

Climate Change Experts Available for Interviews

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



Jonathan Foley, PhD, Executive Director

Dr. Foley 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



Amanda Smith, PhD, Senior Scientist, Built Environment

Dr. Smith 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



Daniel Jasper, Drawdown Lift Policy Advisor

Daniel is the policy advisor for Project Drawdown. He is an expert on multidisciplinary solutions for climate change and poverty alleviation, particularly in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. He draws upon over a decade of public policy experience to advocate for climate financing to simultaneously address poverty and climate resilience in low- and middle-income countries.

Areas of Expertise

- International climate policy (UNFCCC, COP28, etc.)
- Climate and development
- Global food policy
- Humanitarian aid
- US foreign policy and climate (e.g. State and Treasury Departments)
- Climate diplomacy
 - US-China climate diplomacy



Elizabeth Bagley, PhD, Managing Director

Dr. Bagley 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



James Gerber, PhD, Senior Scientist, Data Science

Dr. Gerber 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



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
- Finding your individual role in climate solutions (including climate careers)



Paul West, PhD, Senior Scientist, Ecosystems & Agriculture

Dr. West 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
 - Natural processes: fire, flooding, drought, etc.
 - Conservation practices
- Agriculture
 - Food security
 - Crop production
 - Farm management practices
 - Climate change impact on agriculture
 - Agriculture's impact on climate, water, biodiversity
- Biosphere
 - Carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, water cycles
 - Soils
 - Biomes
- Co-benefits of climate solutions
- Collaborations with businesses, NGOs, media, etc.



Tina Swanson, PhD, Visting Scholar

Dr. Swanson 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



Yusuf Jameel, PhD, Associate Scientist, Data Science

Dr. Jameel is a multidisciplinary scientist with experience in water resources, public health, data analytics, and science communication. He uses his expertise in research, data mining, and analytical capabilities to find solutions to climate change and bridge the gap between scientists, policymakers, and the public with a focus on the intersection of climate, food, energy, water, social equity, and finance.

Areas of Expertise

- Climate solutions in developing countries
- Climate justice
- Climate change and water (floods/drought/water shortages etc.)
- Climate solutions in South Asia and Southeast Asia
- Energy, development, and climate
- Climate solutions with co-benefits for human well-being

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