J-WAFS researchers on MIT podcast

Olivier de Weck & Afreen Siddiqi discuss the U.S. infrastructure bill, including the drinking water & storage clauses, on this Professional Education podcast.

MIT engineers build sustainable beverage cup for airline

J-WAFS PI Brad Olsen of ChemE co-taught a capstone class with Desiree Plata of CEE, where students designed an alternative solution to the plastic cups Delta airlines currently uses.

MIT students tour local grocer to learn about food security

The MIT Food Security Action Team facilitated a tour of Daily Table, a nonprofit grocer in Cambridge, MA where students learned about sustainable food options for all.

Karthish Manthiram fosters mentees

The J-WAFS PI is concluding his appointment as a visiting assistant professor at MIT, but not before being

J-WAFS PI Charles Harvey publishes in GeoHealth

The paper compares the efficacy of field-kit measurements with accurate laboratory measurements for
honored for compassionate mentorship of his students.

MIT Tech Review article explores risk of groundwater rise to infrastructure

Climate change is causing groundwater to rise, leading to flooding, contamination, & catastrophic threats to infrastructure.

Ariel Furst’s lab creates a coating for microbes

The J-WAFS PI and her team have created a protective coating for microbes that could be used to make crops more stress-tolerant.

Scientists build atlas of oxygen-starved waters

MIT researchers created a map of oxygen-deficient zones in the ocean that limit the extent of fisheries and marine ecosystems.

J-WAFS PI and J-WAFS research scientist co-authors Frontiers in Water paper

Kenneth Strzepek & team recommend Model Predictive Control to perform the economic evaluation of investments and policies within the water-energy-food nexus.

J-WAFS PIs discuss their Agtech research

In an MIT Industrial Liaison Program webinar, Benedetto Marelli explains his drought-resistant seed coatings, and Rajeev Ram describes using optical markers to detect stress in crops.
MIT alumni-founded company is reducing food waste & increasing access to affordable foods

At an MIT Sloan School of Management event for admitted students in 2013, Ricky Ashenfelter MBA ’15 first met Emily Malina MBA ’15. With Ashenfelter’s background in sustainability software and management consulting within the retail and consumer products industries, and Malina’s interests in reducing food waste and solving food insecurity, the pair soon set off on a mission to use data to help mitigate these problems.

After many hours brainstorming in the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship, Ashenfelter and Malina utilized support from the Sloan Sustainability Initiative and co-founded Spoiler Alert. The start-up helps companies bridge the gap between food waste and food insecurity, with a platform that connects major food and beverage brands with discount grocers, retailers, and nonprofits.

“At a high level, we’re a waste-prevention software [platform] built for sales and supply-chain teams,” says Ashenfelter. “You can think of it as a private [business-to-business] eBay of sorts.”

Although founded just a few years ago, Spoiler Alert is already working with big companies like Nestle, Kraft Heinz, and Danone, as well as discount grocers like the United Grocery Outlet and Misfits Market. Suppliers are given the ability to control where their discounted and donated products go — in most cases, to underserved communities needing affordable nutrition.


**EVENTS**

**FOOD & WATER**

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**2022 IAP Intellectual Property Speaker Series**

**Throughout January, Online**

Join the MIT Technology Licensing Office and MIT Libraries for seminars on IP topics like patents, technology transfer, conflict of interest, and more. [MORE INFO]

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**American Perceptions of Climate Change**

**Thursday & Friday, January 27-28, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. EST**

This two-part IAP workshop with ESI and MIT Comparative Media Studies/Writing will cover climate science and climate action. [MORE INFO]

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**2022 MIT Sustainability Summit**

**Friday, February 25, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. EST, In-person & online**

The Summit will explore a variety of topics around environmental justice and grassroots action around sustainability. [MORE INFO]

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**MIT Water Hackathon (MIT ONLY)**

**Friday & Saturday, February 25-26, all day, In-person**

Save the date for the MIT Water Hackathon when students can dive deep into water-related problems and come up with innovative solutions. [MORE INFO TO COME]

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**FUNDING**

**AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

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**NEW: J-WAFS Solutions Grant**

**Deadline: February 22, 2022**

Open to MIT PIs

This program aims to help MIT researchers commercialize

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**NEW: J-WAFS Fellowships for Water & Food Solutions**

**Deadline: March 2, 2022**

Open to advanced MIT PhD students
breakthrough technologies and inventions in water and food. Up to 150K is awarded to bring innovative products to market or begin cutting-edge spinout companies.

In addition to students pursuing water research, for the first time this year at least one fellowship will be awarded to a student pursuing food systems research. Candidates must be nominated by an MIT faculty member.

J-WAFS Seed Grant

**Deadline: January 18, 2022**
Open to MIT PIs
MIT PIs with early-stage projects in areas related to water and/or food security, safety, or sustainability are encouraged to apply for funding.

MIT Water Innovation Prize

**Deadline: January 14**
Open to college & university teams
This J-WAFS co-sponsored prize awards entrepreneurs for unique solutions to water-related issues.

MIT IDEAS Challenge

**Deadline: January 19**
Open to MIT students
Looking to address social and environmental challenges around the world, including those in water and food? Check out this challenge.

Society of Energy Fellows at MIT

**Deadline: March 23, 2022**
Open to MIT graduate students & postdocs
Those with low-carbon energy solutions should apply to receive support.

Rabobank - MIT Food and Agribusiness Innovation Prize

**Deadline: January 30, 2022**
Open to U.S. university & grad students
Supported by J-WAFS, this prize awards teams with new products or business models that can improve sustainability

Cleantech Open Accelerator Program

**Deadline: April 17, 2022**
Open to entrepreneurs and innovators
Emerging cleantech, climatetech, and sustainability entrepreneurs can apply to this program, which is also seeking experts in ag/food waste/land use to serve as mentors.
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:

RENEE J. ROBINS
Executive Director, J-WAFS
rrobins@mit.edu or (617) 324-6726

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.