



Alumni for Climate Solutions in Maryland

An Open Letter to Maryland's Leaders About Climate Change

Maryland faces a dire threat from climate change; urgent action is needed.

The **MIT Alumni for Climate Solutions in Maryland** is a non-partisan group of concerned alumni of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology - scientists, academics, doctors, business people, and engineers. We are alarmed by the threat climate change poses to our beloved state and, indeed, the entire planet. Our objective is to provide state leadership with an understanding of the actions we must take to avoid future catastrophe.

Maryland's state motto is *fatti maschii - parole femine*. We applaud Maryland's efforts to date, and its *parole femine - gentle words*. But we also must honor *fatti maschii - strong deeds*. We call on every state and local elected official and every candidate to commit to ***make Maryland carbon-neutral within a generation. Now is the time to act to limit the damage from climate change.***

Maryland Faces a Dire Threat

A warming Earth poses dangerous changes to Maryland. Our 3,100 scenic miles of coastline, our marshes, our river floodplains, and some of our largest cities are all at risk from a changing climate. The fossil fuel we burn to generate electricity, power our cars, and heat our homes is increasing the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, trapping heat and changing weather patterns. If we continue to use fossil fuel at the current rate, predictions are that by the end of the century we would see:

- Temperature increase of 3 to 12° F (2 to 7° C) with more severe and much wetter storms, like the recent Ellicott City floods
- Sea level increase of nearly 2 feet, and possibly as much as 8 feet, with flooding of coastal Baltimore, Ocean City, and our capital, Annapolis.
- Economic damage in the billions of dollars, loss of an estimated 5 % of our state's GDP, and flooding of tens of thousands of homes along the Maryland shore

Clearly, the cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of action!

But There's Hope - Maryland can be Carbon-Neutral in a Generation

By quickly developing our renewable wind and solar energy capability and eliminating fossil fuel use for power generation, heating and transportation, the state of Maryland can drastically reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions within a generation.

California is expected to generate 50% of its electricity from wind, solar, and other renewables by 2020. Texas and Iowa get much of their electricity from wind. California and Hawaii are modernizing their grids to accommodate distributed, renewable energy. If Maryland acts with these and other states as well as the signatories to the 2015 Paris Agreement, warming by the end of the 21st century can be limited to less than 3.6° F (2° C).

Investing in a clean energy economy creates jobs and economic growth. We are already installing more and more solar power systems and Maryland is starting to develop its plentiful offshore wind resources. We need to accelerate these efforts through your actions.

We urge all elected officials to enact policies that will accomplish the following:

- Commit to a carbon-neutral economy in Maryland by 2045
- Replace our fossil-fuel power generation with renewable wind and solar power
- Develop the infrastructure — including electric vehicle chargers — to support all-electric transportation systems
- Reinvest in our cities, including expanded mass transit, to make them attractive places to live and work
- Expand carbon-capture programs such as re-forestation and soil sequestration
- Put a price on carbon emissions and incentivize our citizens and business to reduce their carbon footprints

Take these actions **now** to make Maryland carbon-neutral within a generation. This investment in a clean energy powered future will create local employment opportunities and economic growth in the state.

A generation from now, what will we tell our grandchildren when they ask about climate change? Will we tell them we didn't know what would happen? That fixing it would have cost too much? It was too inconvenient? Let's be able to tell them we rose to the challenge and built a better future for Maryland and the world.

Submitted respectfully to all elected officials and candidates for office in the State of Maryland,

- MIT Alumni for Climate Solutions in Maryland, October 1, 2018

To Maryland's Leaders: Send your commitment to make Maryland carbon-neutral within a generation to climate@mit.alumniaction.com.

Name	Occupation
Adam Riess	Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Member of the National Academy of Sciences, Nobel Laureate in Physics 2011
Michael L. Agronin	Engineer & Lecturer
Shiladitya DasSarma, PhD	Professor of Marine and Environmental Technology
Eric Greene	Naval Architect
Troy Bundy	Software/Systems in Federal marketplace - Owner
Stanley Martin, Jr	
Sarah Simon	Environmental Compliance Manager
Dr. William L. Ridgway	Atmospheric Science Researcher
Theodore R. Gull	Astrophysicist Emeritus
Eugenia Kalnay, PhD	Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland
H.Frederick Dylla, PhD	Executive Director Emeritus, American Institute of Physics
Ashley EC Fulton-Howard	Systems Engineer
Dr. David M. Marcovitz	Associate Professor of Educational Technology
John Compton	
Lucy A Cardwell	Attorney
David H Freeman	Artist
Henry Gabelnick	
Sheila Konecke	Business owner
Margaret Shork Chatterton	Nuclear Engineer Retired
David W. Cooke, MD	Physician
Sara K. Cooke	Lab manager
Geraldo Gonzalez	
Dr. Suzanne Epstein	Immunologist
Scott I. Berkenblit, MD, PhD	Orthopaedic Surgeon

Name	Occupation
Kathleen Menne Livas	
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Paul LaPorte	
Robert J. Randall	Randall Engineering
Per Lindell	Consultant
Heidi Baumgartner Komkov	
James Norman	Senior Chemist
Dr. Steven Freedman	Engineer
Jerry L Prince	Professor
Mohammad Modarres	Professor
Vin Grabill	Professor
Dr. Larry L. Orr	College Professor
Dr. Barry Margulies, PhD	Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
Nancy Riess	
Danielle Chou	Engineer
Susan Leibenhaut	Physician
Susanna M. Thon	Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering
David H. Greenberg, PhD	Economist
Louis Bernstein, PE	Civil Engineer
Bruce Morgenstern	Engineer
Robert C. Utz	
Howard E. Katz	
Marilynn K. Duker	CEO, Brightview Senior Living
Kemp Wills	Self employed
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Dr. Joshua Goldberg	Systems software engineer
Dr. Lawrence P. Sanford	Professor of Environmental Science
Charles L. Bennett, PhD	Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Nicole Schultheis	Writer
Richard A Anderson	Consultant
Judi Arbuckle	VP of Product

Name	Occupation
Marc Postman	Astronomer
Jared Markowitz	Engineer
Gina M. Angiola, MD	Physician
Gary M. Heiligman	
Steven Rappaport, MD	Physician
Brooke Jarrett, MSPH	
Dyung Le	
Edward Richard Johnson, PhD	
Aaron M. Ucko	Software developer
David H. Freeman, PhD	Prof. Emeritus, Univ. Of Md
Ron Smith	Scientist
Boris Zinshteyn, PhD	
Brandon Levy	Science communications editor
Dr. Irwin Lebow, PhD	
David H. Greenberg	Professor Emeritus, Economist
Dr. Frederic I. Davis	Retired Professor and Dean
Henry C. Lucas, Jr., PhD	Professor
Jean Tilly	
Jack Kinstlinger, PE	Chairman Emeritus KCI Technologies
Stephen E. Bickel	Energy Efficiency Consultant
Mark Powers	
Dr Henry Gabelnick	
Sheila Konecke	Business owner
Michelle Bryden, PhD	
Kyle Hurst	Project Manager
Richard Mushotzky	Professor
Neha Bhooshan MD, PhD	
Michael F Melgar, MD	Physician
Prof. William D. Phillips	University Professor
Talbot Huey, PhD	
Jay S Fridkis	
Tamara Litwin, PhD	Cancer research
Ryan Friedrich	Data Analyst

Name	Occupation
Marcelo Jacobs-Lorena	Professor
Dr. Robert E. Terry	physicist
Lynn Fitzpatrick	Consultant
Patricia M. Takahara, PhD	Professor of Chemistry
Ryan Shofnos	Manufacturing
Flora Amwayi	
Gilberto Chona, MCP	Urban Economist
Dr. William C. Sandberg	Physicist
William H. Ryder	Modeling and Simulation
Frederick D. Baker	
Dr. James P. Lavine	Retired physicist
Jim Schmicker	Yacht Designer
Richard S. Livingston	Residential Construction / Remodeling Contractor
Britton Ward	Naval Architect
Ryan Shofnos	Operations & Project Management
Allison Kunz	Software Developer, Entrepreneur
Dr. Jeffrey Marqusee	
Donald Chu	Engineer
Thomas Schneider	Theoretical Biologist
Dr. Robert E. Terry	Consultant
William Buckner	
Candice Buckner	
Carlos Renjifo	Engineer

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For more information, see our [FAQs](#), [Resources](#), [References](#), [Glossary](#), [Maryland Action](#), and [MIT Climate pages](#). [Click to Print letter](#) or [to Contact the committee](#), [Find your representatives](#) or [Run for office](#).

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