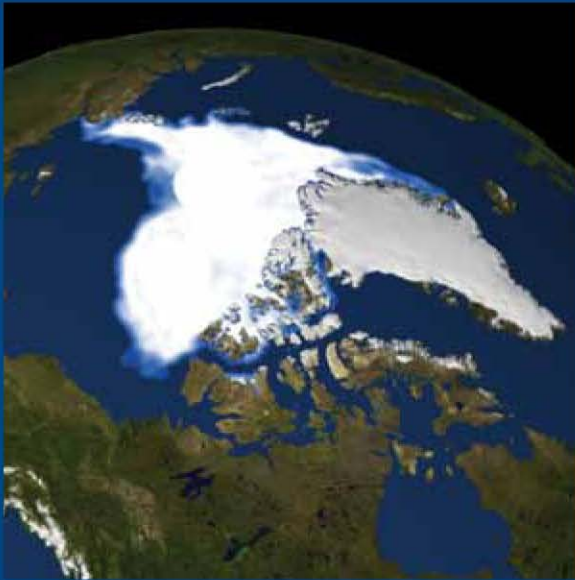


# MASSACHUSETTS



U.S. SCIENTISTS AND ECONOMISTS'  
CALL FOR SWIFT AND DEEP CUTS IN  
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



JUNE 2010

*Physicists tend to be supercritical of strong conclusions, but the data on global warming now indicate the conclusions are not nearly strong enough.*

**LEON M. LEDERMAN**

Director Emeritus, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Batavia, IL; Nobel Prize Winner in Physics; National Medal of Science Recipient; Member, National Academy of Sciences

*Global warming is one of the most pressing problems of our time. If we fail to address it, the costs to adapt our infrastructure and agricultural systems will be overwhelming. Dealing effectively with the problem of climate change could help keep us fully employed for a generation.*

**JAMES K. GALBRAITH**

Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations, University of Texas, Austin

*Over the last 30 years I've watched many glaciers shrink in South America. It's also happening in Europe, North America, China, and the Himalayas. More than 90 percent of the world's glaciers are receding—they have no political agenda. Science is about what is, not about what any of us believe.*

**LONNIE G. THOMPSON**

Distinguished University Professor, School of Earth Sciences; Research scientist and glaciologist, Byrd Polar Research Center, The Ohio State University; National Medal of Science Recipient; Member, National Academy of Sciences; Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement

*The message from California to federal policy makers is encouraging—we know that a combination of political will and smart policies that promote energy conservation and technological innovation can cost-effectively reduce global warming emissions.*

**MICHAEL HANEMANN**

Chancellor's Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley; Director, California Climate Change Center

*The climate system is telling us a consistent story of human influence. We can read that story in records of temperature, rainfall, ice, snow, sea level, and even in the behavior of extreme events. The message in this story: natural causes alone simply cannot explain all these changes.*

**BENJAMIN SANTER**

Research Scientist, Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; MacArthur Fellow; Second and Fourth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

*Preventing dangerous climate change is a great investment. It will cost between one and two percent of GDP, and the benefits will be between 10 and 20 percent. That's a return of 10 to 1—attractive even to a venture capitalist.*

**GEOFFREY HEAL**

Paul Garret Professor of Public Policy and Corporate Responsibility, Columbia Business School, New York, NY; Co-organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

*Only a very few years remain in which drastic reductions in global emissions must begin if warming is to be limited to 2°C or any other reasonable level. The world is squandering valuable time, and time is running out.*

**RICHARD C.J. SOMERVILLE**

Distinguished Professor Emeritus and Research Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego; Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

*Adaptation for both human and natural ecosystems will likely be more difficult and costly for a faster rate of warming than for slower rates. Delaying action is an extremely risky path to continue on.*

**STEPHEN H. SCHNEIDER**

Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, CA; Co-Director, Center for Environmental Science and Policy; Co-director, Interdisciplinary Program in Environmental Resources; Member, National Academy of Sciences; MacArthur Fellow; Lead Author, Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Coordinating Lead Author of the Third and Fourth Assessment Reports of the IPCC; Co-organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

## U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

**W**e call on our nation's leaders to swiftly establish and implement policies to bring about deep reductions in heat-trapping emissions. The strength of the science on climate change compels us to warn the nation about the growing risk of irreversible consequences as global average temperatures continue to increase over pre-industrial levels (i.e., prior to 1860).<sup>1,2</sup> As temperatures rise further, the scope and severity of global warming impacts will continue to accelerate.

The 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>2</sup> unequivocally concluded that our climate is warming, stating with at least 90 percent certainty that the warming of the last several decades is primarily due to human activities. Global average temperatures have already risen ~ 0.7°C (1.3°F) over the last 100 years, and impacts are now being observed worldwide.<sup>1,2</sup> Human-caused emissions to date have locked in further changes including sea-level rise that will intensify coastal flooding, and dramatic reductions in snowpack that will disrupt water supplies in the western United States.<sup>1,3</sup> If emissions continue unabated, our nation and the world will face more sea level rise, heat waves, droughts, wildfires, snowmelt, flood risk, and public health threats, as well as increased rates of plant and animal species extinctions.<sup>1,4</sup>

The longer we wait, the harder and more costly it will be to limit climate change and to adapt to those impacts that will not be avoided. Many emissions reduction strategies can be adopted today that would save consumers and industry money while providing benefits for air quality, energy security, public health, balance of trade, and employment.<sup>5,6</sup>

All nations must commit to a goal designed to limit further harm. The United States, the European Union, and a number of other countries have recognized the need for limiting global warming to no more than 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels.<sup>7</sup> Emerging science must be regularly evaluated to assess whether this goal is sufficient.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change recognizes that all nations have a responsibility to curb global warming, consistent with their respective contribution to emissions and capacity to act. Recent analyses indicate the United States—even with aggressive action by other nations—would need to reduce its emissions on the order of 80 percent below 2000 levels by 2050 to have a reasonable chance of limiting warming to 2°C.<sup>8</sup>

A strong U.S. commitment to reduce emissions is essential to drive international climate progress. Voluntary initiatives to date have proven insufficient. **We urge U.S. policy makers to put our nation onto a path today to reduce emissions on the order of 80 percent below 2000 levels by 2050. The first step on this path should be reductions on the order of 15-20 percent below 2000 levels by 2020, which is achievable and consistent with sound economic policy.**<sup>5,6</sup>

There is no time to waste. The most risky thing we can do is nothing.

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## Massachusetts Institutional Affiliations of Endorsers

The endorsers of the U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions are based at a wide variety of institutions, including universities and colleges, government agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations. The endorsers have included their institutional affiliation for identification purposes only, and the listing below should not be construed to imply any institutional endorsement.

Aerodyne Research, Inc.	College of the Holy Cross	Northeast States for Coordinated	University of Massachusetts,
Albion Systems	Emmanuel College	Air Use Management	Dartmouth
Amherst College	Fitchburg State College	Ocean River Institute	University of Massachusetts,
Atmospheric and Environmental	Harvard University	Salem State College	Lowell
Research, Inc.	Harvard University Medical	Smith College	Wellesley College
Battelle	School	Smithsonian Astrophysical	Wentworth Institute of
Boston College	Industrial Economics	Observatory	Technology
Boston University	Joint Research Ventures	Tellus Institute	Wheaton College
Brandeis University	Marine Biological Laboratory	Tufts University	Williams College
Bridgewater State College	Massachusetts Institute of	Union of Concerned Scientists	Woods Hole Oceanographic
Bristol Community College	Technology	University of Massachusetts,	Institution
Cambridge College	Monsanto	Amherst	Woods Hole Research
Center for Ecological Economic and	Mount Holyoke College	University of Massachusetts,	Center
Ethical Education	Nichols College	Boston	Worcester State College
Clark University	Northeastern University		

## The 173 Massachusetts Endorsers of the U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

### Clark C. Abt, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor  
School of Management  
Cambridge College  
Cambridge, MA

### Frank Ackerman, Ph.D.

Global Development and Environment  
Institute  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

### E. Eric Adams, Ph.D.

Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

### Steven M. Adler-Golden, Ph.D.

Burlington, MA

### David P. Ahlfeld, Ph.D.

Professor Department of Civil and  
Environmental Engineering  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

### Bruce T. Anderson, Ph.D.

Department of Geography and the  
Environment  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

### Erin D. Baker, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
Department of Mechanical and  
Industrial Engineering  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

### Mathew Barlow, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor  
Department of Environmental, Earth,  
and Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

### Tobias I. Baskin, Ph.D.

Department of Biology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

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*The costs and risks of inaction  
are overwhelmingly worse than  
the moderate and manageable  
costs of an immediate effort to  
reduce carbon emissions.*

### FRANK AKERMAN

Global Development and Environment Institute,  
Tufts University

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### Sarah-Marie Belcastro, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor  
Department of Mathematics and  
Statistics  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA

### Patricia A. Benjamin, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Chair  
Physical & Earth Sciences Department  
Worcester State College  
Worcester, MA

**Chris J. Bergweiler, Ph.D.**  
Environmental Science Program  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Howard B. Bernstein, Ph.D.**  
Boston, MA

**Jeffrey Blanchard, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Microbiology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**James Boyce, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Bethany A. Bradley, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Assistant Professor  
Natural Resources Conservation  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Raymond S. Bradley, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Distinguished Professor  
Department of Geosciences  
Director  
Climate System Research Center  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

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*The climate system is sufficiently complex that no one can say with certainty what is going to happen. We can say—with certainty—that without action to reduce emissions enormous risks are being run.*

**CARL WUNSCH**

Cecil and Ida Green Professor of Physical Oceanography, Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Member, National Academy of Sciences

---

**Sylvia Brandt, Ph.D.**  
Department of Resource Economics  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Rafael L. Bras, Ph.D.**<sup>3</sup>  
Professor  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Julie Brigham-Grette, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Geosciences  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Manjula Canagaratna, Ph.D.**  
Center for Aerosol and Cloud Chemistry  
Aerodyne Research, Inc.  
Topsfield, MA

**Ru Chen**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Cambridge, MA

**Sallie W. Chisholm, Ph.D.**<sup>2</sup>  
Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of  
Environmental Studies  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Jens Christiansen, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Economics  
Mount Holyoke College  
South Hadley, MA

**William C. Clark, Ph.D.**<sup>2,5</sup>  
Professor  
John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Rachel Cleetuis, Ph.D.**  
Economist  
Climate and Energy Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Cambridge, MA

**Ethan D. Clotfelter, Ph.D.**  
Department of Biology  
Amherst College  
Amherst, MA

**Mea S. Cook, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geosciences  
Williams College  
Williamstown, MA

**James M. Corven, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Bristol Community College  
Sandwich, MA

**Sam Crawford**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Materials Science &  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**William C. Dale, Ph.D.**  
Technology  
Monsanto  
East Longmeadow, MA

**Eric A. Davidson, Ph.D.**  
Senior Scientist  
Woods Hole Research Center  
Falmouth, MA

**Lisa J. Delissio, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biology  
Salem State College  
Salem, MA

**Hans Despain, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Economics  
Nichols College  
Dudley, MA

**S. Lawrence Dingman, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Earth Sciences  
University of New Hampshire  
Eastham, MA

**Ellen Douglas, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Environmental, Earth, and  
Ocean Sciences  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Boston, MA

**Allison L. Dunn, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Physical and Earth  
Sciences  
Worcester State College  
Worcester, MA

**Lynne Elkins**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Geology and Geophysics  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**Aaron M. Ellison, Ph.D.**  
Senior Research Fellow  
Harvard Forest  
Harvard University  
Petersham, MA

**Paul R. Epstein, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Center for Health and the Global  
Environment  
Harvard University Medical School  
Boston, MA

**Gidon Eshel, Ph.D.**  
Bard Center Fellow  
Division of Science, Mathematics,  
and Computing  
Bard College  
Great Barrington, MA

**John W. Farrington, Ph.D.**  
Scientist Emeritus  
Department of Marine Chemistry and  
Geochemistry  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**James A. Fay, Ph.D.**<sup>3</sup>  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Gordon Fellman, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, MA

**Adrien C. Finzi, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biology  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Jenny A. Fisher**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Earth and Planetary  
Sciences  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Matt Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.**  
Petersham, MA

**Melanie Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.**  
Climate Scientist  
Climate and Energy Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Cambridge, MA

**Deborah X. Flores-Cervantes**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Chris E. Forest, Ph.D.**  
Center for Global Change Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**David R. Foster, Ph.D.**  
Director  
Harvard Forest  
Harvard University  
Petersham, MA

**Travis Franck, Ph.D.**  
Medford, MA

**Kimberley A. Fredrick, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Chemistry  
College of the Holy Cross  
Worcester, MA

---

*Climate change brings us hot,  
acidic ocean water, rising sea  
level, and violent storms.  
Together these spell big trouble  
for our fisheries, coastal real  
estate values, and quality of life in  
New England. As a marine  
biologist, I can't think of anything  
more urgent than quickly cutting  
carbon emissions to protect what  
we can of our ocean's riches.*

**LES KAUFMAN**

Professor, Boston University Marine Program,  
Boston University

---

**Peter C. Frumhoff, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Director of Science and Policy  
Climate Campaign  
Chief Scientist  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Cambridge, MA

**Robert R. Gamache, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Environmental, Earth,  
and Atmospheric Sciences  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

**David T. Gibson, Ph.D.**  
Concord, MA

**Scott J. Goetz, Ph.D.**  
Senior Scientist  
Department of Geography  
Woods Hole Research Center  
Falmouth, MA

**Michael Golay, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Professor  
Department of Nuclear Science and  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Susan Goldhor, Ph.D.**  
Cambridge, MA

**Neva Goodwin, Ph.D.**  
Co-Director  
Global Development and Environment  
Institute  
Tufts University  
Cambridge, MA

**Elizabeth S. Gordon, Ph.D.**  
Fitchburg, MA

**Peter M. Haas, Ph.D.**  
Amherst, MA

**Jonathan M. Harris, Ph.D.**  
Global Development and Environment  
Institute  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**Alan Harwood, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Boston, MA

**Timothy F. Havel, Ph.D.**  
Cambridge, MA

**Samuel Hazen, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Biology Department  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Ann Helwege, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
Emmanuel College  
Boston, MA

**Mark Hines, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

**John P. Holdren, Ph.D.**<sup>2,3,5</sup>

Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy  
Director  
The Woods Hole Research Center  
John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences  
Woods Hole Research Center  
Cambridge, MA

**Richard A. Houghton, Ph.D.**  
Falmouth, MA

**Peter Houlihan, Ph.D.**  
Department of Biology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Wei Huang**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Science  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Boston, MA

---

*We have to start reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. Without mitigation, the infrastructure damages in metro Boston over the next 100 years from increased coastal flooding could be billions of dollars. Emissions reductions combined with cost-effective adaptation could dramatically lessen the damages.*

**PAUL KIRSHEN**

Research Leader, Battelle Memorial Institute and Visiting Scientist, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Tufts University; former Research Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director, Water: Systems, Science, and Society Interdisciplinary Graduate Education Program, Tufts University

---

**Joseph M. Hunt, Ph.D.**  
Department of Global Health and Population  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Harvard University  
Boston, MA

**Stefan Hunt, Ph.D.**  
Department of Economics  
Harvard University  
Somerville, MA

**Martin Hunter, Ph.D.**  
Lab Coordinator  
Department of Biomedical Engineering  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**Peter H. Israelsson**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**John C. Jahoda, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Bridgewater State College  
Bridgewater, MA

**Frederic B. Jennings, Ph.D.**  
Center of Ecological Economic and Ethical Education  
Ipswich, MA

**Harold F. Jensen III**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Scott Jiusto, Ph.D.**  
Worcester, MA

**Terrence M. Joyce, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Senior Scientist  
Department of Physical Oceanography  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**Shulamit Kahn, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
School of Management  
Department of Finance and Economics  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Les Kaufman, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Boston University Marine Program  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Kathryn D. Kavanagh, Ph.D.**  
Department of Genetics  
Harvard Medical School  
Harvard University  
Boston, MA

**Paul Kirshen, Ph.D.**  
Research Leader  
Battelle Memorial Institute  
Lexington, MA

**Gary Kleiman, Ph.D.**  
Program Manager  
Science and Technology Team  
Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management  
Boston, MA

**Mark Klein, Ph.D.**  
Principal Research Scientist  
Sloan School of Management  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Jessie M. Kneeland**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**Charles E. Kolb, Ph.D.**  
President  
Aerodyne Research, Inc.  
Billerica, MA

**Yoshifumi Konishi, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
Williams College  
Williamstown, MA

**John Kwoka, Ph.D.**  
Finnegan Professor  
Department of Economics  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA

**Justin Lancaster, Ph.D.**  
Chief Science Officer  
Joint Research Ventures  
Lexington, MA

**Kevin Lang, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Economics  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Susannah B. Lerman**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Susan Leschine, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Microbiology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

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*Given the right policies, accelerating the deployment of emerging energy technologies has great potential to contribute to the urgent challenge of reducing emissions. In Massachusetts, the expansion of wind power is a particularly valuable opportunity.*

**JENNIE C. STEPHENS**

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, Department of International Development, Community, and Environment, Clark University; Associate, Energy Technology Innovation Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

---

**Alan E. Lipton, Ph.D.**

Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc.  
Lexington, MA

**Thomas S. Litwin, Ph.D.**

Director  
Clark Science Center  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA

**Stephen Marglin, Ph.D.**

Walter S. Barker Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Philip A. Marrone, Ph.D.**

Medford, MA

**Petrus C. Martens, Ph.D.**

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory  
Cambridge, MA

**James J. McCarthy, Ph.D.**

Alexander Agassiz Professor  
Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Andrew M. McDonnell**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Marine Chemistry  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Woods Hole, MA

**Joan K. Meyer, Ph.D.**

Principal  
Industrial Economics  
Cambridge, MA

**David S. Miller, Ph.D.**

Brookline, MA

**Jill Miller, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology  
Amherst College  
Amherst, MA

**John Miller, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Economics  
Wheaton College  
Norton, MA

**Rob Moir, Ph.D.**

Executive Director  
Ocean River Institute  
Cambridge, MA

**William R. Moomaw, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>

Professor  
Center for International Environment and Resource Policy  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**Marianne V. Moore, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Biology  
Wellesley College  
Wellesley, MA

**Paul R. Moosman, Ph.D.**

Department of Biology and Chemistry  
Fitchburg State College  
Fitchburg, MA

**Philip I. Moss, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Regional Economic and Social Development  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

**Amy V. Mueller**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Adil Najam, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>

Professor  
Department of Geography and Environment  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Ray Nassar, Ph.D.**

Postdoctoral Fellow  
School of Engineering and Applied Sciences  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Julie A. Nelson, Ph.D.**

Senior Research Associate  
Global Development and Environment Institute  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**David Nelson, Ph.D.**

Principal Scientist  
Center for Atmospheric and Environmental Chemistry  
Aerodyne Research, Inc.  
North Chelmsford, MA

**Stephen C. Nodvin, Ph.D.**

Professor and Department Head  
Department of Applied Math and Sciences  
Wentworth Institute of Technology  
Boston, MA

**Enoch H. Page, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Kristin C. Pangallo**

Doctoral Candidate  
Woods Hole, MA

**Andreas Papandreou, Ph.D.**

Department of Philosophy  
Harvard University  
Boston, MA

**Annie Paradis**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology  
Department of Entomology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Richard Parker, Ph.D.**  
John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Anthony G. Patt, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Professor  
Department of Geography and  
Environment  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Gail R. Patt, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Biology  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Richard Payne, Ph.D.**  
Oceanographer Emeritus  
Department of Physical Oceanography  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**Gerald A. Peterson, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emeritus  
Department of Physics  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Chris M. Picone, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology  
Fitchburg State College  
Fitchburg, MA

**Cynthia Pilskaln, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
School of Marine Science and  
Technology  
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
New Bedford, MA

**Martin F. Polz, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Rui M. Ponte, Ph.D.**  
Principal Scientist  
Atmospheric and Environmental  
Research, Inc.  
Lexington, MA

**Katherine Ellison Potter**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Sarah Preheim**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Ronald G. Prinn, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
Professor and Director  
Center for Global Change Science  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Paul D. Raskin, Ph.D.**<sup>6</sup>  
President  
Tellus Institute  
Boston, MA

**Dorothy L. Read, Ph.D.**  
Professor Emerita  
Department of Biology  
University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth  
Dartmouth, MA

**Virginia Rich**  
Doctoral Candidate  
Joint Program, Woods Hole  
Oceanographic Institute  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Christine Richardson, Ph.D.**  
Marlborough, MA

**Brian Roach, Ph.D.**  
Research Associate  
Global Development and Environment  
Institute  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**Dianne E. Rocheleau, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geography  
Clark University  
Worcester, MA

**Nicholas L. Rodenhouse, Ph.D.**  
Sherborn, MA

**Juliette N. Rooney-Varga, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

**Kurt W. Roth, Ph.D.**  
Cambridge, MA

**Mak A. Saito, Ph.D.**  
Associate Scientist  
Department of Marine Chemistry  
and Geochemistry  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**Peter W. Samal, Ph.D.**  
Montague, MA

**Juliet B. Schor, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Boston College  
Chestnut Hill, MA

**Daniel P. Schrag, Ph.D.**<sup>5</sup>  
Professor and Director  
Department of Earth and Planetary  
Sciences  
Harvard University Center for the  
Environment  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA

**Joanne Shorter, Ph.D.**  
Principle Scientist  
Aerodyne Research Inc.  
Billerica, MA

**Katharine R.E. Sims, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
Amherst College  
Amherst, MA

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*Economists now join climate  
scientists in a unified call for  
action to address the causes of  
climate change. Failure to act  
now is the most risky and most  
expensive thing we could do.*

**JAMES J. MCCARTHY**

Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University; Co-chair, Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Lead Author, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment; Past President, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Co-organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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*The market has proven to be an effective mechanism for mitigating fossil fuel emissions. Successful cap and trade programs have been implemented in both the United States and Europe. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions requires carbon to be priced, and cap and trade is a proven market mechanism for achieving that.*

**BRUCE MIZRACH**

Associate Professor of Economics, Rutgers University,  
New Brunswick, NJ

---

**Craig Slatin, Sc.D.**

Professor  
Department of Community Health and  
Sustainability  
University of Massachusetts, Lowell  
Lowell, MA

**Leslie D. Smith, Ph.D.**

Department of Biological Sciences  
Smith College  
Northampton, MA

**Mitchell L. Sogin, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Bay Paul Center  
Marine Biological Laboratory  
Woods Hole, MA

**Robert M. Solow, Ph.D.**<sup>1,2</sup>

Professor Emeritus  
Department of Economics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Lisa G. Sorenson, Ph.D.**

Department of Biology  
Boston University  
Boston, MA

**Peter Spiegler, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Boston, MA

**Laurel J. Standley, Ph.D.**

Newton, MA

**Richard S. Stein, Ph.D.**<sup>2,3</sup>

Professor Emeritus  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

**Jennie C. Stephens, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of International  
Development, Community and  
Environment  
Clark University  
Worcester, MA

**Roman Stocker, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Fiammetta Straneo, Ph.D.**

Associate Scientist  
Department of Physical Oceanography  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution  
Woods Hole, MA

**David G. Terkla, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Economics  
University of Massachusetts, Boston  
Boston, MA

**Roger G. Tobin, Ph.D.**

Professor  
Department of Physics and Astronomy  
Tufts University  
Medford, MA

**Kjetil Våge**

Doctoral Candidate  
Woods Hole, MA

**Charuleka Varadharajan**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Prassede Vella**

Doctoral Candidate  
Boston, MA

**Wayne Walker, Ph.D.**

Assistant Scientist  
Woods Hole Research Center  
Falmouth, MA

**Nicholas R. White, Ph.D.**

Albion Systems  
Manchester, MA

**Frank Wilczek, Ph.D.**<sup>1,2,5</sup>

Herman Feshbach Professor of Physics  
Department of Physics  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Leah R. Williams, Ph.D.**

Center for Cloud and Aerosol Chemistry  
Aerodyne Research, Inc.  
Billerica, MA

**Jeremy Winick, Ph.D.**

Hanscom Airforce Base, MA

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*Both the science and the economics makes clear that the time for U.S. leadership on climate change is now. Let us delay no longer.*

**PETER FRUMHOFF**

Director of Science and Policy and Chief Scientist,  
Climate Campaign, Union of Concerned Scientists;  
Lead Author, Fourth Assessment Report of the  
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Co-  
organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift  
and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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**Jonathan M. Winter**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Ezra C. Wood, Ph.D.**

Department of Chemistry  
Aerodyne Research, Inc.  
Billerica, MA

**Carl Wunsch, Ph.D.**<sup>2</sup>

Professor  
Department of Earth, Atmospheric and  
Planetary Sciences  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Cambridge, MA

**Zhiyi Sun**

Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Organismic and  
Evolutionary Biology  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
Amherst, MA

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Back Cover Photos: Rotunda (Jupiter Images), White House (Photos.com)

**Awards Key** 1 = Nobel 2 = NAS 3 = NAE 4 = NMS 5 = MacArthur 6 = IPCC

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY

*The future of our society depends on effectively managing and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Public and private research and development support for these efforts will allow us to transition to a carbon-neutral energy system that improves both environmental quality and economic growth.*

**GORDON RAUSSER**

Robert Gordon Sproul Distinguished Professor, Agricultural and Resource Economics Department, University of California, Berkeley; Co-founder and former Director, LECG, a global expert services company; Former chief economist of the U.S. Agency for International Development

*One plausible climate change scenario projects that Washington County, ME, may have a late century temperature range similar to Washington, DC, today—with a likely loss of our spruce-fir forest. That is why Maine and our folks in Washington need to lead the way in major emissions cuts.*

**ROBERT W. KATES**

Independent Scholar; Presidential Professor of Sustainability Science at the University of Maine; Recipient, National Medal of Science; Member, National Academy of Sciences; MacArthur Fellow; Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

*Evidence is mounting from many different scientific disciplines that Earth's natural systems are already undergoing rapid change. We need to act now to reduce heat-trapping gas emissions, for the sake of our children and the other species with whom we share this planet.*

**PAMELA A. MATSON**

Dean, School of Earth Sciences and Goldman Professor of Environmental Studies, Stanford University, CA; Member, National Academy of Sciences; MacArthur Fellow; Past President, Ecological Society of America

*Recent research at The Ohio State University—including detailed biomass, wind, and solar data and full cost assessments of coal based options of electric power generation—demonstrates that Ohio can utilize more renewable energy, emit fewer greenhouse gasses, and reduce the impacts of coal mining with only modest increases in electric utility rates.*

**FRED HITZHUSEN**

Professor of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, The Ohio State University

*Historically, technological innovation has been one of the primary drivers of economic growth. With the right policies and incentives in place, a green revolution in renewable energy could not only free us from our dependence on fossil fuels, but also be an engine of growth for the next generation.*

**RICHARD JENSEN**

Professor of Economics and Econometrics, University of Notre Dame, IN

*I think the world has never faced a problem like global warming and the enormous environmental destruction it can cause. The impacts will be felt most severely by poor people around the world, which in turn will have serious repercussions for all of us.*

**EDWARD L. MILES**

Virginia & Prentice Bloedel Professor of Marine & Public Affairs, Institute for Marine Studies; Senior Fellow, Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Oceans, University of Washington; Lead Author, Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Member, National Academy of Sciences"

**Endorser Criteria:** Ph.D. or doctoral candidate professionals with expertise relevant to our understanding of the scientific and economic dimensions of climate change, its impacts, and solutions.

**Key to Awards and Honors**

- 1 Nobel Laureate: Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, Economics, or Physics (<http://nobelprize.org>)
- 2 NAS: Member of the United States National Academy of Sciences of the National Academies (<http://www.nasonline.org>)
- 3 NAE: Member of the United States National Academy of Engineering of the National Academies (<http://www.nae.edu>)
- 4 NMS: Recipient of the United States National Medal of Science (<http://www.nsf.gov/od/nms/medal.jsp>)
- 5 MacArthur: Recipient of the MacArthur Fellowship Award (<http://www.macfound.org>)
- 6 IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Lead author, contributing author, or review editor on an assessment or special report. The IPCC shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize. (<http://www.ipcc.ch>)

*The United States worked with other nations to take on the ozone threat; so, too, must we lead the international effort to reduce heat-trapping emissions that cause climate change.*

**MARIO J. MOLINA**

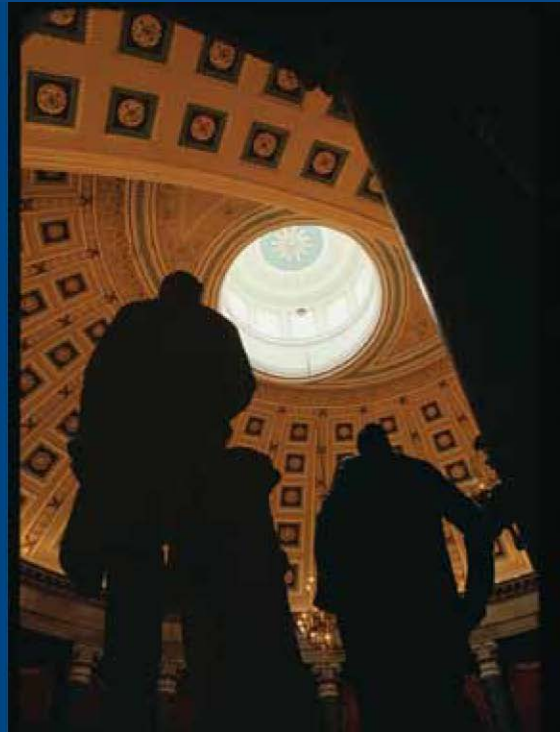
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Center for Atmospheric Sciences, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego; Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry; Member, National Academy of Sciences; Co-organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions



*In the economic emergency we are experiencing, some people think that we cannot afford to address the problem of climate change. It's the other way around: If we don't act now we will run into even greater economic problems in the future.*

**ELINOR OSTROM**

Professor, Indiana University, Bloomington; Nobel Prize Winner in Economics; Member, National Academy of Sciences



*The economic and social costs of global warming could be huge. We need to act now to limit them.*

**ERIC MASKIN**

Albert O. Hirschman Professor of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ; Nobel Prize Winner in Economics; Member, National Academy of Sciences; Kempe Award in Environmental Economics

*Economists now join climate scientists in a unified call for action to address the causes of climate change. Failure to act now is the most risky and most expensive thing we could do.*

**JAMES J. MCCARTHY**

Alexander Agassiz Professor of Biological Oceanography, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology and Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Harvard University, MA; Co-chair, Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Lead Author, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment; Past President, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Co-organizer, U.S. Scientists and Economists' Call for Swift and Deep Cuts in Greenhouse Gas Emissions