dabels**, and **Megan Lim**, who co-authored the campus decarbonization plan. The **event recording** is available to view online.



**Dr. Maria Zuber**  
at MACA's event

**A hybrid event** featuring **MIT Professor Maria Zuber**, the Presidential Advisor for Science and Technology Policy and E. A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics at MIT was held on Tuesday, **October 15** from 7:00-8:00 PM EDT at the MIT Office in Washington DC, co-sponsored by MACA and the MIT Club of Washington DC.

As a leader in the development of MIT's first two climate action plans, Professor Zuber provided insights into **Climate Project at MIT**. She also shared her personal story of growing up in the anthracite coal mining region Pennsylvania, with grandfathers who were miners and died of black lung disease. One loved astronomy and introduced her to the telescope which kindled her interest in science and space exploration.

Following her talk, the Q&A addressed many issues on how to address the climate crisis, including the question: **How can the community be involved in the Climate Project at MIT?** She replied, "We are trying to decarbonize the campus. I know MACA has an idea for geothermal. If you have ideas, we would like to hear about them."

## MACA BANNER POLL

Let us know which MACA banner you like best by filling out this



**MACA needs your help!** Whether your passion is advocacy/policy, justice, entrepreneurship, technology, education, or campus, let us know ways in which you want to engage with us. After the last two summers' heat waves, storms, floods, and wildfires, and the world passing the 1.5°C Paris target, the fight against climate change is more urgent than ever.

Email us at **info@maca.earth** or access our social media.

