MIT ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE

The MIT Environmental Solutions Initiative (ESI) (https://environmentalsolutions.mit.edu) advances science, engineering, policy and social science, design, the humanities, and the arts toward a people-centric and planet-positive future.

Founded in 2014, ESI’s overarching goal is to accelerate solutions to the world’s environmental challenges. To do so, ESI channels MIT’s research and education capacity to advance science, invent technologies, and innovate policies for mitigating carbon emissions and adapting to a changing climate in the face of global development needs and growing pressures on natural resources. ESI also leverages MIT’s proven convening power to engage with key stakeholders and decision-makers in supporting the deployment of solutions worldwide.

Education

ESI’s approach is fundamentally multidisciplinary, and studying the environment and sustainability is a hands-on, interdisciplinary, and cutting-edge experience at MIT. On campus, academic offerings are designed for students to learn alongside world experts, and coursework relates to real problems facing the planet. Starting freshman year and throughout a graduate’s career, the impact of an MIT education in the environment and sustainability (https://environmentalsolutions.mit.edu/education) can be felt worldwide.

Education priorities include:

- an undergraduate minor in Environment and Sustainability (http://catalog.mit.edu/interdisciplinary/undergraduate-programs/minors/environment-sustainability) open to students in all majors
- the infusion of environmental content into GIR and other introductory STEM subjects
- environment and sustainability subjects at MIT (https://environmentalsolutions.mit.edu/classes-search) that offer students a chance to explore challenges and solutions
- the MIT Action Sustainability Corps that aims to develop a community of MIT students who are personally and professionally committed to advancing a sustainable world
- ESI Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) and internship placement and support

Research

ESI’s priorities for research (https://environmentalsolutions.mit.edu/research) fall into three domain areas: Climate Science and Earth Systems, Cities and Infrastructure, and Sustainable Production and Consumption. Each domain draws upon engineers, natural and social scientists, designers, and arts & humanities to understand and address critical challenges.