

## MIT Alumni EESN Webinar – MIT Campus as a Climate Action Testbed (2/28/20)

### Questions answered:

- Why only 32% reduction from 2014 by 2032? MIT set this as a minimum, but attainable level, based on the unknown pathway to achieve it.
- It appears that most of MIT's carbon footprint comes from producing steam by burning fossil fuels. Has the institute considered moving to heat pumps and a large ground loop instead and moving away from steam heat? These technologies are being evaluated now.
- It looks like you are not considering the purchase of offsets. Why not? MIT is interested in being responsible for real reductions. In some ways, the investment in renewable power in North Carolina is a tradeoff with on-site energy (Tier 2 (offsite) scope in most inventories).
- Many of the solutions appear to be well established by now. What about this approach will lead to the innovations the world is looking for? MOS is supporting innovative ideas and solutions with grants and encouraging the Facilities Department to consider non-conventional options.
- Is increase in nuclear power any part of your reduction in carbon footprint? Check the inventory. This work is probably beyond the period defined in the current plan.
- How can we best help you? Ideas are always welcome at MOS, and EESN has planned a webinar on March 19 to take alumni/ae comments.

### Not answered live:

- Why not do the whole thing with an enormous PPA? Problem solved.
- Can you give some examples of building electrification?
- What percentage of electric energy use is associated with operating and cooling computing equipment? [check the [inventory here](#)]
- What techniques or methods do you consider to be leading energy design in new buildings?
- How much money does MIT spend annually to upgrade and add to the campus computing infrastructure?
- How does changing from steam to hot water help? Does this move require replacing end-use heating equipment? [modern hot water systems are much more efficient, but significant HVAC renovation is required]
- Would MIT commit to removing enough emissions to offset MIT's cumulative historical GHG contributions to the atmosphere (like Microsoft)?
- Is MIT using its inventory and actions to inform all purchasing and educational decisions?
- The Plan said MIT would implement an internal carbon pricing scheme. Has that been done?