



# **A GUIDE FOR NAVIGATING THE CLIMATE RESOURCES AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY**

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# INTRODUCTION

Big institutions can be difficult to navigate. Universities especially can seem labyrinthine and exclude outsiders from its secrets. Universities are established to provide knowledge to its students, but they also can provide tremendous benefits to their host communities and to individuals and groups who seek their knowledge.

**PURPOSE:** This guide serves as an informational guide for connecting with the Sustainability/Climate communities at Tufts.

**AUDIENCE:** This guide is primarily intended as a tool for Somerville Climate Ambassadors and the employees and committee members of the City of Somerville.

## FIND EXPERTISE:

There are multiple ways that the climate & environmental resources at Tufts can be useful to you. For example, you have a work project that could use some student horsepower. You might reach out to a department to connect to an instructor who has puts students on research projects each term. Or perhaps you need a guest speaker to talk to your city committee about a specific environmental issue that the school has expertise in.

## Administrative Offices

### Tufts Office of Sustainability

This office has the mission to “create inspiring, resilient campuses and leaders by linking institutional challenges with education and research.” They can serve as a clearing house for figuring out how to approach various Tufts organizations.

<https://sustainability.tufts.edu>

<https://www.instagram.com/greentufts/>

## **Tufts Government and Community Relations**

This team is the university's primary liaison for our neighbors, community partners, and government officials. They help Tufts use its resources, expertise, and knowledge to benefit the people of Boston, Grafton, Medford, and Somerville. Another great place to start when you need help navigating Tufts.

<https://communityrelations.tufts.edu/>

## **Academic Departments/Programs**

### **Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering**

<https://engineering.tufts.edu/cee/>

### **Department of Earth & Climate Engineering**

<https://as.tufts.edu/ecs/>

### **Department of Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning**

<https://as.tufts.edu/uep/>

### **Environmental Studies Program**

<https://as.tufts.edu/environmentalstudies>

### **Institute of the Environment**

<https://www.facebook.com/TIEatTufts>

### **Tisch College of Civic Life**

<https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/>

<https://www.instagram.com/tischcollege/>

**Tisch College Community Research Center:** a resource for civically engaged & community-centered scholarship across all Tufts campuses.

Sample projects:

- Community Assessment of Freeway Exposure and Health (CAFEH)
- Social Connectedness and Community Climate Resiliency
- Motivating Action to Address Climate Change by the Residential Sector at the Community Level

- Cultivate Your Food Economy: Community Tools and Data for Building a New Food Economy
- Measuring Phosphorus Loads in Alewife Brook
- Mitigating the Stress Effects of Racism on Health through Youth Empowerment

<https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/tisch-college-community-research-center-tcrc>

**CivicGreen:** a collaborative project among Tufts scholars and practitioners to enrich the democratic imagination and to expand our policy options for sustainable, resilient, and just responses to the climate crisis in the United States in the coming decades.

<https://sites.tufts.edu/civicgreen/>

## **Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy**

The Fletcher School operates as its own entity under Tufts and isn't always fully integrated with the rest of the university. Their graduate programs drive a lot of the action, though they do have undergraduate programs as well.

And the Fletcher School dean is also a professor of energy and environmental policy, the founding director of the Climate Policy Lab, and the co-director of the Center for International Environment and Resource Policy, so she is certainly aware of the issues in the field.

There are some areas of study that have elements of climate change or the environment:

### **International Development and Environmental Policy**

<https://fletcher.tufts.edu/programs/fields-study/international-development-and-environmental-policy>

### **Human Security and Humanitarian Affairs**

<https://fletcher.tufts.edu/programs/fields-study/human-security-and-humanitarian-affairs>

## **Comparative and Regional Studies**

<https://fletcher.tufts.edu/programs/fields-study/comparative-and-regional-studies>

## **Tufts Climate Policy Lab**

<https://www.climatepolicylab.org/>

## **Center for International Environment & Resource Policy**

<https://sites.tufts.edu/cierp/>

## **FIND STUDENTS**

Students can be an incredible resource for finding expertise (though often in the developmental stages) or enthusiastic participation. Student groups can help you connect to expertise, gain knowledge about a topic and connecting you to volunteers and intern employees.

### **Student Organizations:**

**Sustainable CORE Fellows:** As a cohort, the Sustainable CORE Fellows serve as a bridge, connecting the mission of the Office of Sustainability to the larger Tufts community. They do an excellent job of promoting the various activities of environmentally-focus student groups as well as programs from the university itself.

<https://www.instagram.com/sustainablecorefellows/>

**Sustainable Solutions Fellows:** They learn to become creative problem solvers while making an impact on campus. Fellows are paired with an institutional challenge to tackle during the semester, resulting in the creation of sustainable solutions that model climate work on a global level.

## **Climate Action**

<https://www.facebook.com/tuftsclimateaction>

<https://www.instagram.com/tuftsclimateaction/>

**The Environmental Studies Society**

[https://www.instagram.com/envssociety\\_tu](https://www.instagram.com/envssociety_tu)

**Food Rescue Collaborative**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1760252707549706>

<https://sites.tufts.edu/foodatttufts/food-rescue/>

**Undergraduate Urban Studies Collective**

<https://tuftsup3.mystrikingly.com/>

**Environmental Health League**

<https://tufts.presence.io/organization/environmental-health-league>

<https://www.instagram.com/tuftsehl/>

**Tufts Graduate Students for Climate Justice****Tufts Climate Action**

<https://www.instagram.com/tuftsclimateaction/>

**Fletcher Energy and Environment Club (FLEEC)****Tufts Energy Conference (TEC)**

<https://myfletcher.tufts.edu/tec/home/>

**Environmental Hub**

**Leonard Carmichael Society:** LCS is the largest student-run community service organization at Tufts University. LCS operates as an umbrella group for more than twenty service-oriented sub-groups. They also work alongside the Tisch College of Civic Life and neighboring communities of Medford, Somerville, and Greater Boston to challenge students to adapt a meaningful view of service and become civically engaged with the world around them.

LCS Subgroups (among others):

Animal Aid ++ Food Rescue ++ Project Sunshine

<https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/community/student-groups/leonard-carmichael-society>

<https://www.instagram.com/tuftslcs/>

LCS sponsors a Day of Service every Spring. They have several service sites — both on-campus and off-campus — with work centering on various themes such as environmental sustainability, education, and health.

<https://tischcollege.tufts.edu/news-events/events/leonard-carmichael-society-day-service>

## **Student Career Services Offices**

### **Tufts Career Services**

Their primary audience is undergraduate and graduate students in Arts, Sciences & Engineering. They also work with alumni.

You can post jobs and/or schedule interviews for internships and full-time employment (as well as other career exploration programs) through the career center.

<https://careers.tufts.edu/>

### **Fletcher Office of Career Services**

Primarily serving the Fletcher grad, undergrad and alumni populations.

<https://fletcher.tufts.edu/careers-outcomes/career-resources>

## **FIND INFORMATION:**

Despite the appearance of being a bit insular, Tufts actually welcomes outsiders to many events where you can learn about climate change, the environment and related subjects.

The best resource to get started is the Tufts Events Calendar. Event listings should let you know if the event is open to the public.

<https://events.tufts.edu/>

There is also an app available for download that includes the events calendar.

The Fletcher School maintains a separate calendar, though some events will be listed on the main Tufts calendar.

<https://fletcher.tufts.edu/news-events/events-calendar>

**Hoch Cunningham Environmental Lecture Series:** A lunchtime lecture series (including pizza) on environmental topics (in person and virtual) held every Thursday during the school year. This series has run since 2011 and is sponsored by the Environmental Studies Program.

Some sample lectures:

- From New England's Coast to Global Shores and Back: Evolving Environmental Science for a Changing World
- Unstable Ground: Civic Engagement around Flooding and Plastic Pollution in Kampala, Uganda
- Tackling Carbon, Resilience, and Ambivalence: Lessons Learned From One Decade in Sustainable Architecture
- Accelerating the Transition to Zero-Emission Transportation
- Achieve a Just Energy Transition: Creating Jobs, Building Wealth, and Reducing Energy Burden

Other recent public events at Tufts:

- Fletcher School Arctic Conference: Sustainability in the Arctic
- Climate Change and the Future of Public Health for Urban Informal Settlements in the Global South
- A Path to Decarbonize Economies and Support Cleaner Technologies
- Stupid Little Fish: Extraction, Conservation, and the Politics of Environmental Decline
- Testing the Brakes: How Atmospheric Feedbacks Shape the Future of the Climate
- Unpacking Climate Migration



## FIND INSPIRATION:

Here are some programs that Tufts is currently implementing or studying. Perhaps there are some ideas for you or you might want to learn more from the Office of Sustainability or the Sustainable CORE Fellows (always good starting points).

- Energy & Water Data Dashboard
- The Green Fund which provides funding for the implementation of sustainability projects and ideas from and for the Tufts community. Students, faculty, and staff from all of Tufts campuses are eligible.
- A pilot program for composting in off-campus living
- Tufts Pollinator Initiative <https://sites.tufts.edu/pollinators/>
- Jumbos Community Fridge
- Jumbo Exchange clothing swap
- Pet & Pull – a trip to Mass Audubon’s Habitat Wildlife Sanctuary in Belmont where the students mingle with goats
- Local Produce Potluck
- On-campus Farmers Market
- Back to School “Sale” where unneeded items are gathered at move-out and distributed at move-in. Previously, a true yard sale but has shifted to being a free event.
- Zero Waste Challenge
- Eco Map of composting & recycling resources on the campuses

***Note that the environment around colleges in 2025 may drastically change access and/or funding for events and activities going forward.***