

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



MIT engineers create crop map of Thailand

Asst Prof. Sherrie Wang and team used Google Street View, machine learning, and satellites to understand how to farm more sustainably.

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MIT delegation attends COP28 climate conference

The group included researchers from the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) who are working on water conservation negotiations in the Middle East and North Africa.

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MIT senior works in sustainable food development

Brandon Spitzer, a materials science and engineering student, has pursued research opportunities that explore how to extend the shelf-life of produce and develop lab-grown meat.

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Support J-WAFS' mission on Pi day, March 14th!

Don't miss a chance to make an impact through MIT's climate and sustainability programs, including J-WAFS, during the 24-Hour Challenge on March 14!

[LEARN MORE](#)



J-WAFS PI explains biochar

Prof. Ahmed Ghoniem, of mechanical engineering, says biochar—a type of processed plant matter—can help crops grow larger and faster with less water.

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J-WAFS PI attends Music Sustainability Summit

John Fernandez spoke at the event, which included discussions on plant-based food options, sustainable packaging, and reducing food waste at music events.

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MIT President launches Climate Project

Pres. Kornbluth plans to marshal the Institute's talent and resources to develop, deploy, and scale up serious solutions to help change the planet's climate trajectory.

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Fast Company interviews Christopher Knittel

The J-WAFS PI says that as we move away from fossil fuels, employment impacts will be felt in U.S. regions with agricultural activities, among others.

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FUNDING AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

MIT Research Slam

Open to: MIT postdocs and PhDs
Deadline: March 11, 2024
 Students can apply for a chance to win a cash prize by explaining their research to a curious, non-specialist audience in three minutes or less.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Pozen Fellowship

Open to: MIT undergrads
Deadline: March 21, 2024
 This paid summer internship is for students interested in working for an MIT-founded startup, including ones related to water or food.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Solve Challenges

Open to: Exceptional innovators
Deadline: April 18, 2024
 Challenge areas include ways to enable a low-carbon global food system across large and small-scale producers, plus supply chains that reduce food loss.

[MORE INFO](#)

MIT Sloan internships

Open to: MIT students
Deadline: April 24, 2024
 The MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative has two internships for students interested in real-world sustainability challenges with impactful solutions.

[MORE INFO](#)

ESI Journalism Fellowship

Open to: Journalists
Deadline: April 28, 2024
 The MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative supports journalists associated with U.S. newsrooms who report on climate change in local communities.

[MORE INFO](#)

Desalination Prize

Open to: Researchers, start-ups
Deadline: June 30, 2024
 Past winners include Quantum Wei, who started working on batch reverse osmosis technology in the lab of J-WAFS director John Lienhard, and J-WAFS spinout NQNA Technologies.

[MORE INFO](#)

IN-DEPTH LOOK

J-WAFS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT ON ARJAV SHAH

J-WAFS student researcher awarded fellowship for work in water treatment

Arjav Shah has a lot to celebrate lately. The PhD-MBA candidate in the Department of Chemical Engineering and the Sloan School of Management has recently received a prestigious fellowship and has been featured on television across the United States.

Shah works with Professor Patrick Doyle and fellow PhD student Devashish Gokhale on a J-WAFS Solutions Grant project that aims to eliminate micropollutants from water. Shah is responsible for efforts to commercialize the technology, which uses hydrogel microparticles to remove micropollutants like lead. Shah and Gokhale recently gave an interview about the project in a national news clip by Scripps' News.



Last month, Shah was awarded a Kavanaugh Fellowship from MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering. The fellowship provides training in commercializing research, allowing fellows to explore the entrepreneurial aspects of their work. Shah plans to refine the business plan for the hydrogel system, conduct detailed analysis, and coordinate on-site pilots with potential customers.

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AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS



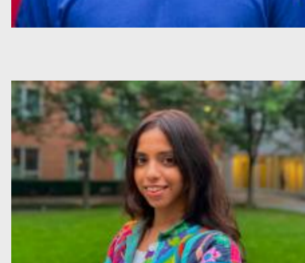
J-WAFS director John Lienhard co-authors new paper

The article, which was picked as Editor's Choice in the Journal of Membrane Science, looks at how the thermal properties of materials affect the fabrication of thin-film composite (TFC) membranes, which have revolutionized desalination and water treatment. [MORE INFO](#)



J-WAFS visiting scholar hosts seminar on Ethiopian Dam

Whittington, a professor in the Departments of Environmental Sciences and Engineering and City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, discussed how the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam might be operated and potential implications for Egypt. [MORE INFO](#)



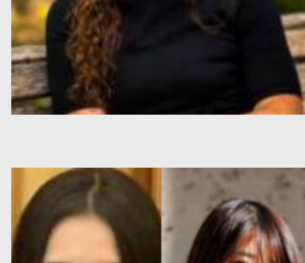
J-WAFS Solutions spinout featured in new video

Eric Verploegen's CoolVeg uses evaporative cooling technologies for fruit and vegetable preservation in regions with hot and dry climates. The video features Kenyan farmer Stephen Nyama who discusses the challenge of keeping produce fresh and how the cooling technology helps. [MORE INFO](#)



Company of J-WAFS Travel Grantee wins innovation prize

Anushka Shahdadpuri's company, Aamchi, is a winner of Social Shifters' Global Innovation Challenge. Aamchi is a community-led organization in India that is dedicated to addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) issues in informal settlements. [MORE INFO](#)



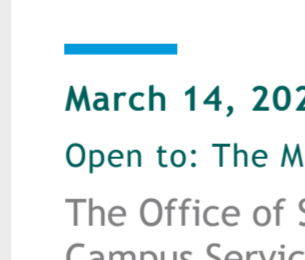
Students from MIT's D-Lab help those with water insecurity

MIT and Wellesley students traveled to Madagascar to test a water vapor condensing chamber they designed in a D-Lab class. The device aims to provide clean, desalinated drinking water to the island, the majority of which does not have access to safe water. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT project on food insecurity and migration receives award

"Distance Unknown," a digital and physical exhibition led by MIT Associate Professor Sarah Williams and others, was named a recipient of the 2024 Anthem Awards. The piece highlights the realities of migratory peoples and the risks they need to take to feed their families. [MORE INFO](#)



MIT master's students receive grant to reduce food waste

Supported by an MIT Morningside Academy for Design, Yiqing Wang and Biru Cao S'ArchS 25 worked on a project to reduce food waste in grocery stores using computer vision technology. The duo conducted precise data analysis on food waste, with the aim of saving more food from landfills. [MORE INFO](#)

EVENTS

Decarbonizing campus

March 14, 2024, in-person
Open to: The MIT community
 The Office of Sustainability and Campus Services and Stewardship will give an update on current work and future pathways for decarbonizing the campus.

[RSVP & MORE INFO](#)

MIT Sustainability Summit

April 26, 2024, in-person & virtual
Open to: all
 The event will highlight the urgent need for systemic change to address climate challenges, emphasizing collaborative, cross-sectoral action for sustainability.

[RSVP & MORE INFO](#)

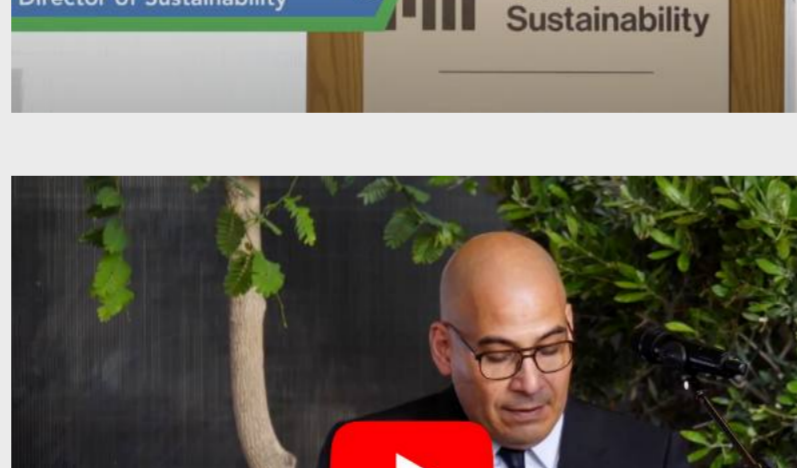
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



MIT's Sustainability Connect

Last month's event provided updates and an inside look at transformative and comprehensive work to advance MIT's campus decarbonization goals.

[WATCH NOW](#)



Watch Bill Gates and Fady Jameel at COP28

Community Jameel and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation co-hosted an event on food security, the future of farming, and climate resilience.

[WATCH NOW](#)

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING J-WAFS?

When you make a gift, you are making an investment in both the future of J-WAFS and our Institute-wide work to improve the productivity, accessibility, and sustainability of the world's water and food systems.

[DONATE ONLINE](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT:
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J-WAFS is an Institute-wide effort that brings MIT's unique strengths to bear on the many challenges our food and water systems face.

Our program catalyzes MIT research, innovation, and technology for ensuring safe and resilient supplies of water and food while reducing environmental impact, to meet the local and global needs of a rapidly expanding and evolving population on a changing planet.



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