



THE SALATA INSTITUTE
FOR CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY
at Harvard University

Annual Report



2025

Through a Salata Institute student program, Fatima Tajammal (GSD '26) spent the summer working to address heat islands, food deserts, and flooding in the Worcester district of Rep. David LeBoeuf



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Director's Letter

James H. Stock

Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability
and Director of the Salata Institute for Climate and
Sustainability at Harvard University

The path towards addressing the challenges of climate change has always had twists and turns, but the past twelve months have been extraordinary. The United States has seen dramatic shifts in federal policy and sharp reductions in funding for climate and sustainability research. Yet, fundamental climate science has not changed: if anything, the challenges of climate change are more pressing, the social, political, legal, and international environments are more complex, and the need for better low-carbon technologies are greater. Universities in general – and Harvard in particular – must continue to drive climate progress.

Through the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, Harvard is advancing an ever-growing portfolio of critical climate research and providing a home for long-term thinking and collaboration. The Institute is convening nonpartisan leaders to move forward and is preparing the next generation of leaders to confront climate change.

This report offers an accounting of Institute-led efforts and accomplishments over academic year 2024-2025. Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of Harvard faculty, students, staff, and alumni, that story is long! But a few themes stand out.

First: Harvard climate research is delivering practical benefits for people across the U.S. and globally. To name a few examples: Institute-affiliated researchers are working to improve predictions for how wildfire smoke will travel; producing research-based action plans that help cities save lives during heat waves; and developing AI-powered tools to save energy and lower bills.

Second: Harvard is a force for long-term, sustained thinking and collaboration on climate change. For example, Institute-affiliated researchers are preserving data that could otherwise be lost between administrations;

the new Global Climate Policy Project, a collaboration with MIT, is sketching a path for new international agreements to accelerate action even during turbulent times; the Salata initiative to Reduce Global Methane Emissions has convened over 800 stakeholders from industry, government, and civil society to work together towards durable approaches to limiting potent methane pollution.

Third, and perhaps most importantly: the Institute is working to ensure that a Harvard education prepares students for leadership in a world facing climate change. The Institute has directly supported hundreds of students this year and reached thousands more through research and project funding; professional development opportunities; internships; and more.

This report details these and other activities and accomplishments of the Institute and its Harvard community. But there is much more to do. In the coming year, the Salata Institute will continue to expand Harvard's world-class climate research and education. We will also leverage the University's considerable convening power to create dialog between the diverse views on the energy transition, because understanding each is a necessary foundation for developing durable and meaningful climate solutions.

On behalf of our community, I am deeply grateful for your partnership as we rise to the occasion.

James H. Stock,

*Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability
and Director of the Salata Institute for
Climate and Sustainability at Harvard
University*

September 10, 2025

Students gather at a Salata Institute open house to connect and learn about opportunities



Impacts: Greening Global Trade

At COP30, heads of state reached a breakthrough on carbon markets. Harvard-MIT research advanced by the Salata Institute sits at the core of new initiatives announced in Belém.

Aligning carbon and trade rules

Climate policy and trade policy are converging. As countries introduce carbon fees on imported goods, they are rewriting the rules that govern global commerce. Done well, these changes can steer heavy industry toward cleaner production, protect competitiveness, and create new sources of public revenue. Done poorly, they risk fragmentation – a patchwork of incompatible systems that fuels disputes and undermines climate ambition.

The Global Climate Policy Project at Harvard and MIT (GCPP), hosted by the Salata Institute, explores the next generation of climate policy. Through collaborations with policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society, the project is helping design frameworks that can align carbon pricing and trade rules while supporting development goals in low- and middle-income countries.

Informing COP30

At COP30 in Belém, heads of state announced their intention to create a new Open Coalition on Compliance Carbon Markets – a forum where countries can share experience and coordinate on carbon pricing, accounting, offsets, and verification. The initiative, backed by Brazil, China, the

European Union, Germany, Mexico, Canada, and a dozen more countries representing about 40 percent of global emissions, is a major signal that governments are ready to align climate and trade rules more systematically.

GCPP helped kindle this concept. In discussions with the COP30 president and Brazil's finance ministry, researchers outlined a new policy proposal for a coalition centered on carbon pricing and trade that can help countries respond to new border carbon adjustments, rather than facing them one by one.

At COP30, leaders launched the Open Coalition as a flexible platform where a wide range of countries can make their existing and planned carbon markets more interoperable over time and turn cleaner production into a competitive advantage.

A win for cleaner producers

As the EU phases in its carbon border adjustment – applying carbon fees to imports of aluminum, steel, cement, and fertilizers from 2026 unless they already face a robust carbon price at home – countries face both a risk and an opportunity. If global rules evolve piecemeal, cleaner producers must navigate a maze of different border adjustments. In a coordinated coalition, greener production would be rewarded: A domestic carbon price could allow the country to keep revenue that would otherwise flow to foreign treasuries, while coalition rules ensure that cleaner producers pay less than high-emitting competitors.

GCPP's modeling shows the scale of the possible. Across those four major industries, a climate coalition could deliver several-fold greater emissions reductions than current policies while generating \$200 billion in new public revenues, mostly from domestic carbon pricing – all with modest economic impacts. In practice, that means countries can move toward deep decarbonization without sacrificing growth, giving cleaner producers a durable edge in global markets.

Impacts: Curbing Methane Pollution

The Harvard Initiative on Reducing Global Methane Emissions, a Salata Institute climate research cluster, is putting tools directly in the hands of governments, businesses, and communities to address this extremely potent climate pollutant.

Making methane leaks visible to all

Knowing where (and when) methane leaks is critical to addressing this potent pollutant. The Initiative, alongside an international team of researchers, has released new technology that allows anyone – from researchers to local communities – to identify methane leaks with unprecedented accuracy. The Integrated Methane Inversion (IMI) tool, initially released in 2022 and updated in 2025, is an open-source cloud computing tool that allows users to use satellite data to estimate methane emissions around the world at resolutions up to 25 square kilometers. The Initiative has made the IMI tool freely available (with instruction) to regulators, researchers, and emitters working on reducing methane emissions.

Making costs and savings clear

A lack of certainty about the costs and savings associated with reducing methane pollution has held back both regulators and oil and gas companies looking to make progress. Research produced this year by the Initiative pinpoints low-cost opportunities for reducing methane pollution in this sector.

From livestock to landfills to rice paddies

After energy, agriculture and waste are the biggest anthropogenic sources of methane pollution. The Harvard Initiative is advancing research that tackles these sources as well. To better understand and address methane emissions from agriculture, Harvard researchers are developing a low-cost, accurate, lightweight, wearable methane sensor for livestock. The innovative monitors, known as GRAZE-Tags,” short for Gas Recognition and Analysis using Zonal Ear Tags, address a critical global technology gap.

Other researchers working with the Harvard Initiative uncovered significant discrepancies between landfill methane emissions reported by operators and those estimated using satellite observations. This finding suggests that the US EPA may be underestimating landfill methane emissions by up to six times. Researchers are also working to use satellite data to better understand methane emissions from rice paddies in China and – increasingly – Africa. The findings will help leaders support agricultural methods like dry cultivation that reduce the significant methane emissions associated with the crop.





Impacts:

Helping Beat Extreme Heat

Harvard researchers are responding to extreme heat as both a public health emergency and a design problem for homes, cities, and social systems.

Measuring the heat people feel

Temperatures are rapidly exceeding human limits around the globe, yet even basic questions like “how hot is too hot?” are hard to answer. The chain from rising temperatures to illness, lost work, and death is indirect, rarely linked in a systematic way to the actual conditions people experience

where they live and work. Much of the data used in climate and health modeling still comes from airport weather stations or other open sites that do not capture the hotter, more humid microclimates inside dense urban neighborhoods and informal workplaces.

These blind spots matter most in places that are already on the edge. The poorest neighborhoods – crowded settlements where homes lack ventilation, insulation, and cooling – are routinely overlooked by planners. In cities like Ahmedabad, India, indoor heat indices have climbed past 120 degrees Fahrenheit for days at a time and reached 137F, levels that are effectively unlivable. Even after sunset, when homes should be cooling, indoor temperatures often remain higher than those outside, creating a cycle of hot, sleepless nights and exhausting days that never allow the body to recover.

To close this gap, a Harvard-led team is building one of the largest datasets ever recorded on extreme heat and human well-being. Working with the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), the team has spent the last year closely observing the daily lives of nearly 300 Indian women, most of them informal workers. Participants wear Fitbits that track heart rate, sleep, and physical activity, while thumb-sized heat and humidity sensors in their homes and workplaces record around-the-clock conditions. Regular health checkups add clinical measures such as kidney function and other indicators of chronic heat stress.

Data for action

This kind of fine-grained evidence is the missing foundation for action. With the new data, the team can quantify impacts that are usually invisible. Early findings show:

- There is a clear causal relationship

between heat and heart strain, and between heat, humidity, and disrupted sleep – including lost REM sleep that is critical for recovery.

- As temperatures rise, reported daily earnings fall measurably, underscoring heat's direct impact on household income and economic stability.
- Tin roofs get much hotter than mud roofs during the day, while the pattern reverses at night, shaping when and how households suffer heat stress.

As the data set grows and the number of subjects expands to 1,000 in 2026, the research team is beginning to validate long-standing concerns about overheated homes and invisible health impacts, while giving civil society groups the statistics they need to advocate for durable, inclusive solutions. The emerging picture is stark – but for the first time, it is also measurable in the places and lives where climate change is being felt most acutely.



Impacts: Students in the State House

In summer 2025, seven Harvard students tackled climate policy challenges in the Massachusetts state legislature.

The Massachusetts State House buzzes in July. Tourists crowd its marble halls, lawmakers race to roll call, and, for the third consecutive year, Harvard students cluster in cubicles and anterooms churning out memos that shape the commonwealth's fight against climate change.

This year, seven Harvard students embedded on Beacon Hill through the Climate Policy Summer Internship Program, a partnership between the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability and several climate-focused state legislators.

The program provides professional development opportunities for Harvard students – who range from undergraduates to doctoral candidates – to explore the intersection of climate, policy, and public service. Students get an unvarnished look at how an idea becomes statutory language, or dies in committee.

By paying their salaries, the Salata Institute allows students to try out public service during a summer when they might otherwise be forced to focus on their pocketbooks elsewhere.

Their work touches every corner of Massachusetts' ambitious climate agenda, from urban tree canopies to offshore wind power.

"We need you to come in and inform good policy," Representative Joan Meschino '87, a key facilitator for the program, told the interns at a program lunch event. "This is how it works: We need trusted sources, good reliable research, good information,

thought leadership – those building blocks. That is how you educate and inform legislation."

Each intern carried a different brief.

Susanna Soelberg waded into the thicket of environmental permitting. Her assignment: Outline reforms that would speed conservation projects without sacrificing environmental review. In particular, she focused on a bill that would restore salt marshes north of Boston to create a more resilient coast and protect homes from rising seas.

One lesson is rhetorical as much as legal. "Not focusing as much on the words 'climate change', even if that is what we're addressing," explained Soelberg, a fourth-year environmental science and government student from Texas. Framing a proposal around flood protection or economic efficiency, she learned, can win over skeptics faster than a lecture on rising sea levels.

"I think you have to appeal to broader issues. Everyone cares about water and people want to save money," said Soelberg, who wrote a policy memo and advocacy materials to support an environmental bond bill to pay for climate resiliency. "So that can mean not focusing as much on climate change, even if that is what we're addressing."

Several legislators stressed the importance of communications skills.

"This is a very technical field, and it's easy to get lost in the weeds on a policy, particularly something as gnarly as permitting work. And it's important to understand how you convey the big picture," said Soelberg's mentor, Representative Dawne Shand. "The reason I picked Susanna as my intern was her research and writing abilities."

Learning to speak Beacon Hill

For Graduate School of Design students steeped in studio critiques, the federal-style State House building echoes with a novel vocabulary: committee markups, budget riders.

"I'm learning I need to be a good negotiator, a good communicator. I need to know how to pick up something really quickly, be okay with steep learning curves, and be ready to show up and engage," said Fatima Tajammal,



a master's student in urban planning from British Columbia. Tajammal spent July addressing heat islands, food deserts, and flooding in the Worcester district of Rep. David LeBoeuf '13 using stakeholder engagement and tactical urbanism – rapid low-cost interventions to test longer-term solutions.

“I’m learning I need to be a generalist. That’s not a designer or architect’s typical lens. That’s the real world,” said Tajammal.

Down the hall, Julia Downey, a third-year economics student from Mattapoisett, Massachusetts, spent her days dissecting Governor Maura Healey’s Energy Innovation Act, flagging implementation pitfalls and preparing talking points for harried staffers. “Now, if I’m talking about zoning, I can see

things from a senator’s point of view,” she said.

Downey, who is writing her capstone project for Senator Dylan Fernandes, M.P.A. '22, on how to recycle solar panels and wind-turbine blades, planned to test the private sector after graduation, perhaps at a green tech startup. “But I think the experience gained from this internship will help me a lot,” she said.

Indeed, throughout the program, students cultivate skills they can apply to any field: relationships, timing, and the endless search for consensus.

“Hopefully you have each come in and not just focused on research,” Rep. Meschino reminded the students, “but you have focused on building your relationships. This is a business about relationships.”

Impacts: Opening Doors to Climate Finance

A Harvard-led doctoral course has become a global on-ramp to climate finance research, applying the Salata Institute's climate education mission to make a scalable systems change intervention.

Harvard's convening power scales a global classroom

Climate finance is a fast-growing field, but until recently there was no clear way for PhD students to begin researching it. Harvard Business School's Peter Tufano, a senior advisor at the Salata Institute, spotted the mismatch: interest was rising, yet the academic footprint was still small, with a modest foothold in the top finance journals and conferences.

The core problem was not enthusiasm, but a bottleneck inside academia. Too few students at any one university meant too little reason to run a specialist doctoral course, and too few faculty felt ready to teach and supervise the work. If climate finance was to move from the fringe to the center, the field needed more trained professors as well as more students.

So Tufano developed a practical fix, using Harvard's convening power to bring the scattered demand into one shared classroom. The result was Financial

Economics of Climate and Sustainability (FECS): a global doctoral reading group with 24 hours of hybrid sessions each spring semester, a curated syllabus, and teaching from leading scholars.

Early outcomes that look like systems change

FECS works because it is designed to be copied. It creates shared teaching materials and a common forum where students and faculty compare notes across institutions. In three years, from 2023 to 2025, it grew from 15 to 145 universities in 39 countries, with government research groups also joining. This year, participants are joining from 163 institutions. To date, more than 2,300 doctoral students and researchers have participated in the course, which has been recognized by the Financial Times Responsible Business Education awards.

But rapid growth can dilute engagement if it is not paired with local support. FECS avoids that by requiring each participating university to name a local faculty coordinator who connects the course to seminars, mentoring, assignments, and campus research life. Now a network of roughly 170 coordinators adapt the model locally and share what works.

Now in its fourth year, FECS does not claim credit for the nascent boom in climate finance research, but the pattern is consistent with the systems change theory the program was designed to activate: positive feedback loops (more researchers producing work, more outlets sharing it, more conferences and journals legitimizing it), reinforced by collaboration over time across many top schools.

How the Salata Institute is addressing climate education

FECS shows how climate education must be an ecosystem, rather than a single course on a single campus. By coordinating top faculty, pooling dispersed demand, and seeding local research communities worldwide, Harvard and the Salata Institute helped turn a missing pathway into a durable platform for training the next generation of climate finance scholars.



Our Work

We put our strategic approach to work across four core areas of activity: education and student support, research, alumni engagement, and the Institute's Climate Action Accelerator.

Education and student support

Our objective is to ensure that a Harvard education prepares students for leadership in a world facing climate change. In 2025, we continued our work to expand and improve the climate and sustainability curriculum, provided direct support to students through funding and career development programs, and continued build a supportive and unified campus a student community around this important work.

Alumni engagement

Our objective is to harness the potential of Harvard's talented alumni to advance the mission of the Institute. In 2025, we continued to build the community of alumni working and interested in climate and sustainability issues through global and virtual events designed to build connection and familiarity with the Institute and with Harvard's broader climate and sustainability activities.

Research

Our objective is to realize durable, real-world climate solutions grounded in Harvard research and expertise. In 2025, we continued to advance climate and sustainability research that promises such impacts. We provided direct research funding to support large multi-disciplinary and small, early-stage projects, attracted leading faculty to join the Harvard community, and continued breaking down academic silos that stymie progress.

Action accelerator

The objective of the Institute's **Climate Action Accelerator** is to identify critical climate problems, home in on promising solutions, and convene the full spectrum of stakeholders who have the authority and the resources to act. In 2025, the Accelerator conducted convenings, closed-door meetings, and public events that connected practitioners with Harvard researchers and advanced practical climate and sustainability solutions.

Our Approach

The mission of the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability is to develop and advance durable, effective, and equitable solutions to the climate change challenges confronting humanity.

To fulfill this mission, the Institute works to transform Harvard in ways that foster ever-greater climate and sustainability contributions.

Drive collaboration

Breaking down silos -- within Harvard and between Harvard and the wider world -- unlocks powerful insight and action. From advancing multi-disciplinary research initiatives that benefit from Harvard's many diverse areas of expertise to connecting researchers directly with the stakeholders who can inform and benefit from their work, the Institute always prioritizes collaboration and connection.

Engage directly

Harvard's doors are open to those wrestling with the most complicated and complex climate and sustainability questions. But the University can only serve as a trusted resource and partner if those stakeholders, decisionmakers, and leaders know that we are here to help. Communicating our work and resources to a wide range of audiences -- and engaging them in that work -- is key to maximizing Harvard's positive impact.

Build community

A strong, community of Harvard students, faculty, staff, and alumni committed to climate and sustainability research, education, and engagement is vital. This community inspires and connects today and tomorrow's leading experts, setting them on paths that lead to breakthrough research, ideas, and leadership. This community also fosters the multi-disciplinary collaboration needed to tackle the toughest climate and sustainability problems.

Prepare future leaders

As a world-class University, Harvard has a unique opportunity to provide the next generation of leaders in business, government, and civil society with the knowledge and tools they need to rise to the climate challenge. This unparalleled opportunity for shaping future progress is central to our vision for fulfilling the Institute's mission.

Salata by the Numbers

People are at the core of our strategy of driving collaboration, building community, reaching the wider world, and ensuring transparency across our key work areas. We track key metrics related to the people we support and the ways we serve and reach them.

3,000

Students supported

through Salata Institute funding programs, internships, career development programing, student-focused events, and more

\$275K

In student internship

funding provided to students across disciplines, supporting student learning and work on 6 continents

55

Leading employers

recruited to connect with students the Salata Institute Climate and Sustainability Career Expo

10

Core reseearch

initiatives called the Institute home, representing a doubling of the Institute's major initiatives since 2024

\$6.6M

Research support

provided through the Climate Research Clusters and Seed Grant programs

202

Faculty associates

from every Harvard School formed a growing research community across the University

1,500+

Climate practitioners

engaged through global convenings, workshops, and closed-door meetings

122

Events on campus

and beyond supported the Institute's core strategies of driving collaboration and building community

13,711

Event registrants

signed up for Salata Institute programming

158K

Website visitors

explored climate and sustainability research, educational programing, and stories on our site

143

Public videos

of climate and sustainability talks, events, and explainers received over 44K views

18K

Email subscribers

received monthly newsletters and other emails tailored to students, faculty and staff, alumni, and practitioners

Research

The Salata Institute pursues research that leads to effective and durable climate solutions.

The Institute funds climate research clusters, fellows, and programs addressing the most complex climate and sustainability challenges. In addition to direct support, the Institute builds community, capacity, and infrastructure that fosters climate and sustainability research across Harvard Schools and attracts world-class faculty. In 2025, the Institute continued to expand these efforts.

Research Clusters

Representing the Institute's largest investment in research, clusters comprise interdisciplinary, cross-School teams of researchers, whose varied expertise is required to address the complexity of the problems that they seek to solve. Clusters receive three years of funding from the Institute.

Explore Clusters:

- Climate Adaptation in South Asia
- Reducing Global Methane Emissions
- Climate Adaptation in the Gulf of Guinea
- Corporate Net Zero Targets
- Strengthening Communities

Research Programs

Salata Institute Research Programs are long-term commitments to work grounded in deep Harvard expertise. As clusters and other research initiatives mature and expand, they may become Programs. The **Solar Geoengineering Research Program (SGRP)** represents the first Salata Institute Research Program.

Research Initiatives

Salata Institute Research Initiatives are ambitious, opportunistic, and exploratory undertakings that leverage the Institute's agility and flexibility to advance solutions. Current initiatives include:

- The Global Climate Policy Project at Harvard and MIT
- Accelerating EV Adoption

Seed Grants

The Institute funds nascent research projects that use novel or interdisciplinary approaches to combat climate change.

Fellows

The Institute hosts and supports a global community of leaders and thinkers from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines. Explore fellowship programs:

- Salata Institute Fellows Program
- Harvard Environmental Fellows Program
- Radcliffe-Salata Climate Justice Fellows Program
- Harvard Global Health Institute – Salata-Burke Climate and Health Fellows Program

Bridge Grants

In 2025, in response to sudden cuts in federal research funding, the Salata Institute offered bridge funding to help maintain field experiments and graduate-student training pipelines that would otherwise collapse and to support researchers while they seek alternate funding sources.

Clusters:

Climate Adaptation in South Asia

In 2025, this Salata Institute climate research cluster continues its work to advance climate adaptation research and implementation at the household, community, state, and federal levels in South Asia, particularly in the context of climate-driven migration.

To apply its research findings and advance climate resilience, in March 2025, the cluster team organized a three-day conference in New Delhi bringing together almost 200 leading experts in climate science, public health, medicine, labor, business, agriculture, and urban planning for a series of interdisciplinary dialogues with policymakers from around India.

Participants examined how the country could adapt amid accelerated warming and more erratic monsoons. Scientists warned that surprises are inevitable, so preparation must start now: forecasts of rainfall and extreme heat should be tailored to specific users to turn climate information into actionable adaptation plans. At the agenda-setting conference, participants also focused on workers and the built environment. Across sessions a central question

emerged: Should heat be framed as an episodic disaster or a chronic, routine challenge? Answering this will shape policy timescales and how resources are allocated.

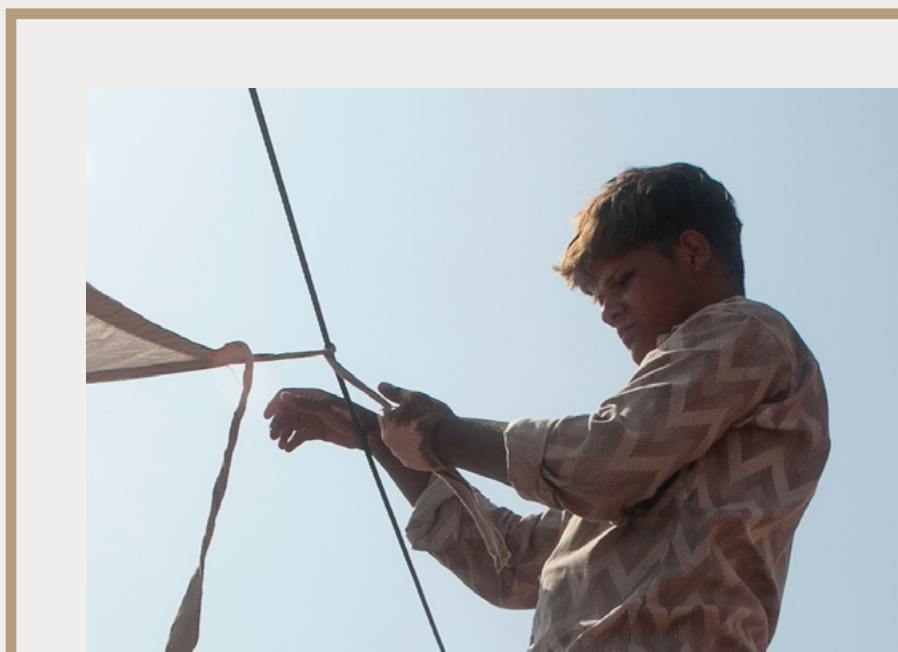
The team is not only collecting data, but also working with analysts and engineers to make it accessible to other researchers through the Climateverse platform.

Purpose-built to close critical information gaps in India, Bangladesh and Colombia, Climateverse now hosts more than 100 curated datasets spanning weather, public health, energy, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Each dataset is paired with comprehensive metadata that spells out provenance, spatial

and temporal resolution, uncertainty ranges, and download logistics – turning raw data into readily usable intelligence to support climate adaptation research.

This year, Climateverse was selected for the AWS Impact Computing Project, which provides cloud resources that will scale both storage and analytics. In partnership with civil society groups on the ground, the researchers are developing community training modules for rollout in 2026. Parallel negotiations are underway to embed Climateverse datasets directly into state and national adaptation plans, ensuring that the insights generated translate into concrete resilience measures.

[Visit the cluster website here.](#)



Clusters:

Reducing Global Methane Emissions

Fast, deep methane cuts are the surest way to slow warming before mid-century.

Twenty-eight faculty members, research fellows, and graduate students across Harvard University are collaborating on 22 distinct research and outreach projects to better detect, quantify, and develop innovative approaches to reducing emissions in the short term (for example, identifying and eliminating natural-gas leaks).

The initiative is making methane leaks visible. Version 2.0 of the Integrated Methane Inversion tool, developed by the Harvard's Atmospheric Chemistry Modeling Group in collaboration with NASA and other partners, allows users to infer location and quantities of emissions from satellite-based data on concentrations and

from data on wind patterns. Importantly, IMI is easy to use by regulators, researchers, and emitters seeking to advance abatement.

The team also pinpoints low-cost abatement across sectors, demonstrating cost-effective ways to reduce emissions. By linking detailed emission maps with local gas-price data, the researchers build supply curves that list how many tons of methane can be stopped at each price point, both in the short run and the long run. They also run full life-cycle studies of liquefied natural gas projects to test whether new export terminals raise or lower total greenhouse gas emissions, giving decision-makers hard numbers instead of marketing claims.

Livestock produces about 40 percent of human-made

methane emissions. Engineers on the team have finished the circuit-board design for a wearable sensor that clips onto cattle and measures their methane burps in real time; field trials begin this summer. Other researchers compare how different countries speed the use of feed additives, and Harvard Law School has supplied the first map of state-level farm methane rules, giving governors a clear menu of actions that reduce emissions without hurting food supplies.

The initiative pairs research with targeted engagement of governments, businesses, NGOs, and international bodies to improve measurement and attribution of emissions, craft effective U.S. and international laws and regulations, and mobilize corporate and multilateral action, delivering near-term climate benefits while longer-horizon strategies are debated.

[Visit the cluster website here.](#)



Clusters:

Climate Adaptation in the Gulf of Guinea

Science-based, locally informed solutions help West African coastal communities protect their homes, fisheries, and economies from accelerating sea-level rise and climate threats.

When he visits coastal villages outside Accra, John Kusimi, a geographer at the University of Ghana, says residents have no doubt what is causing their beaches to vanish, their villages to flood, and their livelihoods to wither.

“You don’t need anyone to tell you it’s climate change. Local people have their own ways of measuring the changes, which they attribute to climate change. Most people are adapting on their own, without support,” Kusimi told an interdisciplinary and international team of researchers at a Harvard University workshop in December: “Resilient Coasts: Sustainable Frameworks for Climate Adaptation in the Gulf of Guinea.”

The workshop brought together members of an ambitious Salata Institute-sponsored research team to discuss their 2024 fieldwork in Nigeria, Ghana, and Côte d’Ivoire. By pairing climate scientists with economists, landscape architects, and other social scientists, the team is addressing physical, social, and economic

adaptation in areas with limited government capacity. The Harvard researchers are also training scientists in the region to monitor sea-level rise, using the scientific findings and survey results to engage government ministries, NGOs such as the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, and local universities.

“Africa is lagging behind in terms of data,” said Rebecca Berkoh-Oforiwa, a Salata Institute fellow, who is bridging physics and data analysis to recreate missing sea-level data along thousands of miles of coast from Senegal to Mozambique. “Our reconstruction is providing information about the past, to understand the present and to help inform policymakers’ adaptation strategies.”

The effects of climate change are not limited to the coasts. Seasonal rainfall patterns are becoming unstable, hurting the cocoa farms that are an economic mainstay in Ghana and Côte d’Ivoire, while flooding traditionally dryer regions in the north.

Peter Huybers, chair of Harvard’s Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, observed that in 2024 a globe-circling, equatorial band of rain called the Inter-Tropical

Convergence Zone (ITCZ) had moved further north than ever before, part of a multi-year shift with implications for agriculture and food security.

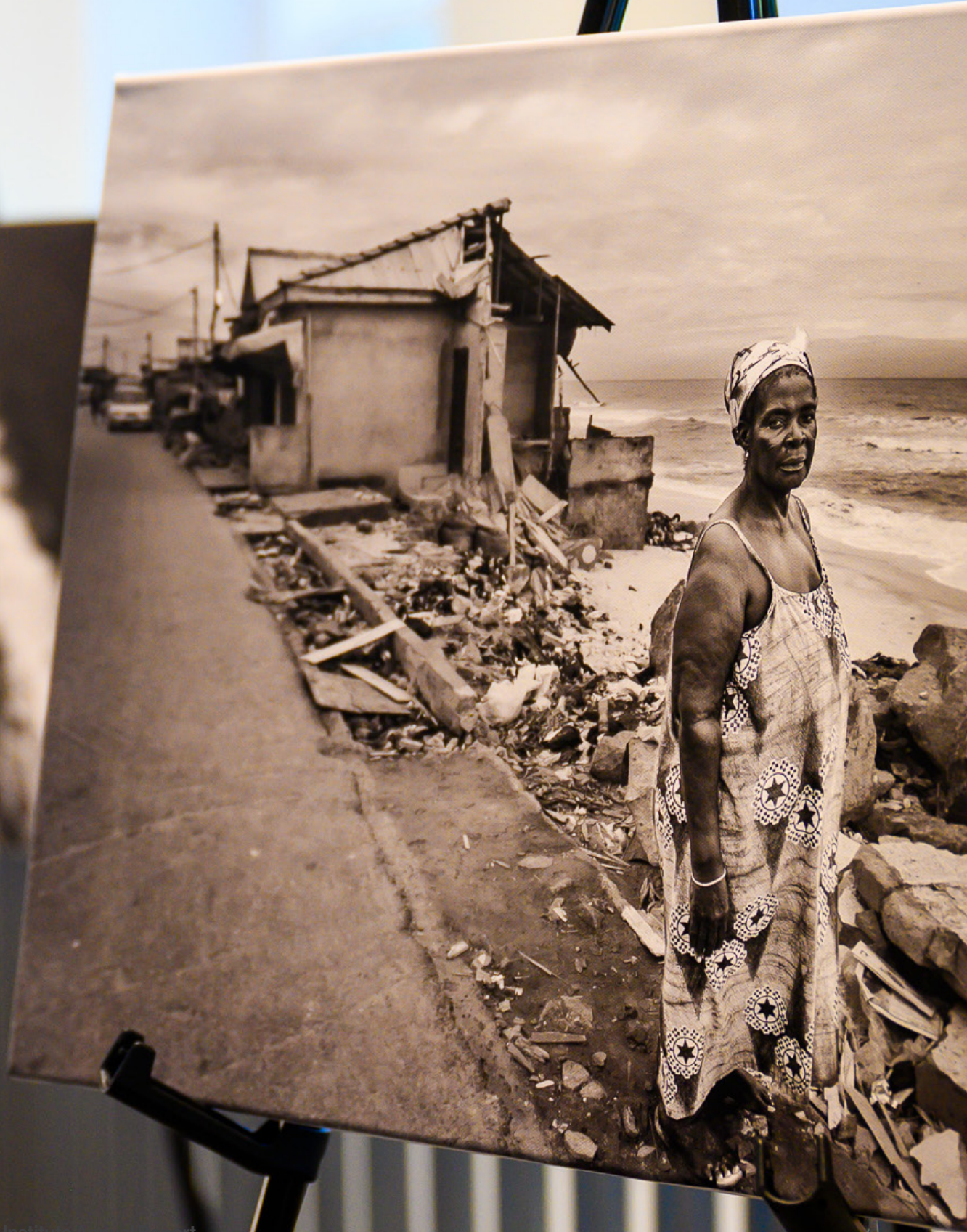
“We are trying to understand the migration of the ITCZ so we can better predict rainfall,” Huybers said. “Developing sustainable agricultural practices further north depends on knowing what that future rainfall is going to look like and if the changes to the ITCZ are just an anomaly.”

Cocoa growers, he added, “need a deeper understanding of how climate change is going to influence the patterns of rainfall if they are to invest in the future.”

The researchers are developing a framework that pairs demographic pressure points with sea-level-rise and storm-surge modeling to evaluate six adaptation pathways across the Gulf of Guinea. The goal is to equip local communities and policymakers with evidence-based strategies to navigate the decline in fisheries, coastal vulnerability, and broader climate-adaptation challenges.

[Visit the cluster website here.](#)

A photography exhibit at Harvard Climate Action Week 2025 displays work by Adolphus Opara documenting scenes of sea level rise along the Gulf of Guinea.



Clusters:

Corporate Net Zero Targets

Policymakers, investors, and watchdog NGOs have long lacked reliable, comparable data to judge whether “net-zero” claims translate into measurable emissions cuts.

This project investigates whether U.S. companies’ climate pledges translate into actual greenhouse-gas cuts. By comparing firms with and without such commitments, quantifying resulting emissions, and probing implementation gaps, the project is pinpointing how legal frameworks, market pressures, and corporate governance shape target credibility.

Central to this project has been the team’s creation of two comprehensive, high-quality datasets on corporate climate commitments that go far beyond what was previously available:

- Firm-level climate-commitment dataset (based on the Russell 3000 index from 2000-2023). By stitching together disclosures, sustainability reports and Compustat data, the team has created the first holistic view of how virtually every publicly listed U.S. company sets emissions targets.

- Utility-sector plant-level dataset. Because electricity generation drives most corporate scope 2 emissions, the team paired companies’ stated decarbonization goals with real-time CO₂ output from EPA and EIA databases.

These datasets – which will be made public later this year – turn marketing slogans into testable propositions, enabling science-based target-setting, smarter capital allocation, and regulatory oversight, while equipping stakeholders with forward-looking risk analysis.

The project team, which comprises faculty from the disciplines of environmental law, economics, policy, and sustainable business strategy across three Harvard schools, is preparing three papers on the datasets for peer review: (i) an introduction to the firm-level dataset with initial trends, (ii) an assessment of decarbonization progress in the utility sector, and (iii) an analysis of what drives companies to adopt climate commitments and whether those pledges accelerate emissions reductions. A Salata Institute white paper will serve as the methodological playbook for future researchers.

Decarbonization hinges on coordinated action across academia, civil society and the private sector. During the year, the cluster hosted two convenings: (1) an October 2024 workshop on corporate climate commitments that engaged 32 scholars and NGO stakeholders and (2) an invitation-only December 2024 “Net Zero Freight Trucking Electrification Roundtable” for shippers and carriers, co-organized with EDF. These fora translate empirical findings into practical roadmaps.

Collectively, these activities shift the climate conversation from aspirations to accountability. By delivering robust data, rigorous analysis, and inclusive dialogue, this research is producing the knowledge infrastructure required to align corporate behavior with the rapid emissions reductions that climate science demands.

[Visit the cluster website here.](#)

Clusters: **Strengthening Communities**

Communities are getting the practical tools they need as they confront political and institutional roadblocks to fair, people-centered climate and energy solutions.

This purpose of this project is to accelerate energy transitions by working with communities at the forefront of energy transition and climate change. The research is focusing on the political and social hurdles – ineffective public engagement, permitting bottlenecks, fiscal dependencies, jurisdictional conflicts, data access, and credit-claiming – that often determine whether communities can benefit from promising clean technologies and new decarbonization policies. Every project is geared toward producing immediately usable resources for practitioners, such as datasets, playbooks, policy briefs, workshops, or stakeholder-informed

recommendations to advance just, community-centered energy transitions.

The interdisciplinary team of researchers is producing a policy playbook for state and city officials on decarbonizing transportation; mapping the hurdles that keep Tribal Nations from tapping federal funds; and analyzing utility commission files to explain delays in clean-energy permits. Researchers are supporting community engagement and regional governance innovation on Massachusetts' North Shore, co-designing energy plans with Gulf Coast tribes, rescuing key environmental-justice data, and running a national webinar series on decarbonizing transportation. Workshops in places such as New Mexico help regions dependent on fossil fuel production design a fair transition to a green economy.

Nearly 900 state, local, and tribal stakeholders have taken part in project-led events; three major reports and two national energy surveys are in circulation; and more than 400 federal environmental-justice actions have been logged for public use. Regular meetings of the new Harvard Sustainable Transportation Group add insights on low-carbon mobility, linking business, engineering, policy, and planning experts to keep the work useful to practitioners on the supply and demand sides of energy transitions.

The outreach to policymakers and practitioners includes the monthly Harvard Sustainable Transportation Webinar Series, which explores how climate change influences the design, operation, and governance of transportation networks. The project team initiated the series in response to the federal government's decision to eliminate similar convenings previously hosted by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The team is also making stakeholder- and community-informed contributions to the Salata Institute's Climate Policy Working Group.

[Visit the cluster website here.](#)



Programs:

Harvard Solar Geoengineering Research Program

The Harvard Solar Geoengineering Research Program (SGRP) aims to reduce uncertainties around solar geoengineering; generate critical science, technology, and policy insights; and help inform the public debate surrounding this controversial idea. Recognizing that solar geoengineering could not be a replacement for reducing emissions or adapting to climate impacts, SGRP draws on Harvard's research capabilities and global convening power to provide the knowledge necessary in considering

solar geoengineering as a supplement to broader mitigation and adaptation efforts. SGRP supports a broad array of natural science, social science, and humanities research, both at Harvard and in collaboration with other academic, civil society, and government organizations and institutions.

The SGRP Seminar series met monthly throughout the academic year, and the program co-sponsored academic convenings with Resources for the Future in Washington, DC, in

September 2024 and with the Degrees Initiative in Cape Town, South Africa, in May 2025. The SGRP Fellows Program supported Britta Clark, a recent Ph.D. from Harvard's Department of Philosophy, whose work focuses on the ethics of solar geoengineering. Clark will continue for a second year in the program for the 2025-25 academic year. The program also launched an exploratory research grant program on solar radiation management for Harvard faculty.

[Visit the program website here.](#)



Initiatives

Global Climate Policy Project at Harvard and MIT

The Global Climate Policy Project (GCPP) is a joint initiative between Harvard and MIT dedicated to identifying and advancing innovations in global climate policies and institutions. Existing frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, have established an important foundation for climate action but are not sufficient to manage the risks of a changing climate.

With financial support from the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, Weatherhead Research Cluster on Global Climate Policy, and MIT Climate Project, GCPP puts forward ideas and policy proposals that complement the UNFCCC and address critical gaps in trade, finance, security, and other areas.

By convening leading academics, policymakers, industry experts, and members of civil society, GCPP drives research-backed policy proposals that can shape the global dialogue and accelerate urgent climate action.

Innovations in policies and institutions focus on:

- Climate finance
- Energy transition
- Adaptation
- Trade
- Geoengineering
- Carbon removal
- Research Innovation

The initiative is working to develop actionable, multi-disciplinary proposals that address gaps in global climate governance. Through academic collaborations across Harvard and MIT, GCPP explores how global policies on trade, finance, security,

and other topics can help drive more ambitious climate action.

Policy Outreach

GCPP engages with government policymakers, officials from international institutions, industry leaders, and members of civil society to design policy proposals based on research and evidence.

Student and Alumni Engagement

Through multi-disciplinary coursework, student research fellowships, and alumni engagement, GCPP equips the next generation of climate leaders with the tools to shape global climate policy. We provide mentorship, internships, and other types of opportunities for students and professionals committed to climate action.

[Visit the initiative website here.](#)



Initiatives

Accelerating EV Adoption

As prices of batteries and electric vehicles fall, the greatest impediment to widespread adoption of lower-emitting EVs is the lack of reliable public charging infrastructure. With support from the Institute, a team of researchers from Harvard, the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, and Georgia Tech is working to accelerate progress on public EV charging to facilitate the widespread use of EVs.

This initiative has advanced on three tracks: knowledge-sharing for cities; academic and policy research on data and technology; and stakeholder-informed

technical guidance. Collectively, the work is equipping government and industry decision-makers with data-driven tools and policy playbooks to make public EV charging more reliable, user-friendly, and accessible.

The team's 2024-25 engagement activities included:

- Hosting a public webinar on "Best Practices for EV-Charging Programs in Cities," showcasing procurement, curb-management and equity lessons from successful early-adopter locales.
- Convenings for charging provider operators,

auto manufactures, and regulators focused on identifying key charging impediments and on real-time charger data availability.

- The first-ever academic workshop on EV charging

The project also responded rapidly to inform the debate about rolling back IRA EV subsidies. A brief estimated the effect of proposed rollbacks on sales, emissions, and government spending, at a granular policy level. Those estimates were refreshed in June 2025.

[Visit the initiative website here.](#)



Seed Grants

The Salata Institute Seed Grant Program in Climate and Sustainability funds faculty nascent research projects that use novel or interdisciplinary approaches to combat climate change.

Launched in Spring 2023 with a generous gift from the Troper Wojcicki Foundation, the program has made 45 awards over seven funding cycles for a total of more than \$1,000,000. Faculty from nearly all of Harvard's Schools have received funding to pursue an array of challenges. Some of the funded projects in 2024 – 2025 are:

Atmospheric water harvesting through soft engineered materials

For at least a month per year, two-thirds of people around the world use more water than is naturally available to them. Water vapor harvested from the air in an energy-free, affordable, and decentralized way could help address the shortfall, but traditional methods require abundant land and produce limited quantities.

Harvard researchers Joanna Aizenberg and Frank Keutsch of the Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences have developed a new material that promises a three-fold increase in water harvest in temperate climates. With seed grant funding, they are assessing scalability and performance in non-laboratory settings at various humidities and environmental conditions. Their preliminary studies demonstrate that radiative cooling materials can also lower local ambient temperatures, potentially enhancing resilience during heat waves.

Impacts of government-provided weather insurance: Evidence from India

The project is investigating how the Indian rural poor are influenced by government crop insurance that protect against natural disasters such as flooding and drought. The research team, led by Emily Breza of the Department of Economics, examines how formal insurance drives network formation within villages and shapes the dissipation of shocks, and how social networks influence take-up of government insurance. Together, these two pieces of evidence shed light on how public policy can help the poor cope with changing growing and working conditions.

New Aerial Monitoring Platforms for Wildfires

Climate-change-fueled wildfires are increasingly responsible for the destruction of homes and businesses, the loss of human life, and billions of dollars in economic damage. New monitoring tools carried aloft by high-altitude long-endurance autonomous aircraft can provide data useful for advancing wildfire forecasts and helping fight these calamities on the ground.

With seed grant funding, Jim Anderson from the Department of Chemistry and co-PI Craig Mascarenhas from the Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences are exploring the feasibility of using a suite of miniaturized instruments aboard a future generation of solar-powered aircraft to better measure and address climate-fueled wildfires. During an active fire a particle optical spectrometer mounted on a HALE flight can collect detailed information about smoke chemical composition and other information useful for identifying health hazards and providing information about fire spread in real-time.

See the following page for additional seed grants funded in 2024-2025.

October 2024 Funded Seed Grant Projects

Faculty and School	Project
Jim Anderson (FAS/SEAS)	Quantifying the feasibility of high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) platforms for wildfire applications during the pre-fire, active fire, and post-fire stages
Melani Cammett (FAS)	The Political Economy of Energy Transitions in the Middle East
Jonathan Grinham (GSD)	Making the Case: Communicating the benefits of climate change action
David Williams (HSPH)	Climate Stress: Mapping Mental Health Vulnerabilities Using New Data-Driven Insights
Peter Tufano, Ishita Sen (HBS)	Workshop: Climate Change and Insurance

February 2025 Funded Seed Grant Projects

Faculty and School	Project
Joanna Aizenberg, Frank Keutsch (SEAS)	Rapid Radiative Cooling Atmospheric Water Harvesting through Soft Engineered Materials
Eva Blau (GSD)	Workshop: Supporting Kazakhstan's Green Transition
Emily Breza (FAS)	Impacts of Government-Provided Weather Insurance: Evidence from India's PMFBY Program
Carla Martin (FAS)	Workshop: The Futures of Africa's Cocoa Industry
Rachel Meltzer (GSD)	Wildfires and the Resilience of Commercial Activity
Lotem Bassan-Nygate (HKS)	Breaking Commitments: Public Reactions to Withdrawals from International Climate Agreements
Eugene Richardson (HMS)	Adaptation Frontiers in Vulnerable Socio-economic Systems in Brazil

Bridge Grant Program

In response to sudden cuts in federal research funding, the Salata Institute offered bridge funding to help maintain field experiments and graduate-student training pipelines that would otherwise collapse and to support researchers while they seek alternate funding sources.

In June 2025, the Institute awarded \$25,000 grants to 18 faculty members.

Among the funded projects was “Beat the Heat,” a randomized trial that installed window air-conditioners in the homes of vulnerable seniors in Boston and measures indoor air quality. The research had lost funding from the National Institutes for Health.

Another of the funded projects refines rainfall forecasts, allowing agencies, such as the National Weather Service, to produce better predictions for less money. The National Science Foundation (NSF) had previously funded the project.

Yet another funded project entailed the development of cheaper ways to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It, too, lost NSF funding. Explore bridge grant awards below.

Faculty and School	Project
Michael Aziz (SEAS)	Porous Electrode Science for Electrochemical Flow Cells
David Brooks (SEAS)	Sustainable AI Computing with Next-Generation Hardware and Test-Time Compute
Gage Hills (SEAS)	From Academia to Industry: Guiding the Development of CO ₂ -Efficient Computing Systems
Robert Howe (SEAS)	Biodegradable Structures and Machines for Sustainable Development
Peter Huybers (FAS-EPS/SEAS)	Securing Information on Food Insecurity
Zhiming Kuang (FAS-EPS/SEAS)	A New Machine Learning Strategy to Parameterizing Moist Convection
Mariana Linz (FAS-EPS/SEAS)	Analysis of Tracer Distributions, Trends and Extreme Events
Richard Liu (FAS-Chem)	Directly Light-Driven CO ₂ Separations
Jackie Matthes (FAS-OEB/Forest)	Bridging the Gap from Wetlands to Uplands: Cross-scale methane dynamics at terrestrial-aquatic interfaces in temperate forests
Julia Mundy (FAS-Physics/SEAS)	Development of Novel Oxide Thin Films for OER Electrocatalysis

Bridge Grant Program Continued

Faculty and School	Project
Benton Taylor (FAS-OEB)	Forest Responses to Warming, Elevated CO ₂ , and Drought (FORWARD)
Eli Tziperman (FAS-EPS/SEAS)	Extreme El Niño Events in a Changing Climate
Robin Wordsworth (FAS-EPS/SEAS)	Hothouse Hurricanes: Tropical Cyclones in Earth's Warmest Climates
Gary Adamkiewicz (HSPH)	Beat the Heat: Long-term Heat Resilience in Boston
Josiemer Mattei (HSPH)	Climate Change Indicators, Agricultural Diversification, and Food and Nutrition Security in Puerto Rico
Pablo Perez-Ramos (GSD)	The Intelligence of Scarcity: From Arid Traditions to Adaptive Possibilities
Mary Rice (HSPH)	Air Purification for Eosinophilic COPD Study (APECS)

Strengthening Harvard's research capacity

Harvard faculty produce new knowledge that can help the world meet the climate challenge. In 2025, the Salata Institute continued its work to attract new faculty to join Harvard University and strengthen these efforts. In 2025, five new faculty with deep climate expertise joined the University, with more on the horizon.

Jeannine Cavender-Bares, Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Bares studies how plants change along with the climate – which species survive, which do not, and why. Her work in monitoring biodiversity is essential for deciphering where change is happening, the kinds of changes that are unfolding, and whether actions we are taking for planetary stewardship are having the kinds of impacts leaders are aiming for.

Elisa Iturbe, Architecture Thesis Director Co-Director, Assistant Professor of Architecture, Harvard Graduate School of Design. Elisa Iturbe is an architectural designer, writer, and educator. Her work studies the relationship between energy, power, and form, with a focus on how the adoption of fossil fuels changed the spatial organization of the built environment, producing an urban and architectural paradigm unique to the carbon age—carbon form.

Wolfram Schlenker, Ray A. Goldberg Professor of the Global Food System, Harvard Kennedy School. Schlenker studies the effect of weather and climate on agricultural yields and migration, how climate trends and the US biofuel mandate influences agricultural commodity prices, and how pollution impacts both agricultural yields and human morbidity.

Fiamma Straneo, the Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Science and Engineering at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, seeks to improve our understanding of how heat, water and sediments are exchanged between the oceans and ice sheets, and how these vary over time. This, she wrote in August by email while aboard a research vessel in west Greenland, “is key to our ability to interpret past and project future sea level and ocean circulation changes in the North Atlantic as well as inform adaptive strategies and resilience-building for local communities.”

Le Xie, Gordon McKay Professor of Electrical Engineering at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, pursues research at the nexus of data, energy, and infrastructure. His research interests include modeling and control in data-rich large-scale systems, grid integration of clean energy resources, and electricity markets.

Fellows

The Salata Institute hosts and supports academics and practitioners across a wide range of disciplines through the Salata Institute Fellows Program, the Harvard Environmental Fellows Program, the Radcliffe-Salata Climate Justice Fellows Program, and the Harvard Global Health Institute Salata-Burke Climate and Health Fellows Program.

The Salata Institute Fellows Program

The Salata Institute Fellows Program accepts exceptional academics and practitioners working on climate change and sustainability for the purpose of supporting their scholarship or professional development. Fellows, in turn, enrich Harvard University's community of scholars and scientists who are working on these issues. In academic year 2024 – 2025, the Institute hosted the following fellows:

Elaine Buckberg, Senior Fellow at the Salata Institute, former Chief Economist of General Motors, and a former senior U.S. Treasury official, led research and stakeholder engagement to improve public EV charging outcomes, analyze industrial policy and supply chains, and teach an undergraduate seminar on electric vehicles, drawing on her decades of experience advising government and industry.

Professor Xinming Du, Assistant Professor of Economics at the National University of Singapore, worked under the supervision of Professor Charles Taylor to advance research on methane emissions from fossil fuel supply chains and agricultural practices, using satellite and administrative data to study methane leakage in the energy sector and the mitigation potential of dry rice cultivation in China.

Harshil Kamdar, Lead Senior Scientist at Insight M and a Harvard Ph.D. graduate, worked under the supervision of Professor Daniel Jacob to develop a multi-scale dataset integrating aerial and satellite observations to detect and mitigate methane super-emitters, while also convening a seminar series to connect researchers, industry, and regulators around methane monitoring and reduction.

Professor Zhu Liu, of Tsinghua University and co-founder of Carbon Monitor, conducted research at the Salata Institute to advance global methane emission estimates by integrating advanced satellite data and real-time modeling, strengthening Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification systems to inform international climate policy and cooperation.

Radcliffe-Salata Climate Justice Fellows Program

The Radcliffe-Salata Climate Justice Fellowships are year-long appointments that afford recipients the opportunity to pursue ambitious projects in the unique environment of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Learning. Fellows are drawn from some of the most thoughtful and exciting contemporary scholars considering questions of climate justice.

Holly Jean Buck (2024-2025) is an associate professor of environment and sustainability at the University at Buffalo. She works across geography, environmental science, and media studies to understand how people engage with emerging climate and energy technologies. Her research is interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral and has an applied, policy focus. She is the author of *Ending Fossil Fuels: Why Net Zero Is Not Enough* (Verso, 2021), which focuses on phasing out fossil fuels, and *After Geoengineering: Climate Tragedy, Repair, and Restoration* (Verso, 2019), which examines technologies for climate intervention.

Harvard Environmental Fellows Program

The Harvard Environmental Fellows Program brings some of the most talented postdoctoral scholars in the areas of climate and the environment to Harvard to work with faculty hosts and the broader Salata community. In 2024-25, eight Environmental Fellows worked with their hosts across the Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Harvard Kennedy School, and the Faculty of Arts & Sciences departments of History, Chemistry, and Earth and Planetary Sciences.

Karl Aspelund (2025-2027) uses models grounded in economic theory, paired with spatial and administrative data, to design environmental policies that advance equity, efficiency, and sustainability.

Matthew Goss (2024-2026) researches how the oxidation of organic molecules in the atmosphere affects the formation of fine aerosol particles, which play an important role in climate and air quality.

Seán Kavanagh (2024-2026) uses quantum mechanical simulations to identify bottlenecks in the performance of renewable energy materials.

Jiameng Lai (2025-2027) is an environmental scientist who integrates plant physiology theories, land surface modeling, satellite remote sensing, and data assimilation techniques to monitor, understand and predict the complex dynamics of terrestrial ecosystems in response to environmental change.

Cameron MacDonald (2025-2027) uses numerical models and theory to better understand the fundamental dynamics of Earth's atmosphere.

Aaron Molnar (2024-2026) mobilizes paleoclimatology and archaeology with documentary sources to understand how the premodern state over time adapted to climate change in the Chinese-Mongolian steppe borderlands.

Nkosi Muse (2025-2027) utilizes a mixed methods approach to examine unique, humid heat hazards that threaten human health and productivity in urban areas, as well as develop policy solutions to equitably adapt in a warming world.

Nathaniel Tarshish (2024-2026) is a climate scientist with broad interests in understanding historical and committed global warming.

Guglielmo Zappalà (2025-2027) applies statistical and econometric methods grounded in economic theory to traditional and geo-spatial satellite data to better understand the socio-economic impacts of climate change and humanity's ability to adapt.

Harvard Global Health Institute – Salata-Burke Climate and Health Fellows Program

In partnership with the Harvard Global Health Institute and made possible by a generous gift from Katherine States Burke AB '79 and T. Robert Burke, the Burke Climate and Health Fellowship offers support for eligible research fellows, postdoctoral scholars, and early career faculty pursuing scholarly research at the intersection of climate change and global health.

Colleen Lanier-Christensen (2024-2026) is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Science Department at Harvard University. She works at the intersection of history of science and public health, studying the governance of environmental and health risks, including air pollution, chemical products, and medical technologies. As a Salata-Burke fellow, she is researching the historical legal authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate greenhouse gases as pollutants under the Clean Air Act of 1970.

Annikki Herranen-Tabibi (2023-2025) is a Postdoctoral Fellow medical and environmental anthropologist of the Circumpolar Arctic. She is engaged in long-term ethnographic research in Sápmi, the transborder homeland of the Indigenous Sámi people. Her scholarly work defines a space for research and collaborative action at the intersections of global health with medical and

environmental humanities and social sciences. As a Salata-Burke Fellow,, she researched the health effects of climate-induced disruptions to webs of Arctic subsistence livelihoods, as well as diverse responses to those effects, in Sápmi.

Students gather at "Food for Thought," a student-led event supported by the Salata Institute exploring sustainable cuisine



Climate Action Accelerator

The Climate Action Accelerator is a nonpartisan resource connecting Harvard scholars to the full spectrum of stakeholders wrestling with the most difficult and divisive climate questions, building consensus for climate solutions grounded in Harvard's research and expertise. The Accelerator identifies critical climate problems and connects Harvard experts to the full spectrum of stakeholders through convenings (both public and private), white papers, blogs, and communications support.

In academic year 2024-2025, the Accelerator conducted 34 convenings, closed-door meetings, and public events that engaged some 1,500 practitioners. Public-facing activities included events at Climate Week NYC, London Climate Week, and San Francisco Climate Week. The Accelerator also runs Harvard Climate Action Week. We have moved Harvard Climate Action Week (HCAW) from late spring (June 2024) to run during the school year (September 2025) to increase access for our students. As a result, HCAW did not run in AY 24-25, the period covered by this report.

Explore the Accelerator's engagement activities in critical areas, including **energy and climate policy**, **electric vehicle policy**, **methane emissions reduction**, **climate resilience and insurance**, **climate finance and voluntary emissions reductions**, **environmental justice**, and **solar geoeengineering** in the following pages.

Highlight: **Hidden in the 'Big Beautiful Bill': a win-win for clean energy and rural America**

The 870-page bill signed by President Trump in 2025 included a provision based on a key recommendation from a Salata Institute white paper published last August by Harvard University researchers Ana Martinez and Dustin Tingley, "Federal Land Leasing, Energy, and Local Public Finances."

Under the new provision, 50 percent of every rent, royalty, and capacity payment generated by wind and solar developments on public land will flow back to the states and counties that host them. For America's energy transition, this is a strategic breakthrough.

With the Climate Action Accelerator's support, experts help translate quality research like this into practical, durable solutions that benefit communities.

[Read more on our website](#)



Climate Action Accelerator

Convening Key Voices

The Accelerator serves as a resource and partner to the full spectrum of stakeholders wrestling with the most difficult and divisive climate questions, building consensus for climate solutions grounded in Harvard's research and expertise. Gatherings are key to this work. The Accelerator brings together leaders, stakeholders, and experts through a wide range of activities, ranging from closed-door meetings to virtual workshops and large-scale conferences. In Academic Year 2024-2025, the Accelerator focused its efforts on organizing convenings in the following areas. For a full list of convenings, see Appendix 1.

Energy and Climate Policy

Through high-level convenings in Washington D.C. and meetings with Congressional offices, and Harvard faculty working with the Climate Action Accelerator educated lawmakers and stakeholders on domestic climate and energy policy scenarios and implications -- and surfaced questions that will inform new research.

The Accelerator also played a critical role in launching and supporting the Global Climate Policy Project at Harvard and MIT. The Accelerator organized meetings with thought leaders in the early days of the initiative.

Environmental Justice

In 2025, the Accelerator hosted a high-level panel accompanied by closed-door discussions with a range of key EJ voices -- from the MA state government, to the EPA, to local government, to a Harvard Law School staff attorney. The Accelerator also developed a working group of Harvard academics focused on EJ issues to shape future interdisciplinary work.

Electric Vehicle Policy

The Accelerator hosted a range of high-level panels, meetings with lawmakers, roundtables, and workshops in Academic Year 2024-2025. These convenings shaped new, practical resources for decisionmakers setting EV charging policies and practices.

Reducing Methane Emissions

An official side event at COP29 in Baku, hosted by the Accelerator in support of the Harvard Initiative on Reducing Global Methane Emissions -- alongside informal meetings -- helped leaders and stakeholders determine paths forward for methane emissions reductions in a complex landscape. A workshop trained dozens of non-expert stakeholders to infer methane emissions from satellite data, a critical method of identifying leaks and stopping them.

Climate Resilience and Insurance

The Accelerator hosted workshops, meetings, and a large-scale conference to advance climate resilience in Academic Year 2024-2025. These included a global workshop on frameworks for climate adaptation in the Gulf of Guinea; a convening of high-level insurance industry stakeholders to discuss trends and solutions in risk management and insurance; an international workshop on the future of the cocoa industry; co-sponsorship of a workshop on economic resilience in the U.S.; and the 'India 2047: Climate Resilient Future' conference.

Bridge Climate Finance and Voluntary Corporate Targets

The Accelerator hosted a high-level international group of researchers and practitioners seeking to understand the extent to which voluntary emissions reduction targets yield emissions reductions. Building on this workshop, a London Climate Week panel explored climate finance pathways with a specialized audience of practitioners.

Public Outreach

The Salata Institute aims to communicate broadly to climate professionals, the Harvard community, and the climate-curious public. By tailoring content and engagement strategies to these groups, the Institute aims to build trust, amplify Harvard expertise, and grow the followings needed to position itself as the University's central hub – and a global leader – for climate insight.

The new Harvard Climate Blog, our white paper series, an audience-specific broadcast email program, documentary videos and lecture recordings, an active media relations practice, and social media content, augment traditional academic publication streams to reach these diverse audiences.

These efforts continue to yield encouraging results: In Fiscal Year 2025, the Salata Institute attracted over 158,000 website visitors, drove over 300,000 impressions across social media channels, and grew its email subscriber base to over 18,000. The Institute's YouTube channel now features over 100 free climate and sustainability talks and generated over 11,900 viewer-hours. Harvard faculty were cited in the media over 200 times.

Explore several of our core research dissemination campaigns below:



Public Outreach Launching the Harvard Climate Blog

Launched in December 2024, the Harvard Climate Blog is a jargon-free platform that translates faculty research into clear, timely articles that position Harvard as a trusted, accessible source of climate insight and the Salata Institute as the single point of entry for climate work at the University. Blogs published in Academic Year 2024-2025 include:

- Where solar panels make the most difference in reducing carbon emissions
- How clean air rules save lives and are required by law
- 2025 tax debate and clean energy investment
- How exposure to wildfire smoke impacts human health now, soon, and later

The Harvard Climate Blog has released dozens of informative pieces across a wide range of topics.

[Read more on our website](#)

Public Outreach

Salata Institute White Papers

In addition to the discussion papers and peer-reviewed articles published by the Salata Institute’s faculty affiliates, the Institute began publishing a white paper series during this academic year. These papers are reviewed by members of the Salata Institute Editorial Committee. For example:

“Federal Land Leasing, Energy, and Local Public Finances” (August 2024) explores a crucial missed opportunity to support local economies through renewable energy revenue. It found that unlike fossil-fuel extraction on federal lands – which annually channels billions in rents, royalties, and bid bonuses to states and counties – onshore wind and solar projects direct nearly all revenue to the federal treasury, representing a missed opportunity that policymakers should correct by extending equitable revenue-sharing mechanisms to renewable energy.

“Fishers on the Gulf of Guinea: Climate, and the Income Diversification Imperative” (May 2025) argues that collapsing fish stocks driven by ocean warming, illegal industrial trawling, and artisanal overfishing require West African nations to pivot from fuel subsidies toward stronger regulatory enforcement, vocational training, and school-based programs that help coastal fisherfolk diversify their incomes and secure long-term resilience.

Public Outreach

Harvard Voices on Climate Change: Virtual, Public Talks

This virtual event series, hosted by the Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability and the Harvard Alumni Association, features Harvard faculty and fellows who discuss various dimensions of the climate challenge. The series is hosted by Jim Stock, Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability and Harold Hitchings Burbank Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University.

Looking ahead, faculty teams are currently working on at least three more white papers for publication in the second-half of 2025: a paper on extreme heat in India presenting findings from the New Delhi conference; a methodological playbook for researchers using the Net Zero clusters’ new datasets; and a detailed blueprint by the GCPP for a ‘Climate Coalition’ that can speed decarbonization while protecting development, to be released ahead of COP30 in November.



Talk topics in Academic Year 2024-2025 included sea level rise, AI and clean energy, sustainable computing, public opinion and climate policy, EPA rollbacks and the future of environmental protection, and the future of insurance in a world facing climate change.

[View all Harvard Voices on Climate Change recordings on our YouTube channel](#)

Education and Student Support

The Salata Institute is working to ensure that a Harvard education prepares students for leadership in a world facing climate change.

Through the Committee on Climate Education, launched in 2022 and housed at the Salata Institute, senior leaders across the University are working to offer more and deeper instruction across disciplines. The Institute also offers a wide range of co-curricular and community-building programs and activities developed in coordination with Harvard's schools. Through these programs, students have opportunities to contribute to climate solutions today, while learning valuable skills and developing professional connections for tomorrow.

In academic year 2024-2025, more than 3,000 students across Harvard University benefitted from co-curricular programs offered by the Salata Institute. Looking to the future, the Institute continues to collaborate with students — through the Salata Institute Student Ambassadors Programs and other avenues — to continuously improve its offerings to students.



Education New offerings in climate and sustainability

While the Committee on Climate Education continued its intensive behind-the-scenes work to expand the University's formal climate and sustainability curriculum, the Salata Institute launched two new, non-traditional educational opportunities in Academic Year 2024-2025.

An inaugural January-term course for faculty helped broaden the knowledge of faculty members interested in climate and sustainability, and facilitated new connections that will support expanded educational opportunities in the future.

A new postdoctoral reading group launched by the Institute, "Financial Economics of Climate and Sustainability" prepared faculty, post-docs, researchers, and doctoral students in the emerging field of climate finance. In its first year, the course had participants from 142 universities and seven government agencies across five continents.

Student Support

Co-Curricular Programs

The Salata Institute's co-curricular programs were developed in partnership with students, faculty, and staff across all Harvard Schools to meet a wide range of student needs and ambitions. In academic year 2024-2025, more than 3,000 students across Harvard University benefitted from these programs, conducting fieldwork, pursuing on campus projects, attending events, and working in internship positions.

Internship Programs

The Salata Institute enabled **46** student internships in Academic Year 2024-2025, supporting students working in areas ranging from finance and policy to pediatrics to renewable energy. Internship programs include:

- The Harvard Climate Internship Program
- The Climate Policy Internship Program
- Fellows at the Forefront

Project Funding

The Institute supported **over 1,800** students participating in projects that involve collaboration across Harvard University's schools. Funded projects included a student-led Green AI Summit, the Food 4Thought Festival, Early Graduate Eco-Engagement discussion sessions, and the Garden Stewardship Initiative. Salata Institute project funding programs include:

- The Climate Collaboration Grant Program
- The Student Activities Grant Program

Career Development

The Salata Institute provides students across Harvard with opportunities to develop professional connections, build experience, and chart a career in climate and sustainability. In Academic Year 2024-2025, **438** students participated in professional development events and programs hosted by the Institute, and **over 1,000** registered for the Institute's annual Career Expo. Salata Institute career development programs in 2024-2025 included:

- The Careers in Climate Action Speaker Series
- The Climate and Sustainability Career Expo
- Washington D.C. Networking Reception
- All-Ivy Environmental and Sustainable Development Career Fair Travel Program

Travel Funding

Through its travel grant program, the Salata Institute supported **59** students traveling across 5 continents for climate and sustainability conferences, educational opportunities, presentations, and more.

Building Cohorts

Students benefit from collaboration and connection as they pursue climate and sustainability solutions and careers. Through the Salata Institute Ambassadors program and the Harvard College Climate Cohort -- in addition to the collaborative grant program -- the Salata Institute is helping students forge those connections.

The Salata Institute Ambassadors Program brought together **21** students from all Harvard Schools to work together in advising the Institute's activities. The Harvard College Climate Cohort offered **31** pre-matriculated students a chance to build community and understand the climate and sustainability landscape on campus.

Research Support

The Salata Institute launched a summer research funding program in Academic Year 2024-2025 that supported 33 students. Their work supported faculty working on climate issues ranging from methane emissions to public health and bioinspired engineering.

Student Support Community-Building Events

Building a student community around climate and sustainability is a vital part of the Salata Institute's work to prepare the next generation of leaders to face this global challenge. In addition to supporting student-led events, the Institute hosts key gatherings throughout the year.



Fall and Spring Open Houses

At the Institute's semesterly open house event, students from across the University learn about co-curricular programs and resources, and hear updates on the Salata Institute's work. Students also network with one another and meet our staff. At the Spring open house, students learn about summer programming opportunities.

VISITAS Open House

The Salata Institute welcomed newly admitted College students interested in climate and sustainability, as part of this daylong series of events.



Alumni Engagement

The Salata Institute's alumni engagement strategy recognizes that Harvard's more than 400,000 alumni are advancing climate solutions and sustaining a vibrant community of practice. The Institute works with alumni and alumni groups to advance our shared mission. We support alumni to become more effective and resilient climate leaders, to build stronger alumni climate-aligned networks, and to strengthen Harvard's climate initiatives.

We partner with a newly created **Alumni Working Group**—and existing alumni groups—to design and deliver alumni activities. The Group comprises alumni leaders across professional sectors and regions, as well as representatives of groups such as Harvard Alumni for Climate and Environment (HACE) and ClassAct groups. We seek to help alumni to become more educated, engaged, effective, and resilient climate leaders.

In our first year working together, we have:

- **Built community and connections** by organizing in collaboration with global alumni groups climate-focused networking events at Harvard and in major cities worldwide, including Climate Week activities in San Francisco, New York, Washington, D.C., and London, as well as designing alumni-centered programming at Harvard Climate Action Week.
- **Developed practical resources** such as an alumni hub on the Salata Institute website, career development and learning opportunities. We've designed and rolled out a survey to collect data about alumni's interests and needs.
- **Created pathways for impact and support**, such as finding ways to connect with alumni decision-makers and exploring opportunities to catalyze cross-university climate activities.



Alumni Engagement Events

In Academic Year 2024-2025, the Salata Institute hosted and supported a wide range of events for alumni interested in climate and sustainability, including:

Alumni in Climate Networking Series: Addressing Extreme Weather, Climate Risk, and Resilience + Networking Reception at San Francisco Climate Week

An interdisciplinary discussion about the ways in which communities, businesses, and policymakers can better prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-driven disasters.

Alumni in Climate Networking Series: London Climate Week

Participants forged new connections and heard an update on the Salata Institute from Director Jim Stock.

Harvard Alumni Day: Work on Climate and Sustainability at Harvard: Meeting the Moment

This event showcased Harvard's climate research on methane emissions reduction, grid modernization, and public health protection.

HACE Earth Month Programming Virtual Event: Professor Cass R. Sunstein

Professor Cass R. Sunstein discussed his book, *Climate Justice: What Rich Nations Owe the World—and the Future*. The themes of the discussion included the social cost of carbon, equity in climate action, and practical steps Harvard alumni can take to drive change locally and nationally.

HACE at DC Climate Action Week

This gathering of Harvard alumni across schools and graduation years allowed for community-building and networking during DC Climate Week.

Alumni CAN (Climate Action Now): A Lightning Presentations & Networking Event at Harvard Alumni Day 2025

Ten alumni discussed their climate-related work. Attendees also heard insights from Harvard's climate leaders, including Director Jim Stock.

Global Networking Event: New Delhi

An opportunity for alumni to connect and hear from Director Jim Stock.



Appendix

Climate Action Accelerator Events

Explore the full list of events hosted by the Salata Institute Climate Action Accelerator during Academic Year 2024-2025 below.

Energy and Climate Policy

Convening	Purpose/Description	Outcomes	Attendance
The Future of U.S. Climate and Energy Policy November 19, 2024	<p>Invite-only post-election convening of Congressional leaders and policy experts discuss with bipartisan lawmakers and staffers, and other VIPs. Co-hosted with the Climate Solutions Fund. Top of the Hill, Washington, D.C.</p> <p>This event explored options for U.S. climate and energy policy in the aftermath of the presidential election. Congressional leaders from both parties and leading climate policy experts and stakeholders joined in discussion on the prospects for climate action in the next Congress and presidential administration.</p>	Built and deepened relationships between Harvard faculty and bipartisan lawmakers and stakeholders working on climate and energy issues. Educated lawmakers on climate and energy policy issues, positioning Harvard as a trusted source of information. Better understood what lawmakers need from Harvard.	75
Congressional meetings February 12 – 26, 2025	Professor Dustin Tingley met with staff from the offices of members of Congress to present opinion polls that indicated strong bipartisan support for federal lands leasing reform for renewables energy. Meetings took place with staff of the following Representatives: Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-AZ, Rep. Mike Levin, D-CA, Rep. Andrew Garbarino, R-NY, Sen. Mike Lee, R-UT, and Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-NM.	Educated key lawmakers about ways that public lands leasing could be reformed to advance renewable energy. (Sec. 50303. of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act stipulated that communities share in the revenue from renewables on public lands.)	6
Harvard Transportation Webinar Series: The New Behavioral Science of Mode Choice February 26, 2025	The webinar discussed how behavioral science could help practitioners understand and affect the transportation mode choices that people make.	Met a demand among state department of transportation staff for knowledge about sustainable transportation that is no longer provided by the federal government.	100

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Harvard Transportation Webinar Series: Nature-Based Solutions for Transportation Resilience April 30, 2025	The webinar explored the role of nature-based solutions in transportation, including the integration of such solutions in capital plans, the benefits of ecosystem restoration efforts, indigenous perspectives, and their use in improving coastal resilience.	Connected Harvard research and practitioner expertise with state and regional department of transportation agency staff.	322
Harvard Transportation Webinar Series: Energy Transition Technology in Transportation Rights-of-Way May 28, 2025	The webinar featured presentations by transportation officials who are siting transmission, clean energy generation, and battery storage facilities on their properties and rights-of-way to reap environmental and financial benefits and improve grid reliability.	Facilitated peer-to-peer knowledge sharing among transportation practitioners.	160
Harvard Transportation Webinar Series: Pricing and Repricing: Leveraging pricing signals to achieve policy outcomes June 25, 2025	Pricing is one of the most impactful actions in meeting transportation policy outcomes. Repricing policies convert fixed costs, such as insurance premiums, vehicle taxes, and registration fees, to variable costs by charging them on a per mile basis. Repricing parking and congestion pricing also show potential.	State and regional department of transportation staff learned about pricing strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.	91

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Global Climate Policy Project	The Global Climate Policy Project, which is a collaboration between the Salata Institute and MIT, organized several meetings with thought leaders in the climate space including Todd Stern, former Special Envoy for Climate Change, Department of State; Esther Duflo, Nobel Laureate for her work in economic development, on ways to re-imagine climate finance for development; and Larry Kramer, Chancellor, London School of Economics and former president of the Hewlett Foundation.	Incorporated the input of leading thinkers in the development of the project.	
U.S. Energy Policy Seminar	Speakers included: Sherri Goodman, former Pentagon Chief Environmental Officer; Robert Bonnie, Undersecretary for Farm Production and Conservation, USDA; Dan Lashof, Director of World Resources Institute, United States; Holmes Hummel and Tamara Jones, Clean Energy Works; Kyle Meng, former senior economist, Council of Economic Advisers; Dan Poneman, former Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy.	The seminar brings influential practitioners to campus, who also meet with our students, guest lecture in classes, and meet with faculty members.	50-70/week in-person; 200 online.

Electric Vehicle Policy

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Economics and Policy of Electric Transportation Charging Infrastructure October 24 & 25, 2024	Workshop among researchers and practitioners hosted by the Salata Institute and the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research.	Questions from practitioners stimulated new research. A second workshop is planned for fall 2025.	40
Accelerating Fleet Electrification in the U.S. – A Roundtable December 10, 2024	Organized in collaboration with Environmental Defense Fund Roundtable for Systems Solutions, the event on incentives for electrifying freight fleets.	Advanced consensus-building for electrification of heavy-duty fleets among operational leaders of consumer goods companies, retailers, carrier companies, and third-party logistics and data providers.	24
Charging Summit Panel: The Role of Cities in EV Charging Expansion: Partnerships and Policies that Work March 27, 2025	Panel discussion with representatives of the City of Portland and Portland General Electric.	Offered insights about public-private sector collaboration in creating EV charging programs.	70
SXSW Panel: How to Build Out a City EV Charging Network March 13, 2025	Workshop with representatives from the cities of Oslo, Los Angeles, and Austin Energy.	Identified lessons about designing and building city charging networks from early adopter cities.	40
Congressional meetings about EV charging April 7 – 23, 2025	Elaine Buckberg, a Salata Institute Senior Fellow, met with staff at several Congressional offices discuss issues related to energy, environment, and transportation. These included meetings with staff in the offices of Congressman Michael V. Lawler, R-OH, Mike Levin, D-CA, David P. Joyce, R-OH, Frank Pallone Jr., D-NJ, Young Kim, R-CA.	Better educated Congressional staff on the effects of proposed policy changes to EV adoption in the United States.	5
DC Fast Charging Stakeholder Roundtable May 20, 2025	Convening among stakeholders from industry, government, and consumer groups.	Participants learned from each other about customer experience, technology solutions, and ways to energize DCFC faster.	20

Climate Resilience and Insurance

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Resilient Coasts: Sustainable Frameworks for Climate Adaptation in the Gulf of Guinea Workshop December 2-3, 2024	Workshop at Harvard that convened a global network of researchers and practitioners to share insights, strengthen partnerships, and shape a more adaptive and equitable response to sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and urban flooding—on settlements and livelihoods in the Gulf of Guinea region.	Build the capacity of African researchers to quantify sea-level rise and assess the vulnerability of communities.	28
A Way Forward: Resilience & Insurance Innovation in Changing Climate	This event, co-organized with Innsure, convened experts who discussed the latest trends and solutions in risk management and insurance in the face of climate change.	Participants learned from industry leaders, networked with peers, and learned new ways to drive innovation that promotes physical and financial resilience.	30
India 2047: Building a Climate Resilient Future conference March 19 – 22, 2025	This invitation-only, closed-door event brought together some of the world’s leading climate scientists together with experts in public health, medicine, labor, business, agriculture, and urban planning to set a research and action agenda for addressing extreme climatic events, especially extreme heat across the Global South.	Discussions among scientists, government officials, and decisionmakers in business and civil society helped to develop a common understanding of what is known and what is yet unknown about the impacts of extreme climatic events, about promising adaptation strategies, and about pathways for financing the implementation of adaptation measures.	900
International Workshop on the Futures of the African Cocoa Industry	Participants discussed the governance and policies needed to support cocoa producers.	Provided expertise on an issue that is affecting the livelihoods some six million cocoa producers globally.	18



Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Resilient Economies, Summer 2025 Convening	Co-sponsored a Resources for the Future convening in New Mexico about the energy transition at which Professor Dustin Tingley moderated a panel discussion, “Public finance: policy options in theory and practice.”	Contributed to a salient discussion among academics and practitioners and increased the visibility of the Salata Institute.	86

Methane Emissions Reductions

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Climate Week NYC	An informal discussion took place among Harvard faculty and experts on methane emissions from several non-governmental organizations and private firms.	The discussion helped inform practitioners about research on methane emissions as well as gain insights from the practitioners.	17
Workshop: Quantifying Methane Emissions with the Integrated Methane Inversion November 4, 2024	The workshop, offered by the Harvard Atmospheric Chemistry Modeling Group and the Salata Institute trained current and prospective users of this methane emissions detection tool.	Trained non-expert stakeholders to infer methane emissions from satellite data, which is critical to identifying leaks and stopping them.	90
Reducing Methane Emissions, Trade COP29	COP29 side event in Baku presented research on methane emission reductions in various sectors and reviewed best practices in jurisdictions in the Global South and North.	Engaged an international audience of experts and practitioners on Harvard’s research around methane emissions.	75

Climate Finance and Voluntary Corporate Targets

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Workshop: Effectiveness of corporate net-zero targets and other voluntary targets in reducing carbon emissions October 2024	An international group of researchers and practitioners sought to understand the extent to which voluntary emissions reduction targets yield emissions reductions.	The discussion helped to frame the research that Harvard researchers are conducting on corporate net-zero targets.	27
London Climate Week	This public event featured a panel discussion, Financing climate action: Headwinds and tailwinds. It was moderated by Professor Peter Tufano of Harvard Business School, and it included David Blood, Nili Gilbert, and the Rt. Hon. Chris Skidmore.	Tapped into the expertise of three climate finance practitioners, who are associated with the Salata Institute and reached a specialized audience that was eager to learn about this topic.	60

Environmental Justice

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
Environmental Justice and the EPA Sept 19, 2024	<p>This panel conversation explored the role of law and policy in advancing environmental justice, recent developments at EPA, and the road ahead.</p> <p>Speakers: David Cash, Regional Administrator EPA Region 1 (New England); Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs; Hannah Perls, Senior Staff Attorney, Environmental and Energy Law Program, Harvard Law School (moderator); Dwain Tyndal, Executive Director, Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE); Dan Utech, EPA Chief of Staff</p>	Robust Harvard attendance, panelists represented a range of EJ actors – from state government, to the EPA, to local government, to an HLS staff attorney.	81

Solar Geoengineering

Convening	Purpose / description	Outcome(s)	Attendance
2024 SRM Social Science Workshop: Cooperative Vs. Non-cooperative Climate Interventions	Jointly hosted by RFF and the Harvard Solar Geoengineering Research Program, this workshop showcased some of the latest social science research related to solar radiation modification (SRM). This year, a common theme running throughout the workshop was the likely differences between collaborative management of potential SRM (maximizing its potential benefits while minimizing its risks) within a future climate change policy portfolio, versus more non-cooperative, piecemeal, “messy” SRM developments.	Engaged an array of leading thinkers and important stakeholders, especially from the Global South.	47 in-person; additional attendees online
Harvard at Climate Week NYC September 24, 2024	This event consisted of three back-to-back panels, Time to Think About Solar Geoengineering? with Elizabeth Kolbert, Holly Jean Buck, and Dan Schrag, Rising Methane: Opportunities for US Action with Daniel Jacob and Carrie Jenks, and Is It Already Too Hot to Work? with Reema Nanavaty, Caroline Buckee, Sharon Block, José García, Cathy Feingold, and Sachit Balsari.	Robust attendance, with attendees spanning Harvard alums, current students, and practitioners.	292

