

MIT ALUMNI FOR CLIMATE ACTION

MACA: Now An Official MIT Alumni Group!

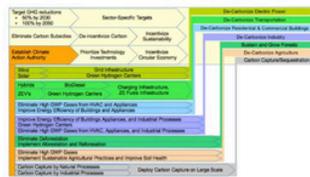


MACA will be integrated into the MITAA website (<https://alum.mit.edu/>) soon! Look for us under the “Communities” and “Volunteers” tabs as well as in your own entry in the Alumni Directory. We will be able to collaborate with each other and others in the greater MIT alumni community through this platform. More information will be forthcoming in our fall newsletter and MACA’s annual meeting. Check MACA’s website for updates (<https://maca.earth/members/>).

We are a non-partisan group of MIT alumni and affiliates who are concerned about the devastating effects of climate change. We support communicating the urgency of the problem and adopting science-based interventions to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Anthropogenic climate change is primarily driven by burning of fossil fuels. Its solution requires action at many different levels. Read our reports for background, analysis, and recommendations.

MACA Roadmap



[Introduction To Climate Change](#)



Additional MACA activities

- + Advocacy & Policy
- + Campus
- + Education
- + Entrepreneurship
- + Justice
- + Technology
- We Need More Alumni for Climate Action!

Are you concerned about the effects of climate change?

Join the MACA team and support science-based climate action!

All MIT alumni and friends are welcome in MACA.

[CLICK HERE!](#)

MACA is an official MIT Alumni Association group.

In this newsletter:

Now an official MIT Alumni Group

Editorial

3rd U.N. Ocean Conference in Nice: A Blueprint for Science-Driven Policy

Economics as the driving force in the transition to clean energy

150th Anniversary of the MIT Alumni Association

IAP Micro-Internships: Guide and Inspire MIT Students

MACA Advocacy Event: You are Invited

How you can impact the world

Stand up for Research, Innovation, and Education

Get involved and help grow our membership

Upcoming Events - no matter where you are

We welcome contributions to the MACA Newsletter

MACA Editorial: Dark Clouds Over American Democracy

Polls show three out of four Americans believe that climate change is fueling the increase in extreme weather events we are experiencing, such as the devastating 4th of July early morning floods in Texas that resulted more than 100 deaths, including the tragic loss of over two dozen young campers at a summer camp along the Guadalupe River. Flash flood warnings did not reach most affected before the flooding began which were issued in the early morning, a few hours before torrential rains started. In the aftermath, debates are focusing on the role of government cutbacks to the National Weather Service and FEMA and the need to enhance early storm warning systems as a response to our new climate reality.

The American Climate Perspectives Survey last spring reported that most people support policies that protect us from the impacts of climate and oppose the rollbacks from executive orders and legislation that threaten public health, the environment, and U.S. jobs and leadership in clean energy. Recent reports of draconian cutbacks at governmental agencies including NWS, FEMA, EPA, and NOAA will surely impact our ability to respond to a changing climate. So will those at NSF and NIH, which have long supported climate and health sciences. Measures such as these, coupled with destruction of the climate provisions mandated by the IRA along with the anticipated repeal of EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions are shortsighted and contrary to the wishes of most.

The climate policies are a stark example of the unprecedented attacks on US science which are already beginning to have consequences for public health and safety. Much of the science is done at our world-renowned universities and the recent attacks on these elite institutions undermine not only truth and justice, but also the democratic principles and institutions on which this country was founded. History shows that universities and the free press have been attacked when great societies are in decline. Recent whiplash in climate policies are just one example suggesting that US exceptionalism is being threatened. Most troubling is that current US policies are increasingly reflecting those of petrostates and stand in contrast to the nations leading climate action and innovation around the world.

American universities have been the underpinning

of science and technological leadership while serving as a free and open platform for public discourse and debate for more than a century. While recent events may leave some leading academic institutions vulnerable to anti-elitist movements, some of which may be genuine, the recent government efforts toward forced compliance cannot be justified. As clearly articulated by the recent letter signed by hundreds of university and college presidents, they are "open to constructive reform and do not oppose legitimate government oversight." However, they rightly "oppose undue government intrusion in the lives of those who learn, live, and work on our campuses." The recent attacks on climate and scientific research at our elite institutions are undoubtedly leading to permanent and irreparable harm.

Instead, our government should be playing a critical role in developing cooperation between universities and the private sector to solve our problems, lifting up and providing opportunities for all. Moreover, the government should be funding crucial basic science while investing in and maintaining the physical infrastructure and services to help us meet challenges and problems we confront that fulfill our intergenerational contract to build on what our predecessors have achieved and leave a better world behind for future generations. The freedom we profess to be upholding must be both freedom from, e.g. persecution and fear, and freedom to, which requires access to education and knowledge, adequate shelter and sustenance, health care, facilities etc. so we can pursue our goals. The US Constitution established three co-equal branches to ensure that the government works for all, remains accountable, and protects individual liberties by preventing tyranny of the few.

We are facing a climate emergency highlighted by the observed challenges from the extreme weather events. As climate change progresses the world is bound to experience further extreme weather events, loss of habitable land, fueling migration and conflict. Under such emergency conditions, we need a functioning democratic and civil system to address these major global environmental challenges. Degradation of the political and physical environment needs to stop---and the dark clouds lifted from American democracy.



News/Heyi Zou
The plenary hall of the third UN Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in Nice.

3rd U.N. Ocean Conference in Nice: A Blueprint for Science-Driven Policy

Margaux Filippi, Sc.D., MACA Member

Board Member Dr. Margaux Filippi had the honor of attending the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) held June 9-13 in Nice, France, as a Special Ocean Advisor with the Caribbean ASEAN Council. Co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, UNOC3 marked a turning point by putting science and cross-sector collaboration front-and-center of ocean policy. In the lead-up to the conference, two key events laid the groundwork for UNOC3: the One Ocean Science Congress (June 3-6) and the Blue Economy and Finance Forum (June 7-8). This “science-to-policy” format proved historic and many now hope it becomes the new standard for international conferences such as climate and biodiversity summits. Key outcomes included: French Polynesia's commitment to the world's largest Marine Protected Area (MPA); the E.U.'s announcement of a €1 billion Ocean Impact Fund; the launch of the High Ambition Coalition for a Quiet Ocean; and the U.K.'s pledge to ban bottom trawling in nearly a third of MPAs. The High Seas Treaty (BBNJ) also advanced, reaching 50 of the 60 ratifications required for enactment.

UNOC3 also stood out for its public-facing “Green Zone”, which ran alongside the official “Blue Zone” and fostered engagement from industry, NGOs and the public through immersive exhibits and side events.

UNOC3 was a powerful reminder that ocean protection is climate action and that science can lead the way.



Economics as the Driving Force in the Transition to Clean Energy

Jose Alfredo Pareja, MACA member

The world is still extremely dependent on fossil fuels, 80% of the energy demand. The good news is that during the last years we have experienced massive investments in clean energy. But is this enough to get us out of this dependence?

This is not enough as we face an exponential increase in energy demand that goes beyond what renewable energy can cover. This is due, among other factors, to the exponential rise of AI and the rapid economic development of EMDEs. Though renewable energy is becoming more competitive and widely available, deploying it rapidly on a global scale is another story. If the world continues its current slow process, what are the costs? According to IEA these costs would require more than 4% of global GDP in the coming decades. The world spends around 10% of global GDP on energy deployment, 20% if it goes on rent, 40% on taxes, and 40% on operating fossil fuels.

And how much do we need to invest in clean energy for a rapid transition? Around 3% of global GDP. If we move forward to a carbon-free economy, there won't be rent expenditures and fewer operating costs.

In short, the world needs to make significant efforts toward a decarbonized economy. The positive fact is that renewable energy has a real and improving competitive advantage. If governments and society truly commit to a carbon-free economy by 2050, then we can achieve it.



MIT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TURNS 150!



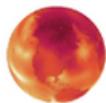
On the 150th Anniversary of the MIT Alumni Association (click on image BELOW to see video from MIT), we are happy to announce, that after an extended period of discussion and reflection, the MIT Alumni for Climate Action, MACA, has now become an official MIT Alumni Association Group and part of the historical record!



IAP Micro-Internships: Guide and Inspire MIT Students

Looking to get help with short-term projects? You can hire MIT student micro-interns in January 2026 and help shape the next generation of MIT professionals. Micro-internships are short-term projects or internships offered by MIT alumni and other employers. These opportunities occur over the January Independent Activities Period (IAP) and are open to undergraduate and graduate students. Micro-internships help you develop new skills, explore your career options and connect with the MIT network.

Find out more and express interest by clicking [here](#).



MACA Advocacy Event

You are Invited

The [MACA Advocacy Team](#) is hosting an event featuring Sam Lamos, Public Policy Manager at [Gradient](#) on window-installed cold-climate heat pumps and how they can provide a path to reducing fossil fuel emissions in existing apartments and other residential settings on August 6, 2025 at 5:00 PM ET. Join using the following [ZOOM LINK](#).

**Small steps,
big difference.**



**PLASTIC
FREE JULY**
By Plastic Free Foundation

How you can impact the world: one plastic item at a time - your choice!

It is not too late...

Some of us have been involved with [Plastic Free July](#) - a movement trying to reduce plastic consumption and waste by encouraging folks to join (here) and continue the efforts throughout the year and your community. Check out the [Events](#) map to find local events.

MITALUMNI

Volunteer View

Stand up for Research, Innovation, and Education

From the MIT Alumni Association:

MIT alumni, friends, students, faculty, and staff are voicing their support for America's scientific and technological leadership; for affordable, merit-based education; and for advances that increase U.S. health, security, and prosperity.

The MIT Alumni Association is inviting us to stand up for MIT and its mission to serve the nation and the world at this critical moment.

To get involved, see the [How can you help now page](#).



MACA Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Committee is developing goals and initiatives for 2025-8.

Recommendations will be presented to MACA's Board, and a written report will be provided at MACA's 2025 Annual Meeting. Stay tuned!



Get involved, help grow our membership, and make an impact

- **Looking for volunteers:** MACA needs your help! Is your passion advocacy/policy, justice, entrepreneurship, technology, education, or campus-related? 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 on the verge of passing the 1.5°C Paris target, the fight against climate change is more urgent than ever. We need volunteers for creating content and more. Email us at info@maca.earth to get (more) involved.
- To facilitate dissemination of meetings and minimize overlap of events, Liliana Pimentel has set up MACA's new calendar, which can be found at [here](#). Please add events!
- Help our community grow - *it takes a member to bring in a member* - invite other Alumni to join MACA. MIT Alumni can join by filling out this [form](#). Non-MIT Alumni can be sponsored and join as affiliates members by filling out this [form](#).
- You can organize MACA events with local MIT Clubs and request a MACA panel for [events here](#).
- Remember to also check out [MACA.Earth](#) webpages for more news and information.



Other Upcoming Events - no matter where you are

- August 4-8, Africa Climate Week 2025, Kigali, Rwanda: Focus on climate solutions for the African continent.
- August 12-14, Global Adaptation Summit, Nairobi, Kenya: Focus on climate adaptation and resilience strategies for vulnerable regions.

- September 10-11, Food and Agriculture Sustainability Summit, Amsterdam, Netherlands: Focus on sustainable practices in the food and agriculture sectors.
- September 10-11, 13th International Conference on Sustainable Development, hosted by the European Center of Sustainable Development and the Canadian Institute of Technology, Rome, Italy: To bridge gap between research and implementation of sustainable development strategies.
- September 21-28, NYC Climate Week, New York City, USA: Global leaders discuss climate solutions & progress, bringing together businesses, governments, nonprofits & activists to showcase climate solutions and drive global climate action.
- September 16-18, Renewable Energy India Expo, Greater Noida, India: To showcase innovations in renewable energy for India and beyond.
- September 29-October, Solar Power International & Energy Storage International, Anaheim, USA: Showcases solar energy and storage industries.
- October 8-9, Circular Economy Forum 2025, Brussels, Belgium: Forum for discussing circular economy solutions for businesses and governments.
- October 9-15, IUCN World Conservation Congress, Abu Dhabi, UAE: To address biodiversity loss, climate change & sustainable development, to deliver the Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by 190+ nations at the 2022 UN Biodiversity Conference.
- October 9-10, Future Food-Tech Summit, London, UK: Sustainable food technology innovations & investments.
- October 12-14, World Health Summit 2025, Berlin, Germany & online: To promote a holistic approach to global health that considers environmental & social determinants, focusing on the intersection of health, climate change & sustainable development. Theme: Taking Responsibility for Health in a Fragmenting World.



We welcome contributions to the MACA Newsletter

Send in your updates, announcements and events for the next quarterly newsletter via this [NEW submission form](#) to share with the MACA Community.