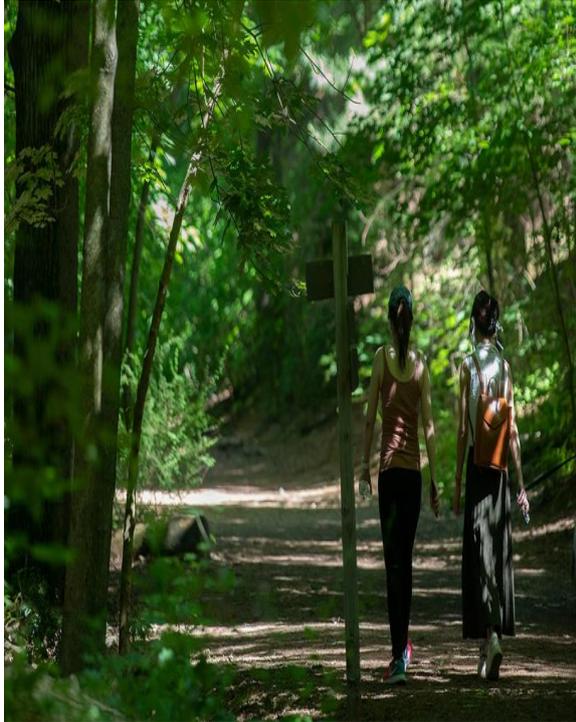




Investing in a sustainable future

16 July 2020



An octet of grants awarded just weeks before the COVID-19 crisis closed Harvard's gates are beginning to show the fruits of the research for which they paid. The projects, which leverage the unique expertise of Harvard faculty and students in science, engineering, design, health, business, and law, shared \$1 million in the sixth round of Climate Change Solutions Fund (CCSF) awards.

"Harvard has made significant progress toward reducing emissions, improving health in the built environment, and shaping policies and industries in pursuit of a more sustainable future," Harvard President Larry Bacow said on July 10, when the grants were announced. "Our goals — a fossil-fuel-neutral campus by 2026 and fossil-fuel-free campus by 2050 — are within our reach because our dedicated researchers and scholars are advancing knowledge and driving progress that connects and amplifies all of our sustainability efforts."

"The CCSF Review Committee and I are thrilled to announce this year's awards," said Vice Provost for Research Richard McCullough, whose office administers the fund. "With support from the University and generosity from alumni and others, CCSF is able to continually fund this critical work focused on global climate and health challenges. The concepts, innovations, and discoveries generated by our faculty and students reflects Harvard's ongoing and strong commitment to reduce the risks of climate change."

President Emerita Drew Faust established the fund in 2014 to shape and accelerate Harvard's transition from nonrenewable sources to a sustainable energy system. This year's projects support research at the vanguard of energy and climate science in areas such as environmental policy, evolutionary biology, public health, data and computational materials science, physics, and more.

Each year the fund review committee targets innovative research projects at Harvard's 12 Schools, giving special consideration to those that use the campus as a living laboratory. Eligible projects test ideas that address global sustainability challenges and align with the priorities in the University's Sustainability Plan and the climate goals outlined by Harvard's Presidential Committee on Sustainability and the Office for Sustainability. To date, 50 CCSF projects have received more than \$6 million. The fund is supported by the President's office and donations from alumni and others.

The early awards this year let grant recipients begin their work in advance of closures due to the global pandemic. This year's winning projects are summarized below. The application process for next year's awards are open and will close later this month. Interested applicants should contact vpr_grants@harvard.edu.

Source: <https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2020/07/investing-sustainable-future>