

Climate Change Experts Available for Interviews

Please contact press@drawdown.org or skylar.knight@drawdown.org for interviews.



Jonathan Foley, Ph.D., Executive Director

Jonathan is a world-renowned environmental scientist, sustainability expert, author, and public speaker. His work focuses on understanding our changing planet and finding new solutions to sustain the climate, ecosystems, and natural resources we all depend on.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate change
- Climate solutions
- Earth systems
- Climate change impacts (on weather, biodiversity, ecosystems, people, economies, etc.)
- Extreme weather
- Climate and clean energy policy
- Effects of agriculture, land use, and food systems on the environment
- Climate communications



Kate Marvel, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Climate Science

Kate is a climate scientist at Project Drawdown. She spent more than a decade as a research physicist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. A former cosmologist, Marvel received a Ph.D. in theoretical physics from Cambridge University. She led the “Climate Trends” chapter in the U.S. Fifth National Climate Assessment, has given a TED Talk, appeared on Meet the Press and The Ezra Klein Show, and testified before the U.S. Congress. Her first book, *Human Nature: Nine Ways to Feel About our Changing Planet*, was published in 2025.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate change
- Climate solutions
- Earth systems
- Climate change impacts (on weather, biodiversity, ecosystems, people, economies, etc.)
- Extreme weather
- Climate communications



Amanda Bielawski, Ph.D., Director, Global Strategic Partnerships

Amanda is a sustainability expert leading global strategies to scale proven science-based solutions across sectors related to climate, biodiversity, human well-being, and the nexus of these issues. Leveraging more than 20 years of leadership experience, Amanda has held roles advising corporate CEOs and the United Nations, in nonprofit organization and private sector leadership, as a researcher, and in university teaching.

Areas of Expertise

- Corporate sustainability
- Climate philanthropy
- Climate investing
- Climate finance
- Sustainable development
- Private-public climate partnerships



Amanda Smith, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Built Environment

Amanda is a researcher, analyst, and educator with expertise in buildings and distributed energy systems. Her research investigates trade-offs among energy use, economics, and environmental consequences within the context of a building's location and its unique function.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate solutions in buildings (commercial, residential, campuses)
- Renewable energy in the built environment
- Electrical grid–buildings integration
- Water use associated with power generation
- Solar PV or solar thermal potential analysis
- Energy cost optimization



Elizabeth Bagley, Ph.D., Managing Director

Elizabeth is an interdisciplinary environmental scientist and learning scientist with experience spanning academia, business, and the nonprofit sector.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate solutions
- Climate and environmental education
 - Education technologies (video games, online courses, etc.)
- Climate jobs
- Climate and sustainability leadership
- Science communication
- Climate communication



Emily Cassidy, Research Associate

Emily is a writer and environmental scientist, with expertise in agriculture, climate change, and land use. She has published in scientific journals including *Science*, *Nature*, and *Environmental Research Letters*.

Areas of Expertise

- Diet shifts
 - Plant-based protein
 - Livestock production
- Land use
- Food waste
- Remote sensing
- Environmental impacts of agricultural practices



James Gerber, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Data Science

James is a data scientist with expertise in agriculture and land use, modeling of crop yield futures, and ocean wave energy. He uses various analytic techniques to assess the effectiveness of climate mitigation solutions in the land use sector and their impacts on human well-being.

Areas of Expertise

- Environmental impacts of agricultural practices
- Climate solutions in the food and agriculture sector
- Impacts of climate change on agricultural production
- Trends in global crop production
- Ocean wave energy



Lauren Gifford, Ph.D., Senior Advisor, Climate Philanthropy and Investing

Lauren is a climate and carbon strategy expert, researcher, advisor, and science communicator. She helps philanthropies, investors, and institutions translate climate science into investment and funding strategies that accelerate high-impact climate solutions. She brings more than 15 years of experience advancing climate solutions across governments, NGOs, universities, foundations, and Fortune 100 companies. Her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *TIME*, and *The Washington Post*.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate policy
- Environmental and climate justice
- Carbon accounting and carbon markets
- ESG and social impact business
- Climate finance
- Climate philanthropy
- Carbon removal
- Social costs and human impacts of climate change



Matt Scott, Director of Storytelling & Engagement

As director of storytelling and engagement, Matt focuses on passing the mic to those who often go unheard in the climate space. Inspired by human-centered design, Matt is an expert on the role of storytelling in engaging diverse audiences around climate solutions.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate storytelling
- Climate justice
- Climate activism
- Climate grief and climate anxiety
- Representation in climate science, solutions, activism, and the stories we tell
- Engaging students, communities, and diverse audiences in climate change and solutions



Megan Matthews, Ph.D., Climate Solutions Research Associate

Megan is an interdisciplinary researcher interested in using data and outreach to promote sustainability, food equity, and environmental justice through the lens of agroecology. At Project Drawdown, her work focuses on climate solutions in the electricity and food & agriculture sectors.

Areas of Expertise

- Electricity solutions
- Food and agriculture solutions
- Food equity
- Environmental justice



Paul West, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Ecosystems & Agriculture

Paul is an ecologist developing science-based solutions for sustaining a healthy planet for people and nature. He is assessing how climate solutions can create win-wins and trade-offs for conserving biodiversity, creating a sustainable food system, and many other aspects of planetary health and human well-being.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate and land use change
- Ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation
- Agriculture
 - Food security
 - Crop production
 - Farm management practices
 - Impact on climate, water, biodiversity
- Biosphere
 - Carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, water cycles
 - Soils
 - Biomes



Ruthie Burrows, Ph.D., Research Associate

Ruthie is a population-environment researcher with interdisciplinary experience in geography, demography, and epidemiology. At Project Drawdown, she focuses on developing methods to integrate demographic data into solution analyses.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate impacts on people
- Climate change and health
- Human well-being benefits of climate solutions
- Global food security



Sarah Gleeson, Ph.D., Climate Solutions Research Manager

Sarah is a materials scientist with expertise in plastics, carbon removal, and science communication. Her research interests include systems-level decarbonization, waste mitigation, and global materials circularity. At Project Drawdown, she is analyzing the impact of emissions reductions in the industrial sector and the techno-economic potential of engineered carbon sinks.

Areas of Expertise

- Improved materials for climate solutions
- Plastic use and pollution
- End-of-life considerations for climate solutions
- Industrial decarbonization
- Engineered carbon sinks



Tina Swanson, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Policy and Private Sector Partnerships

Tina is an environmental scientist with a background in cross-disciplinary research, multi-faceted engagement at the interface of science and policy, and an enduring passion for turning science into action to solve environmental problems and benefit society.

Areas of Expertise

- Water resources
- Water management
- Ecosystems
- Ecosystem services
- Net-zero policy

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