



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

[LISTEN NOW](#)

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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designating wells with high arsenic concentrations in Bangladesh.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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IN-DEPTH LOOK

MIT FOOD-RELATED SPINOUT GETS NOTICED

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.

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EVENTS

FOOD & WATER



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](#)



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](#)



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](#)



MITWATER

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](#)

FUNDING

AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

NEW: J-WAFS Solutions Grant

Deadline: February 22, 2022

Open to MIT PIs

This program aims to help MIT researchers commercialize

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

in the food system.

[MORE INFO](#)

[MORE INFO](#)

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING J-WAFS?

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.

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ABOUT SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:**

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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.



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