



CLIMATECAP MBA SUMMIT 2026

Leading Through Complexity: Navigating the
Tensions Shaping Climate Leadership

Carbon Neutrality Report

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I. Executive Summary

The ClimateCAP MBA Summit 2026 took place at MIT Sloan School of Management in Cambridge, Massachusetts on April 17–18, 2026, under the theme Leading Through Complexity: Navigating the Tensions Shaping Climate Leadership. As a convening point for graduate business students, faculty, climate leaders, and practitioners, ClimateCAP exists to equip the next generation of business leaders to accelerate climate action. Organized by the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative, this year marked the first time the conference undertook a formal carbon accounting and offsetting process for its annual gathering.

The event comprised three key components: a welcome event on Friday evening, the all-day conference with speakers and panelists on Saturday, and a closing reception at the MIT Museum on Saturday evening. Across the full conference experience, ClimateCAP 2026 brought together approximately 450 attendees and associated guests across conference programming and networking events.

To align conference operations with ClimateCAP's broader mission, the organizing team sought to measure the event's carbon footprint, identify opportunities to reduce emissions where possible, and offset the remaining emissions. The MIT Sloan team developed a carbon accounting framework modeled on the [2023 MIT Sustainability Summit carbon-neutrality report](#) and adapted it to the structure and available data for ClimateCAP 2026. **The framework evaluates five emissions categories: Transportation, Catering, Utilities, Production (AV and Streaming), and Miscellaneous.**

The conference footprint extended across all three scopes of emissions as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and was measured in carbon dioxide equivalents, or CO₂e, to account for greenhouse gases beyond carbon dioxide, including methane and nitrous oxide. Using this methodology, we estimate that the measured footprint of ClimateCAP 2026 was **88.58 tCO₂e**. To account for residual uncertainty in select

categories and ensure conservative offset procurement, the team applied an additional planning buffer of 10%, which was 8.86 tCO₂e, and **offset a total of 100 tCO₂e.**

The carbon cost of this gathering was overwhelmingly driven by attendee travel rather than operations. Transportation and hotel accommodations accounted for 93.4% of total emissions, whereas catering, utilities, production, and miscellaneous materials comprised a comparatively small share of the overall footprint.

The purpose of this report is threefold.

1. First, it documents the methodology used to estimate ClimateCAP 2026's emissions footprint and offset strategy.
2. Second, it serves as a public-facing case study of how a student-led conference can approach carbon accounting in a practical, transparent, and resource-conscious way.
3. Third, it aims to establish a precedent for future ClimateCAP conferences and potentially for peer conferences across business schools by offering a replicable framework for measuring, reducing, and responsibly offsetting event-related emissions.

While this report reflects the specific data availability, constraints, and assumptions of the 2026 conference, our broader goal is to demonstrate that rigorous, good-faith carbon accounting is both possible and worthwhile, and that embedding climate responsibility into conference design is fully aligned with the leadership values ClimateCAP seeks to advance.





II. Intent

Why did the MIT Sloan team want to host a carbon-neutral ClimateCAP Summit this year?

The ClimateCAP Summit convenes MBA students, business school educators, and climate practitioners to explore how business can drive the transition to a more sustainable and equitable economy. This motivation is closely aligned with the mission of the MIT Sloan School of Management, which is to develop principled, innovative leaders who improve the world and to generate ideas that advance management practices. Measuring and addressing the conference's footprint was one way to ensure that its operations reflected the same values of accountability, innovation, and systems thinking that its programming seeks to promote.

In addition to creating the report itself, the decision to undertake a formal carbon accounting effort for the conference was motivated by three factors:

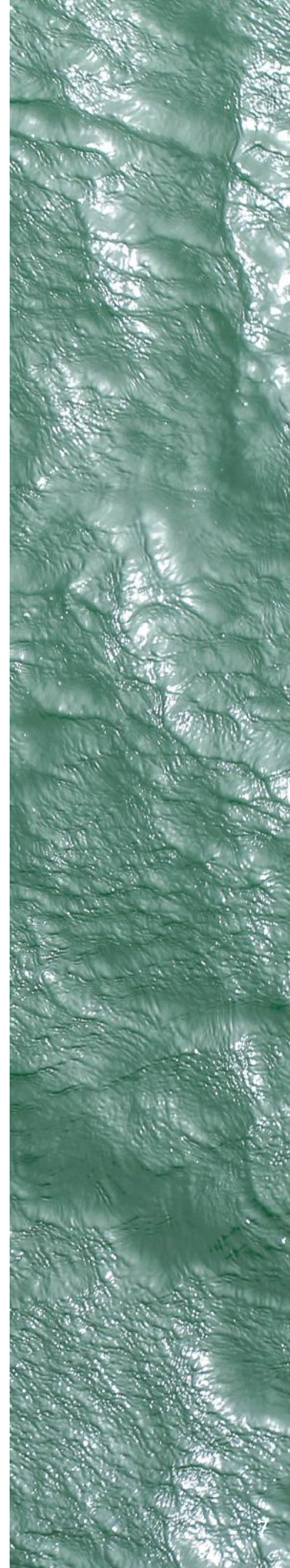
1. Relevance: ClimateCAP's purpose is to mobilize future business leaders around climate solutions. Measuring and addressing the footprint of the conference itself was a way to align conference operations with the values embedded in the event's content and mission. If ClimateCAP aims to prepare leaders to make climate-conscious business decisions, then the conference itself should strive to model that mindset in practice.

2. Precedent: As a conference that brings together students and stakeholders from multiple business schools, ClimateCAP is uniquely positioned to influence how peer institutions think about sustainable event design. We wanted to create a transparent and practical example of what carbon accounting could look like for a multi-school conference, one that future ClimateCAP teams and other student organizers can build upon, rather than starting from scratch. By documenting the methodology, assumptions, and tradeoffs involved, this effort can help establish a

foundation for future ClimateCAP conferences and for similar student-led convenings seeking to integrate sustainability into event planning.

3. Responsibility: In-person conferences create real value as they foster relationships, deepen dialogue, and enable the informal moments of connection that are often difficult to replicate virtually. At the same time, those benefits come with an environmental cost, especially when attendees travel from across regions to participate. Hosting a carbon-accounted conference allowed us to acknowledge that impact, take responsibility for it, and make thoughtful decisions about how to reduce and offset emissions where possible.

ClimateCAP 2026, therefore, approached carbon neutrality not as a branding exercise, but as an operational commitment with the goal to better understand the environmental cost of gathering, to reduce what we could, and to offset what remained in a transparent and replicable way.





III. Carbon Footprinting Methodology

How did we capture data to measure the event footprint?

To quantify the footprint of ClimateCAP 2026, we developed a framework that sought to capture the most material emissions associated with the conference, while remaining realistic about data availability for a student-led event. The conference footprint extended across all [three scopes of emissions](#) as defined by the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. Scope 1 emissions included direct fuel combustion associated with owned or operationally controlled energy systems serving conference venues.

Scope 2 emissions included purchased electricity, heating, and cooling associated with the buildings in which conference events took place. Scope 3 emissions included attendee travel, lodging, catering, and other indirect activities associated with hosting the event. In practice, the majority of ClimateCAP 2026's footprint fell within Scope 3, which is often the most material category for conferences but also one of the most challenging to measure with precision due to its reliance on attendee behavior, vendor data, and indirect assumptions.

The methodology used for ClimateCAP 2026 was intentionally modeled on the 2023 MIT Sustainability Summit carbon neutrality report, with updates made where the structure of the conference, venue mix, and available data differed. We used the MIT report as a baseline because it provided a strong starting point for a similar student-led, climate-focused event hosted at MIT Sloan. However, ClimateCAP also introduced several differences that required adaptation, including a larger share of out-of-town attendees, a rotating host-school model, and a conference structure that extended across multiple venues and event formats.

For ClimateCAP 2026, we segmented the footprint into five categories:

- **Transportation:** attendee travel to and from the conference, as well as hotel accommodations
- **Catering:** food and beverage served across conference-related events
- **Utilities:** electricity, chilled water, steam, and gas associated with conference venues
- **Production:** audiovisual equipment and livestreaming-related energy use
- **Miscellaneous:** badges, signage, and other minor event materials



Data Collection Approach

Because conference planning and data collection occurred over several months, our analysis followed a staged process that moved from early framework development to a post-conference final audit.

Stage 0: Framework Definition

At the outset of planning, we defined the emissions categories we intended to measure, the data needed, and the likely sources of that information. The goal of this phase was to create a practical measurement framework early enough that sustainability considerations could be integrated into conference planning rather than be treated solely as a retrospective exercise.

This work was completed during the fall of 2025 and drew heavily from prior carbon accounting work completed by the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative. In 2022 and 2023, the team developed a carbon neutrality framework through internal brainstorming, consultation with subject matter experts, and iterative refinement of category boundaries, units of measure, and data collection needs. ClimateCAP 2026 adopted this framework as a starting point.

Stage 1: Pre-Conference Projections

During planning, the team developed preliminary estimates using anticipated attendee volume, expected venue use, draft catering information, and prior-year methodological assumptions where direct 2026 data was not yet available. This phase helped identify which categories were likely to dominate the conference footprint and informed early thinking around emissions reduction opportunities, data collection priorities, and eventual offset procurement.

This stage also informed operational planning decisions intended to reduce the conference footprint at the source. For example, it was during this phase that the team began shaping the conference's vegetarian catering strategy and travel data collection approach. The goal was not only to estimate emissions after the fact, but also to build sustainability considerations into planning decisions while there was still time to influence them.

Stage 2: Refinement During Final Planning

As the conference approached, we replaced assumptions with more specific data wherever possible. Data sources at this stage included:

- **Historical building energy data** from MIT's EnergizeMIT platform, which provides building-level utility data for MIT facilities connected to the Central Utilities Plant
- **Attendee registration data**, including origin city and expected mode of travel for in-person attendees
- **Catering menus and service estimates** from conference caterers and in-kind beverage sponsors
- **Venue and production information** from conference spaces and audiovisual vendors
- **Prior MIT event data and proxy assumptions** where 2026 event-specific data was unavailable

This stage helped refine some of the emissions reduction decisions. For example, attendee travel information collected during registration improved the transportation calculation model by ensuring granular data was collected on travel mode, location, and distance, helping the team understand how travel choices were shaping the event footprint in real time.

Stage 3: Post-Conference Final Audit

Following the conference, we updated the model to reflect final attendee counts and the most complete set of event data available. The resulting estimate forms the basis of this report. Some categories still required proxy assumptions. For example, utility data was not yet available for our venues at the time of this report creation, so we estimated emissions based on the closest available reporting period. Even so, the post-conference model represents the best available estimate of ClimateCAP 2026's footprint given the data accessible to the organizing team.

The final 2026 model was built around several core assumptions:

- **Attendee count:** 450 checked-in attendees
- **Local vs. out-of-town split:** Massachusetts-based attendees were treated as local and assumed not to require hotel stays other than some members of the organizing team, who lived farther away and required overnight accommodations
- **Hotel stays:** non-local attendees were assumed to require two hotel nights unless otherwise captured through conference lodging information
- **Travel emissions:** one-way travel distances were doubled to estimate round-trip travel and multiplied by mode-specific emissions factors
- **Utilities:** building-level utility data was scaled based on actual historical consumption data tracked by MIT and the fraction of the day during which the conference occupied that space
- **Catering:** food and beverage emissions were estimated by mapping menu items to ingredient categories and applying food-specific emissions factors
- **Production:** audiovisual equipment emissions were estimated from wattage, hours of operation, and electricity emissions factors; livestreaming emissions were estimated using a benchmark input
- **Miscellaneous:** badges and signage were estimated using simple weight-based calculations and paper proxy factors
- **Offset buffer:** a 10% planning buffer was retained during the offsetting process to support conservative procurement and account for residual uncertainty in select inputs

Where 2026 data was incomplete, we used proxies and clearly flagged them in this report. We view transparency as an important part of setting a useful precedent. **The goal is to show how conference organizers can build a credible estimate using the data available to them and improve that methodology over time.**

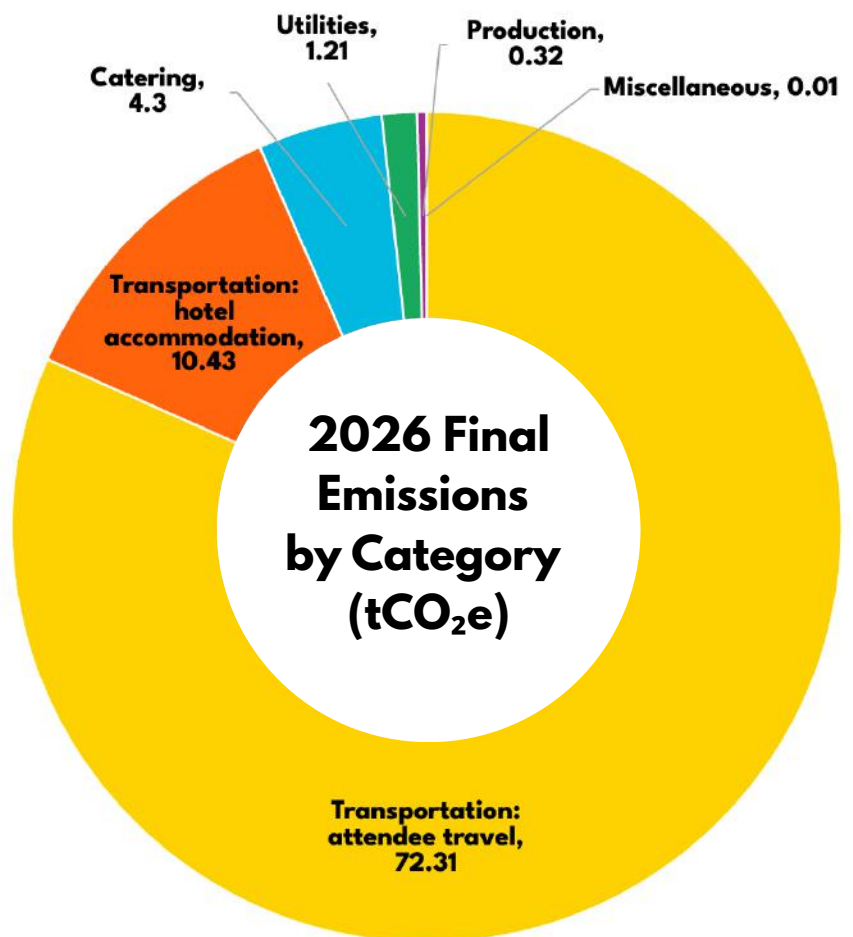




IV. Event Footprint

What was the resulting carbon footprint of ClimateCAP 2026?

Using the framework described above, we estimate that **the measured carbon footprint of ClimateCAP 2026 was 88.58 tCO₂e**. This measured subtotal reflects the sum of transportation, hotel accommodation, catering, utilities, production, and miscellaneous materials. A 10% planning buffer was then applied separately to support conservative offsetting and account for uncertainty in select categories, bringing the offsetting total to approximately 97.44 tCO₂e, which was ultimately rounded up to **100 tCO₂e of retired carbon credits**.



As expected for a conference drawing attendees from multiple schools and geographies, the environmental cost of gathering was dominated by travel. Transportation and hotel accommodation together represented the overwhelming majority of total emissions, while the on-site operational footprint of the conference remained comparatively modest. This distribution is important because it clarifies where future ClimateCAP teams can have the greatest impact, not only through operational sustainability measures, but also through intentional choices about conference design, travel, lodging, and attendee behavior.

1. Transportation

Transportation was by far the largest contributor to ClimateCAP 2026's carbon footprint. This category includes both attendee travel to and from the conference and hotel accommodations for non-local attendees. Taken together, these two components accounted for approximately 82.7 tCO₂e, or 93.4% of the conference's measured footprint.

Data Sources and Methodology

To collect the necessary travel data, in-person attendees were asked to provide their origin city and country and to identify their expected mode of travel to and from the event at the time of ticket purchase. Travel mode options included plane, train, bus, car, bike, and walking. For attendees traveling by car, we further differentiated between combustion vehicles, hybrid vehicles, and electric vehicles in order to apply more representative emissions factors.

Guests local to the Cambridge and Boston area were assumed to travel primarily by walking, biking, or other local commuting methods, and were not assigned hotel emissions. Attendees traveling from outside the area were assumed to require hotel accommodations for two nights unless more specific information was available through conference lodging information.

Travel emissions were estimated by multiplying the one-way distance between the attendee's origin city and the conference location, Kendall Square (Cambridge, MA), by two to account for round-trip travel, and then applying a mode-specific emissions factor based on the attendee's selected travel mode. Because many attendees shared the same origin city, the model aggregated attendees by origin and travel mode wherever possible.

Hotel emissions were estimated by multiplying the number of hotel nights by a standard hotel emissions factor and the number of attendees associated with that lodging assumption.

Mode / Category	Estimated CO ₂ Emissions Intensity	Source
Airplane	130 (g/mi/pax)	US EPA (2025)
Train	149 (g/mi/pax)	US EPA (2025)
Bus	66 (g/mi/pax)	US EPA (2025)
Car-Combustion	297 (g/mi/pax)	U.S. EPA GHG Factors Hub
Car-Hybrid	250 (g/mi/pax)	MIT 2023 proxy (EPA basis)
Car-Electric	80 (g/mi/pax)	EPA eGRID NEWE 2022
Hotel	16.1 kgCO ₂ e/person-night	DEFRA/DESNZ 2024 US hotel
Number of Hotel Nights (non-local default)	2	MIT ClimateCAP assumption

Table I. Emissions Factors for each mode of transportation and lodging for attendee inbound and outbound travel from Boston

Explore how we calculated the emissions of an attendee traveling from Hanover, New Hampshire by bus:

Origin City	Mode	Pax (# passengers)	One-way Miles	Emissions Factor (g/mi/pax)	Travel kgCO ₂ e	Hotel kgCO ₂ e	Total kgCO ₂ e
Hanover, NH	bus	11	130	66	188.76	354.2	542.96

11 attendees travelled from Hanover, NH, by bus. As such, we ran an activity-based emissions factor to estimate their round-trip footprint and tacked on the additional value for hotel accommodations.

- **Travel:** 11 passengers * (130 miles x 2 for round-trip travel) * 66 g/mi/pax emission factor for bus travel = 188.760 kg CO₂e
- **Hotel accommodation:** 11 passengers * 2 hotel nights * 16.1 kg CO₂e/person-night = 354.2 kg CO₂e

EXAMPLE

Results

Total transportation-related emissions can be divided into two subcategories:

- Attendee travel: 72.31 tCO₂e
- Hotel accommodation: 10.43 tCO₂e

For a combined transportation total of 82.74 tCO₂e.

Takeaways

The transportation results reinforce that for a multi-school conference like ClimateCAP, **the carbon footprint of gathering is driven overwhelmingly by how many attendees travel, how far they travel, their mode of travel, and whether the event requires overnight stays.** This does not mean that in-person conferences are inherently incompatible with sustainability. Rather, it means that if future ClimateCAP teams want to materially reduce total emissions, transportation will need to remain the primary focus.

ClimateCAP 2026 did make several decisions intended to reduce travel-related emissions where possible, including hosting the conference in a highly accessible location, selecting event venues within walking distance of one another and of recommended hotel accommodations, and collecting attendee travel information during registration. Even so, the results clearly show that **the largest emissions reduction opportunities for future conferences will likely come from broader conference design decisions, such as venue location, hotel assumptions, scheduling, and the share of attendees traveling from out of town.**



2. Catering

Catering emissions capture the food and beverages served across the conference's event components, including the welcome event, the main conference, and the closing reception. Compared with transportation, catering represented a relatively small share of total emissions, but it is one of the categories where conference organizers have the most direct operational control.

Data Sources and Methodology

To estimate catering emissions, we obtained menus from the conference's caterers and, where possible, broke each menu item down into its primary ingredients. ClimateCAP 2026's catering included breakfast, lunch, coffee service, snacks, and alcoholic beverage service, as well as in-kind sponsorships from Lamplighter Brewing Co., Portico Brewing, Remnant Brewing, Vitamin Sea Brewing, and Eden Ciders. Catering support came from Powerhouse Café & Catering, Gourmet Caterers, Impossible Foods, and the Samberg Conference Center's catering team.

Each menu item was mapped to its primary ingredients, and portion sizes were estimated based on available vendor data and planning assumptions. Importantly, the team did not simply scale food quantities one-to-one to total attendees. Instead, food orders were intentionally reduced to reflect expected attendee behavior and minimize food waste. For example, breakfast was catered for only a portion of registered attendees, reflecting the reality that conference participants often skip breakfast, and that most attendees don't take one of every food item.

Once ingredient-level estimates were developed, each ingredient was categorized using TASTE Food into the appropriate SIMAP (Sustainability Indicator Management & Analysis Platform) food category. Total ingredient weights were then multiplied by MIT's weight-based emissions factors for each food category in order to estimate total catering emissions. Most caterers were able to provide menu inputs and quantities, but where information was missing, the team developed reasonable estimates using available menu details and portion assumptions.

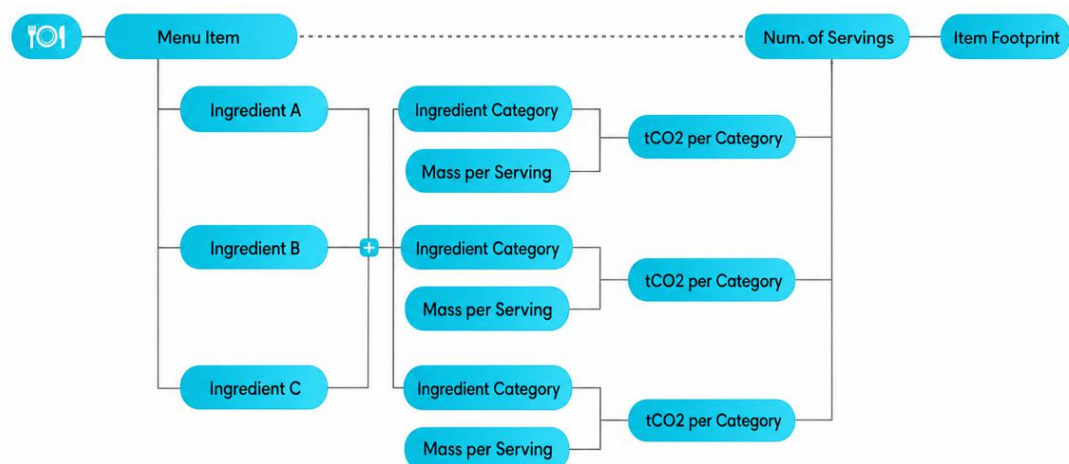


Figure I. Process flow for the analysis of one catering item

Ingredient Category	Emissions Factor (kgCO ₂ e/kg)	Ingredient Category continued	Emissions Factor (kgCO ₂ e/kg)
Beans	0.78	Milk	1.34
Cheese	9.78	Nuts	1.17
Coffee & Tea	0.36	Oils	1.63
Eggs	4.5	Potatoes	0.21
Fruits	0.36	Seafood	5.4
Grains	0.86	Sugars	0.96
Liquids	1.03	Vegetables	0.73
Meat/Poultry	27		

Table II. Emissions Factors for each type of menu item. Source MIT OoS SIMAP 2023.

EXAMPLE

Explore how we calculated the emissions of cheese in one of our cheese and fruit platters:

Ingredient / Menu Item	SIMAP Category	g/serving [INPUT]	Servings [INPUT]	Total kg [FORMULA]	EF (kgCO ₂ e/kg) [INPUT]	CO ₂ e (kgCO ₂ e) [FORMULA]
Cheese / Cheese & Fruit Platter	Cheese	60	80	4.8	9.78	46.944

We mapped assorted cheeses to the Cheese SIMAP category. Our caterer informed us that each serving was 60g and we ordered 80 servings.

- **Cheese in Cheese & Fruit Platters:** 80 servings * 60g/serving * 9.78 kgCO₂e/kg = 46.944 kgCO₂e

Results

Total catering emissions for ClimateCAP 2026 were estimated at 4.3tCO₂e.

Takeaways

The conference featured 100% vegetarian catering across all conference events, an intentional choice given the emissions associated with meat production and the desire to align food service with the conference's sustainability values. The team also made strategic ordering decisions to reduce food waste and eliminated disposable plates, cups, and silverware in favor of reusable serviceware during the actual conference.

While catering represented a relatively small share of total emissions compared with transportation, these choices allowed the conference to reduce avoidable food-related emissions and align day-of operations more closely with the values of the event. At the same time, the results suggest there is still room for future conferences to go further, particularly through more standardized menu data collection, more direct food waste measurement, and continued evaluation of lower-emissions menu strategies.



3. Utilities

Utilities emissions capture the electricity, chilled water, steam, and gas associated with the conference's event venues. For ClimateCAP 2026, this category included utility impacts associated with the welcome reception venue (The Engine), the main conference spaces (Samberg Conference Center and breakout sessions and related programming rooms), and the closing reception venue (MIT Museum).

Data Sources and Methodology

For MIT venues, utility estimates were based on building-level energy data from EnergizeMIT, a platform maintained through MIT's Data Pool that provides historical building-level utility data for facilities connected to MIT's Central Utilities Plant. MIT's on-campus cogeneration system powers, heats, and cools much of campus and allows for relatively granular monitoring of energy use across electricity, chilled water, steam, and gas.

Because conference organizers did not have access to real-time event-specific submetering across all venues, utilities emissions were estimated using historical building-level data as a proxy, which was collected by EnergizeMIT. In practice, this meant allocating a share of each building's utility emissions to ClimateCAP based on the fraction of the day during which the event occupied that space. Where 2026 venue data was unavailable, the model relied on the closest available historical data, generally from 2025, and retained a conservative planning buffer of 10% where appropriate.

Hosting the event at MIT Sloan also made it possible to leverage a more robust utility data infrastructure than might otherwise have been available. The MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative has previously worked with the MIT Office of Sustainability to install floor-level submetering in the Samberg Conference Center, which can help support more precise monitoring for future events in the space.

POWERING THE MIT CAMPUS

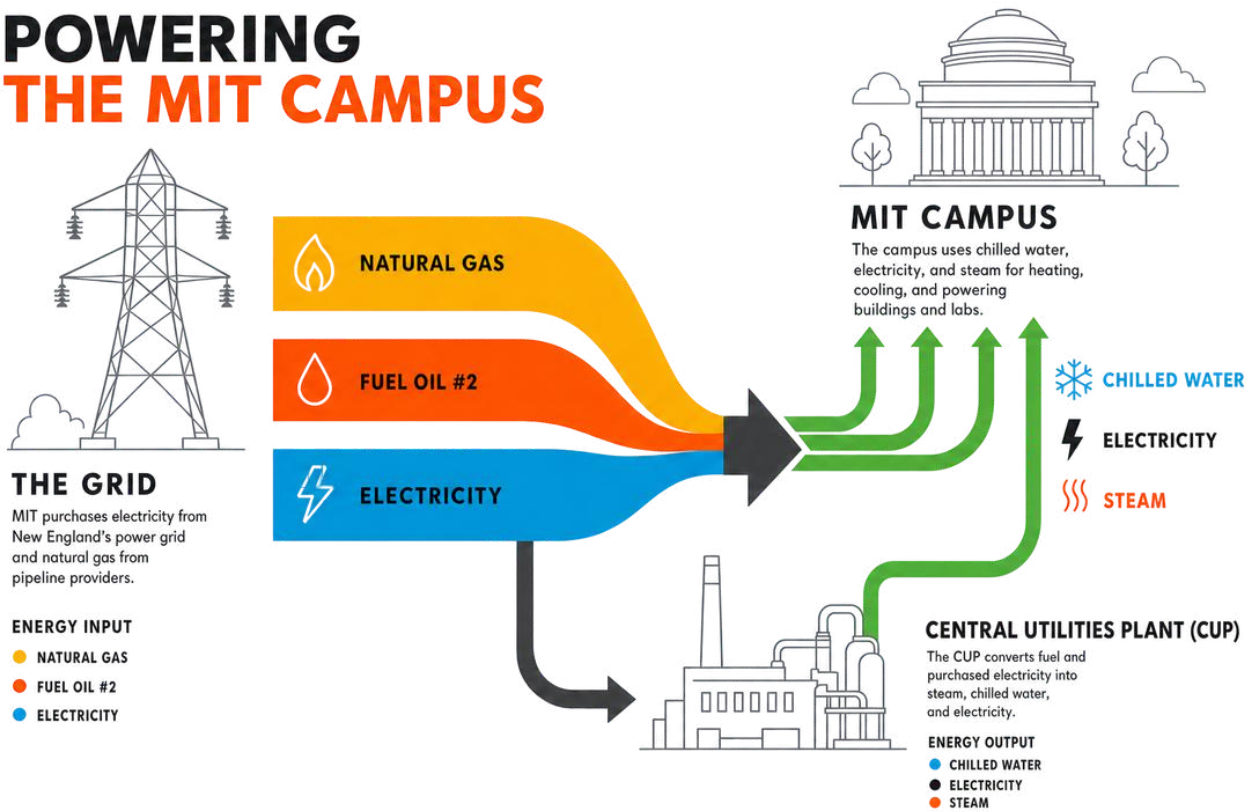


Figure II. Powering the MIT Campus, adapted from EnergizeMIT and the MIT Central Utilities Plant

Samberg Conference Center (E52) MIT CUP EMISSION FACTORS (inputs)		
Electricity	0.3	kgCO ₂ e/kWh — EnergizeMIT CUP
Chilled Water	0.395	kgCO ₂ e/Thr — EnergizeMIT CUP
Gas	5.462	kgCO ₂ e/thm — EnergizeMIT CUP
Steam	0	kgCO ₂ e/Mlb — MIT CHP — zero (closed loop)

For the Samberg Conference Center, we estimated the conference's share of building utility consumption by calculating the proportion of the building's total square footage represented by the 6th and 7th floors. We then applied this percentage to the building's historical April electricity, chilled water, natural gas, and steam consumption to estimate the utilities attributable to the conference for the day of the event.

For the remaining campus facilities, including the welcome and closing receptions, we already had building-level greenhouse gas emissions (tCO₂e). We estimated emissions by applying the percentage of each building's square footage that was used for the event and adjusting for the duration of occupancy. Since most spaces were used for only part of a day, emissions were prorated accordingly.

Results

Total utilities emissions for ClimateCAP 2026 were estimated at 1.21 tCO₂e.

Takeaways

Utilities represented a relatively small share of the conference footprint, in part because the conference occupied only a fraction of each building for a limited period of time. Still, venue selection played an important role in keeping this category relatively low. ClimateCAP 2026 was hosted on MIT's campus in an existing, highly efficient conference environment rather than relying on temporary or bespoke event infrastructure. The Samberg Conference Center, located in Building E52, is housed within MIT's first LEED Platinum-certified building, which is recognized for energy efficiency, transportation accessibility, water efficiency, and building performance monitoring.

Utilities also illustrate that even when building-level data is available, conference organizers are often estimating only a share of a larger building's energy use rather than measuring event-specific utility consumption directly. For that reason, utility estimates should be understood as allocation-based approximations rather than precise real-time measurements. Even so, including them provides a more complete picture of the event footprint and creates a stronger basis for year-over-year comparison.



4. Production

Production emissions include audiovisual equipment and digital streaming that was used to deliver the conference. This category covers items such as projectors, monitors, audio equipment, amplifiers, and other devices that consumed electricity beyond the baseline utility estimate for the conference venues.

Data Sources and Methodology

To estimate production emissions, we used equipment information from MIT audiovisual vendors and prior MIT event production data. The underlying logic is that every piece of equipment plugged in for the event consumes electricity, and that electricity use can be estimated by multiplying the equipment's wattage by the number of hours it was in operation. The resulting electricity consumption can then be multiplied by an emissions factor to estimate associated emissions.

Where complete 2026 equipment-level data was unavailable, we relied on prior MIT event production data as a proxy and updated assumptions to reflect the scale and duration of ClimateCAP 2026, including livestreaming activity, number of viewers, and the length of conference programming. Production calculations used an electricity emissions factor of 0.300 kgCO₂e/kWh, based on MIT Central Utilities Plant proxy data.

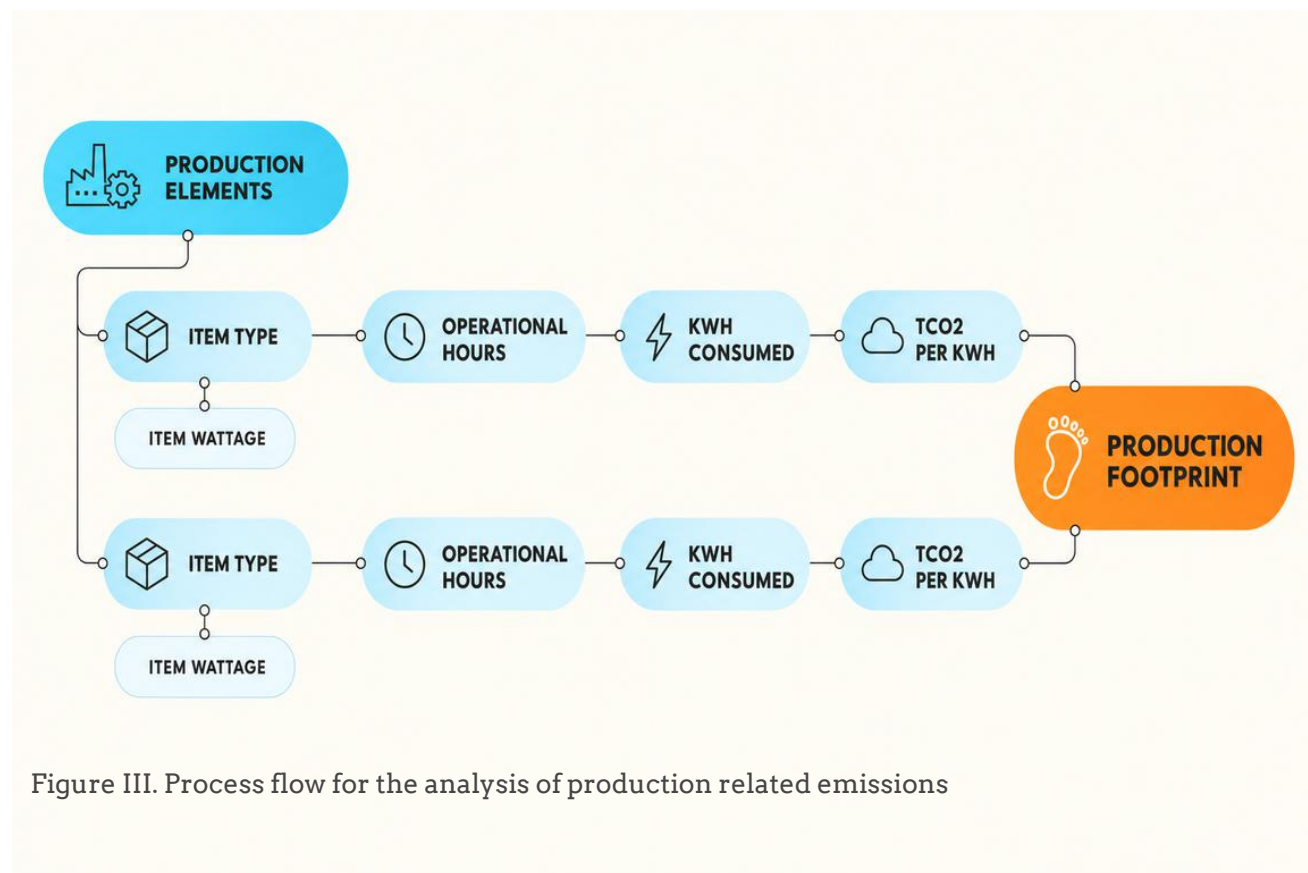


Figure III. Process flow for the analysis of production related emissions

MIT Electricity EF (kgCO ₂ e/kWh) — EnergizeMIT:	0.3	SOURCE: MIT CUP / EnergizeMIT
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EXAMPLE

Explore how we calculated the emissions of a confidence monitor:

Equipment	Wattage (W) [INPUT]	Hours [INPUT]	kWh [FORMULA]	EF (kgCO ₂ e/kWh) [INPUT]	CO ₂ e (kgCO ₂ e) [FORMULA]	Source
Confidence Monitor	150	13	1.95	0.3	0.585	2023 AV proxy

- **Confidence monitor:** 150 W * 13 hours of streaming = 1.950 kWh * 0.3 EF kgCO₂e/kWh = 0.585 kgCO₂e

Results

Total production emissions for ClimateCAP 2026 were estimated at 0.32 tCO₂e.

Takeaways

Production was one of the smallest categories in the conference footprint, but the conference team still took steps to keep it as low as possible. ClimateCAP 2026 adopted a relatively minimal production setup, limiting equipment needs where feasible and avoiding unnecessary energy use associated with a more elaborate audiovisual design. Selecting the Samberg Conference Center as the primary venue also reduced the need for additional production infrastructure. Because the ballroom benefits from substantial natural light and built-in conference functionality, the event was able to avoid some of the supplementary stage lighting and equipment that might otherwise have been required in a different venue.

Production was not a major driver of emissions, but future conferences could improve the category by collecting more detailed vendor equipment lists in advance and standardizing livestream assumptions in the model.

5. Miscellaneous

The miscellaneous category captures emissions associated with conference badges and signage. While these emissions were expected to be negligible relative to transportation, catering, utilities, or production, the team still sought to reduce them operationally and quantify them where feasible.

Data Sources and Methodology

ClimateCAP 2026 used cover stock-paper badges in place of traditional conference badges and limited printed signage by relying heavily on digital communications and the event app platform Whova. Printed materials were restricted to essential signage and wayfinding, and existing signage from prior events was reused where possible. Where emissions were estimated, they were based on item counts, approximate material weights, and paper-based emissions factors.

Results

Miscellaneous emissions totaled 0.008 tCO₂e, effectively negligible relative to the overall conference footprint.

Takeaways

Although miscellaneous materials contributed only a very small share of total emissions, this category reflects that conference materials should be intentional rather than automatic. ClimateCAP 2026 avoided physical merchandise and traditional conference swag, encouraged non-physical or consumable sponsor giveaways where possible, and relied on digital agenda and logistics tools to reduce unnecessary printing. These choices did not materially change the conference's total footprint, but they reinforced the broader effort to embed sustainability into operational decision-making wherever possible.





V. Emissions Reduction

How did MIT Sloan reduce emissions for the event?

Before turning to carbon credits, we took intentional measures to minimize the carbon footprint of the conference. Although this year's effort was primarily focused on carbon accounting and offsetting, the conference also

incorporated a number of operational choices intended to reduce emissions where possible. These efforts reflect the idea that offsetting should complement reduction efforts, not replace them.

Transportation

Because transportation will continue to dominate the conference's footprint due to out-of-town attendees, this is the category where future reductions would matter most. For this year's event, the most meaningful levers were not necessarily day-of operational decisions, but structural choices around conference design, including the location of the event, the proximity of venues to one another, the number of required hotel nights, and the extent to which conference programming could be concentrated in a walkable area.

We made several decisions with this in mind. ClimateCAP 2026 was hosted in Kendall Square, an area that is highly accessible by public transportation and relatively easy to navigate on foot. The neighborhood is easily accessible from Boston Logan International Airport and from surrounding Boston and Cambridge neighborhoods via public transit, walking, and cycling, which helped reduce the need for individual car trips during the event. The main conference venue, the Samberg Conference Center, is located within walking distance of both the Welcome Event and the Closing Reception, as well as the recommended hotel accommodations. This choice reduced the need for attendees to rely on additional carbon-intensive modes of transportation throughout the conference weekend.

In addition, the registration process asked attendees to share information about their expected travel plans. While this was primarily intended to support carbon accounting, it also served a secondary purpose by prompting attendees to think more consciously about how their travel choices contributed to the conference's footprint.





Catering

Catering is another area where the conference team made deliberate decisions to reduce emissions. Although food and beverage represented a much smaller share of total conference emissions, it is one of the categories over which event organizers have the most direct control.

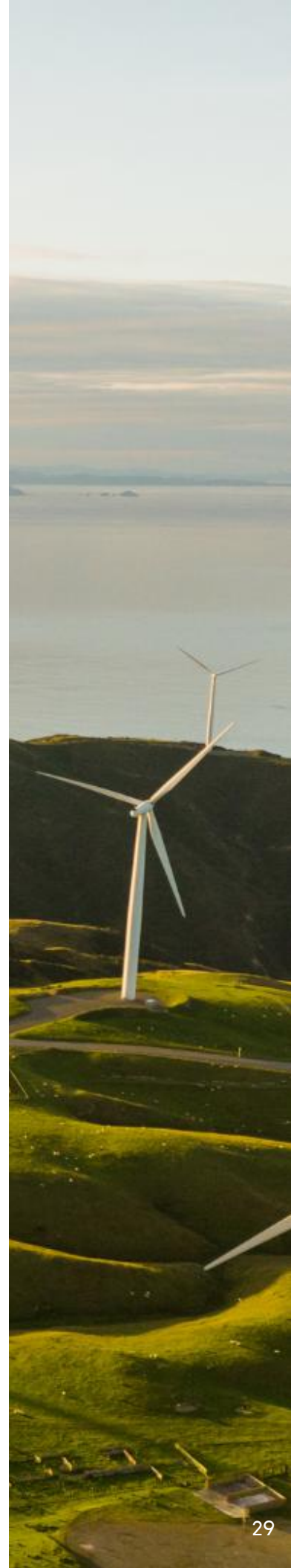
ClimateCAP 2026 made the decision early in the planning process to offer 100% vegetarian catering across all conference events, including the welcome event on Friday evening and the closing reception on Saturday evening. This was an intentional choice given the significant emissions associated with meat production and the desire to reduce food-related emissions where possible. We also made strategic ordering decisions to minimize food waste. For example, catering was ordered for only a portion of registered attendees rather than on a one-to-one basis to prevent food waste.

The conference also eliminated disposable plates, cups, and silverware in favor of reusable serveware wherever possible. Taken together, these choices helped reduce the footprint associated with food service, though there is still room for future teams to do more. As noted in the Future Opportunities section, future conferences may wish to continue evaluating additional lower-emissions catering strategies, including fully vegan menus where feasible.

Utilities

Our ability to manage utility-related emissions was largely constrained by venue infrastructure, but venue selection still played an important role in reducing the event's footprint. ClimateCAP 2026 was hosted on the MIT campus in part because doing so provided access to historical building energy data and enabled a more robust estimate of utilities-related emissions. The team intentionally selected the Samberg Conference Center as the primary venue because it is located in Building E52, the first LEED Platinum-certified building on MIT's campus. The building is recognized for its energy efficiency, transportation accessibility, water efficiency, and building performance monitoring systems, all of which support lower-impact operations relative to a less efficient venue.

This venue choice helped reduce emissions in two ways. First, it allowed the conference to take place in an existing, highly efficient building rather than relying on temporary or bespoke event infrastructure. Second, it enabled more transparent measurement of utilities-related emissions through available MIT data systems. The MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative had also previously worked with the MIT Office of Sustainability to install floor-level submetering in the Samberg Conference Center, which helped support more precise utility monitoring for future events held in the space.





Production

Production emissions were modest relative to other categories. The ClimateCAP organizing team adopted a relatively minimal production setup, limiting equipment needs where feasible and avoiding unnecessary energy use associated with a more elaborate stage or audiovisual design.

Selecting the Samberg Conference Center as the primary venue also reduced the need for additional production infrastructure. Because the ballroom benefits from substantial natural light and built-in conference functionality, the event didn't require supplementary stage lighting and production equipment that might otherwise have been required in a different venue. These choices helped keep the category relatively small.

Miscellaneous

Finally, ClimateCAP 2026 sought to reduce emissions associated with conference materials and giveaways by keeping the miscellaneous category intentionally limited. The team made the decision early in the planning process to avoid physical merchandise and traditional conference swag, recognizing that unwanted branded materials often carry unnecessary environmental impacts and frequently go unused. As an alternative, sponsors were encouraged to offer consumable gifts in-kind, such as food and alcohol.

The conference also supplied attendees with stock paper name tags in place of traditional badges, lanyards, and other disposable conference materials. Instead of discarding name tags and lanyards after the event, the team recycled the name tags and shipped the lanyards to the next ClimateCAP host school for reuse, diverting all of these materials from landfill. In addition, ClimateCAP relied heavily on digital signage and the Whova event app platform for agenda and logistics information, which reduced the need for printed materials. Existing signage from prior events was reused where possible and all printed signage was limited to essential areas such as registration and wayfinding.

Taken together, these measures did not eliminate the conference's footprint, but they reflect a broader effort to ensure that sustainability considerations were integrated into conference planning wherever feasible. Just as importantly, they demonstrate that even when travel remains the dominant source of emissions, event organizers still have meaningful opportunities to reduce impact through thoughtful operational decisions across food, venue selection, production, and materials management.





VI. Offsetting

How did MIT Sloan decide to offset unavoidable emissions?

Considerations

Even after conscious efforts to reduce the conference's footprint, as mentioned above, ClimateCAP 2026 retained a substantial residual footprint, primarily because the conference convened attendees from outside Massachusetts and required associated travel and lodging. Given ClimateCAP's mission and the intent to set a precedent for future conferences, the organizing team determined that it was appropriate to offset the conference's

remaining emissions rather than leave them unaddressed.

Offsetting does not erase the underlying emissions associated with a conference, nor should it be treated as a substitute for reduction. Rather, when paired with transparent accounting and a clear effort to reduce what is feasible, it can serve as one tool for taking responsibility for residual emissions. In that sense, offsetting for ClimateCAP 2026 should be understood as part of a broader sustainability strategy.

Given the conference's climate focus, and the 2026 theme of Leading Through Complexity: Navigating the Tensions Shaping Climate Leadership, we recognized that any decision related to offsetting would merit careful scrutiny. We therefore sought to approach the process in a way that was practical, transparent, and grounded in the same spirit of rigor that informed the rest of the conference's carbon accounting work.

ClimateCAP 2026's measured footprint totaled 88.58 tCO₂e. To account for uncertainty in several categories and ensure that purchased offsets would exceed, rather than fall short of the final audited estimate, the team applied a 10% planning buffer, bringing the total to approximately 97.44 tCO₂e. This figure was rounded up and 100 tCO₂e of carbon credits were retired on behalf of the conference. This approach was particularly important for a student-led event, where some degree of incomplete data is inevitable and where offsets may need to be procured before every final invoice or dataset is available.

In evaluating offset options, we were guided by a set of broader questions that often shape institutional offset decision-making: how to balance credibility and practicality, how to evaluate project quality, and whether to purchase offsets directly or work through an external partner. For ClimateCAP 2026, we ultimately chose to work with our carbon neutrality sponsor, ClimatePave (formerly Global Emissionary), which supported both the conference footprint analysis and the offsetting process.

ClimatePave is a U.S.-based carbon project developer focused on reducing emissions from roadway rehabilitation and paving. They develop and support lower-carbon asphalt recycling pathways, primarily cold in-place recycling (CIR), cold central plant recycling (CCPR), and full-depth reclamation (FDR). These approaches reduce the need for virgin materials, avoid hauling and disposal of existing pavement, and eliminate much of the energy-intensive heating associated with conventional hot-mix asphalt production.

ClimatePave quantifies these reductions through cradle-to-installation life cycle analysis and issues carbon credits under VM0039, a Verra-approved methodology under the Verified Carbon Standard. More broadly, the company positions its work around deploying carbon finance to accelerate the adoption of lower-carbon road infrastructure practices at scale. In practice, this means pairing carbon market mechanisms with engineering and construction processes that reduce emissions directly within the built environment.



Decision-Making

In selecting an offset partner, our goal was not simply to purchase any available credit, but to source offsets that were both credible and legible to a ClimateCAP audience.

We were drawn to [ClimatePave](#) (formerly Global Emissionairry) for four reasons:

1. **Its projects are grounded in a clearly defined industrial decarbonization pathway:** replacing business-as-usual road repaving methods with lower-carbon recycling techniques that materially reduce energy use, virgin aggregate extraction, transportation requirements, and waste.
2. **The credits are tied to U.S.-based, [Verra-registered infrastructure projects](#)** rather than abstract or difficult-to-trace reductions.
3. **The project type aligns with a broader ClimateCAP theme:** the decarbonization of hard-to-abate sectors through operational innovation, measurement, and market mechanisms. In other words, these credits were intended not only to offset the conference's footprint, but also to reflect the kind of practical systems change that the conference itself exists to discuss.
4. **ClimatePave brings established experience** in event carbon accounting and offset retirement beyond ClimateCAP 2026. The firm has served as carbon offset sponsor for DC Climate Week and Princeton Reunions, applying the same methodology of measured, verified, and retired credits to events of varying scale, offering ClimateCAP confidence that the approach here is not bespoke but part of a repeatable, credible practice.



For the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative and ClimateCAP teams, the decision to use ClimatePave (formerly Global Emissionary) credits was ultimately about pairing carbon neutrality with a project that reflected the conference's values. As a business-school climate conference, ClimateCAP is designed to expose students to the real mechanisms through which emissions reductions are financed, verified, and scaled. ClimatePave's credits offered an opportunity to connect the conference's own carbon neutrality effort to a concrete decarbonization intervention in the built environment, one that sits at the intersection of infrastructure,

industrial operations, life cycle accounting, and voluntary carbon markets.

While offsetting is not a substitute for reducing emissions at the source, it can play an important role in taking responsibility for residual emissions when paired with transparent accounting and thoughtful project selection. Our partnership with ClimatePave was intended to do exactly that: offset the unavoidable emissions associated with bringing together a national MBA climate community, while supporting a verified project designed to reduce emissions in a traditionally carbon-intensive sector.





VII. Future Opportunities

The 2026 ClimateCAP carbon neutrality report represents a first step, not a finished model. The most important outcome of this work is not just the footprint estimate, but the foundation it creates for future teams to improve upon. ClimateCAP rotates across host schools each year, convening this national network of MBA climate leaders in a new location every year. The lessons from this year in Cambridge can help inform both future ClimateCAP conferences and broader efforts to embed

carbon accountability into student-led events across the world.

Throughout the event lifecycle, the organizing team identified several lessons learned and opportunities to strengthen both the carbon accounting process and the conference's overall sustainability strategy in future years.

1. Improve travel data collection

Transportation was by far the largest source of emissions in the ClimateCAP 2026 footprint, which means that improving the data collection and quality of the logistics category would materially strengthen the analysis as a whole. While the MIT Sloan team collected detailed data, it may also be useful in the future to have attendees verify or update their travel information at check-in so that final calculations are as accurate as possible.

Because ClimateCAP is a multi-school conference that draws a large share of attendees from outside the host city, transportation data will likely remain one of the most important variables in the footprint year over year. As a result, building a standardized process for collecting and validating attendee travel information should be a top priority for future host teams.

2. Explore conference design strategies that reduce travel emissions

Because transportation dominates the conference footprint, future teams may also want to evaluate whether there are ways to preserve the value of in-person gathering while reducing travel intensity. Potential strategies could include more intentional location selection, tighter scheduling to reduce hotel nights, stronger regional participation, or selective hybrid programming for participants who would otherwise need to fly long distances for short-duration engagement.

For a conference like ClimateCAP, which derives much of its value from bringing together students and practitioners across institutions, the goal is not to eliminate travel entirely. Rather, it is to better understand where travel is most valuable, where it may be reduced without undermining the conference experience, and how conference design choices can help lower the footprint of future gatherings while preserving the relationships and learning that make the event meaningful.



3. Standardize catering data and continue evaluating lower-emissions food strategies



Catering analysis improves significantly when caterers provide detailed menus, portion assumptions, and service counts in a consistent format. Future ClimateCAP teams could incorporate sustainability reporting requirements into vendor communication from the beginning so that final menus, beverage quantities, and attendee counts are easier to translate into emissions calculations. Standardized vendor templates or catering request forms could help make this process more efficient and more consistent across host schools.

ClimateCAP 2026 made a deliberate effort to reduce food-related emissions where possible. The conference featured an all-vegetarian menu, and the team intentionally placed food orders below the total number of attendees in an effort to reduce over-ordering and minimize food waste. These choices helped limit the footprint associated with catering, but there is still room to go further. Future teams may wish to continue evaluating lower-emissions catering strategies, including fully vegan offerings where appropriate, while balancing emissions reductions with cost, attendee experience, and operational feasibility.

4. Measure food waste and disposal outcomes more directly

An additional area for improvement includes the measurement of food waste and end-of-life disposal practices. Working with catering partners, future teams could collect data on the actual quantities of food wasted at each event, along with how that waste is handled, whether through donation, composting, recycling, or landfill. Incorporating food waste data would provide a more complete picture of the catering footprint and could help identify opportunities to improve ordering practices, donation logistics, and waste diversion.

5. Request AV equipment lists and production data in advance

Production was a relatively small emissions category in the 2026 footprint, but it is also one of the easiest areas to improve from a data-quality standpoint. A standard request for wattage-based AV equipment lists, hours of use, and livestreaming assumptions from conference vendors would remove the need for proxy assumptions and strengthen future reports. Because this data is often readily available from vendors or venue partners, this is a relatively low-lift improvement that could meaningfully increase the precision of the production estimate.

6. Expand Scope 2 and Scope 3 accounting where feasible

The 2026 report focused on the most material and reasonably quantifiable emissions categories associated with the conference, including transportation, utilities, catering, production, and miscellaneous materials. Future efforts may wish to deepen the analysis of Scope 2 and Scope 3 emissions where feasible, particularly in categories that were simplified or excluded in this first-year effort. Examples could include upstream logistics associated with catering, embodied emissions from purchased materials, or additional event-related procurement categories.

Not every category will be worth measuring at the same level of detail, especially for a student-led conference operating under time and resource constraints. However, future teams may be able to expand the scope of the analysis selectively in areas where additional data are available and where the added effort would meaningfully improve the completeness of the inventory.



7. Standardize a ClimateCAP carbon accounting playbook

Perhaps the most valuable next step would be to convert the 2026 methodology into a lightweight internal playbook for future ClimateCAP hosts. This could include a standard workbook template, a checklist of required data requests, example registration questions, sample vendor reporting templates, and guidance on when to use proxies versus actuals. It could also include a recommended set of emissions factors, documentation standards, and assumptions to carry forward where appropriate.

This will be especially important because ClimateCAP differs from many campus-based events in that it rotates across schools and consistently draws a large share of out-of-town attendees. Some data inputs will therefore vary significantly depending on the host school, venue portfolio, and attendee mix, while other elements of the methodology should remain as consistent as possible year over year. Establishing a shared playbook would help future teams understand which data should be standardized across conferences, which assumptions can be reused, and where local adaptation is necessary based on venue access, utility data availability, and regional emissions factors.





ClimateCAP 2026 Leadership Team from Left to Right: Zara Inam, Dian Cahyani, Tom Veraart, Betsey Strader, Tamra Olin, Emma Kantola, Patrick Yeung, Jennifer Graham, Addison Timmermann, Sophia Governo, Andrea Shepherd, Raeesa Rane, Andres Joven, Jason Jay

VIII. Reflection & Closing

ClimateCAP 2026 was the first year the conference formally measured and addressed its carbon footprint. Student-led conferences operate under real constraints, including limited time, rotating leadership, incomplete data, and competing operational priorities. Against that backdrop, the goal of this effort was not to produce a perfect carbon inventory. Rather, it was to demonstrate that a thoughtful, transparent, and decision-useful carbon accounting process is possible, and climate-focused conferences should be willing to undertake it.

The results are both encouraging and clarifying. They show that ClimateCAP can

meaningfully quantify its footprint using a practical methodology, and they confirm that the conference's emissions are driven overwhelmingly by transportation and lodging rather than by day-of operations. That insight is important because it points future organizers toward the decisions that matter most. It also reframes what sustainability leadership can look like in the context of a conference, not just better signage, lower-impact catering, or reusable materials, but deeper questions about who travels, why they travel, and how a convening can maximize value relative to its environmental cost.



Hosting a carbon-accounted and carbon-neutral event was both challenging and rewarding. It underscored the complexity of carbon accounting, responsible offsetting, and multi-day event management, and it required a more deliberate and rigorous approach to planning than a traditional conference might. In particular, the process of identifying and evaluating offset projects proved time-consuming and complex, especially in the absence of standardized, publicly accessible resources for comparing project quality at scale. At the same time, this complexity was part of what made the effort worthwhile. It pushed us to engage more seriously with the tradeoffs and implementation challenges that often accompany climate action in practice. In that sense, the process itself reflected the spirit of this year's theme, *Leading Through Complexity: Navigating the Tensions Shaping Climate Leadership*.

We are deeply grateful to the many people and organizations who made ClimateCAP 2026 possible. To the ClimateCAP MIT team, ClimateCAP organizers, volunteers, speakers, and attendees, thank you for the time, energy, and dedication that brought this event to life. We are also grateful to our advisors, collaborators, and partners across MIT Sloan and the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative for their support throughout the planning process. Finally, we extend a special thank you to our carbon neutrality sponsor, ClimatePave, for supporting both the conference footprint analysis and the offsetting process.

ClimateCAP 2026 establishes a precedent. As a conference that convenes students and stakeholders across business schools, ClimateCAP is well positioned to influence how the next generation of climate leaders thinks about gathering responsibly. We hope this report helps future teams build on what was started here by refining the methodology, improving the data, and continuing to embed climate accountability into the way the conference is designed and delivered.

We are proud of what ClimateCAP 2026 accomplished: a powerful event that convened future climate leaders, created meaningful dialogue, and demonstrated that carbon accountability can be incorporated into student-led conference planning. More importantly, we hope this first ClimateCAP carbon neutrality report serves not only as a record of this year's effort, but also as a foundation for future conferences and a contribution to the broader conversation about sustainable event management in higher education.



IX. Appendix

Appendix Item A:

Emission Category	2026 Final (tCO ₂ e)
Transport – travel (air, train, bus, car, EV, metro)	72.3083
Transport – hotel accommodation	10.4328
Catering – all 5 events (A through E)	4.2988
Utilities – all 4 venues (Samberg E52 + E62 + E28 + The Engine)	1.2108
Production – AV equipment + livestreaming	0.3199
Miscellaneous – badges, signage	0.0097
MEASURED SUBTOTAL (tCO₂e)	88.5804
Safety Buffer – 10% of measured (covers EVT-E proxy, E28 proxy, unregistered speakers/staff)	8.858
TOTAL tCO₂e TO OFFSET →	98
<i>(Pre-ceiling exact total for reference)</i>	97.4384

Appendix Item B:

7. EMISSION FACTORS REFERENCE & METHODOLOGY ClimateCap 2026 ClimatePave × MIT Sloan		
TRANSPORT EMISSION FACTORS		
Airplane	130 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	US EPA (2025/-)
Train	149 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	US EPA (2025)
Bus	66 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	US EPA (2025)

Car (Combustion ICE)	297 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	U.S. EPA GHG Factors Hub
Car (Hybrid)	250 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	MIT 2023 proxy — ~40% reduction from ICE per EPA data
Car (Electric)	80 g CO ₂ e/mi/pax	EPA eGRID NEWE subgrid (New England) 2022
Walk / Bicycle	0	Zero direct emissions
Hotel (per person-night)	16.1 kgCO ₂ e	DEFRA/DESNZ 2024 GHG Conversion Factors — US hotel

UTILITIES EMISSION FACTORS (MIT EnergizeMIT)

Electricity (MIT CUP)	0.300 kgCO ₂ e/kWh	MIT Central Utilities Plant — natural gas CHP
Chilled Water	0.395 kgCO ₂ e/Thr	EnergizeMIT ton-hours of cooling
Gas (direct)	5.462 kgCO ₂ e/thm	EnergizeMIT natural gas combustion
Steam (MIT CHP)	0 kgCO ₂ e/Mlb	Closed-loop CHP — steam impact captured in gas/electricity EFs

CATERING EMISSION FACTORS (SIMAP — MIT Office of Sustainability 2023)

Beans	0.78 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Hummus, chickpeas, falafel, lentils
Cheese	9.78 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Mozzarella, cheddar, feta, Parmesan — highest impact
Coffee & Tea	0.36 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Ground coffee, tea bags
Eggs	4.50 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Whole eggs, egg whites
Fruits	0.36 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Fresh/dried fruit, berries, juice
Grains	0.86 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Bread, tortilla, rice, crackers, pasta
Liquids	1.03 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Water, beer, wine, spirits, juices
Milk	1.34 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Dairy milk, butter, cream, Greek yoghurt
Nuts	1.17 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Pine nuts, almonds, walnuts, tahini
Oils	1.63 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Olive oil, vegetable oil, dressings
Potatoes	0.21 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Potato chips, fries, roasted potatoes
Seafood	5.40 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Fish, shrimp, calamari
Sugars	0.96 kgCO ₂ e/kg	Sugar, honey, chocolate, dessert bars
Vegetables	0.73 kgCO ₂ e/kg	All veg, fresh herbs, olives, avocado, tofu

DATA SOURCES		
U.S. EPA GHG Factors Hub	https://www.epa.gov/system/files/doc	Vehicle emission factors
EPA eGRID 2022	https://www.epa.gov/eGRID	Regional electricity grid (NEWE = New England)
DEFRA/DESNZ 2024	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk	US hotel EF
EnergizeMIT	https://sustainability.mit.edu/resource/	MIT building-level energy metering
SIMAP / MIT OoS 2023	https://unhsimap.org	Food catering emission factors
MIT 2023 Summit Report	https://sustainability.mit.edu/sites/default	Baseline methodology
Whova check-in data	Post-conference export	450 actual attendees – location + mode data
VCS Project 3094	https://registry.verra.org/app/projectD	I-64 Virginia cold-in-place recycling – VM0039, Allen Myers, 2020 vintage

Appendix Item C: Detailed Project Information (ClimatePave)



Our Work & Impact

Verified carbon project development · LCA/EPD services · Event carbon accounting

CARBON CREDIT PROJECTS (VCS Registry)

ID	Region	Credits (tCO ₂ e)	Lane mile
VCS 3094	I-64 Virginia, USA	17,790	214
VCS 3616	Project Midstate, Midwest	118,521	1,502
VCS 3839	US Project #1 West Coast	21,116	255
VCS 4546	Project California	44,960	541
VCS 4547	US Project #2 NY/PA/CT/VT	182,586	2,413

TOTAL: 384,973 tCO₂e · 4,925 lane-miles · 5.1M tons recycled

384,973
Tonnes CO₂e
Avoided

4,925
Lane Miles
Reclaimed

5.1M
Tons Recycled
Pavement

190,879
Hauling Trips
Avoided

OUR SERVICES



Cold Recycling Carbon Credits

VCS-certified credits from cold-in-place asphalt recycling. 60% GHG reduction vs. Hot Mix Asphalt. Methodology includes avoided hauling, in-place recycling, and material reuse.



LCA & EPD Development

Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Product Declarations per ISO 14040/14044 and declared per ISO 14025, compliant with EN 15804 A2 core PCR and EF 3.1 impact characterisation factors.



Event Carbon Accounting

Comprehensive GHG inventories for conferences and large gatherings across all material emission sources: MIT ClimateCAP Summit 2026, Princeton Reunion



Event Offset Procurement

Sourcing and retirement of high-quality vintage carbon credits from Global Emissionary's verified inventory prior to the event date, enabling certified carbon-neutral status before doors open.

THE HIGH EMISSIONS BASELINE BUSINESS AS USUAL

When roads are repaved, contractors typically rely on Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) and, to a lesser extent, Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA). This process is GHG-intensive and relies on mining, heating, and transporting virgin materials. It generates large industrial waste and is heavily lobbied.

This process as of 2023 was used to produce **98.5%** of all asphalt in the United States.

88–146
tonnes of CO₂
per lane-mile are created by
using traditional methods

HMA/WMA Emissions Factors

Transport of existing asphalt to waste/storage

Transport to site

Heating Materials to 300F°

Transport of Aggregate and Oil Binder to Plant

Mining Virgin Aggregate

INTERVENTION COLD RECYCLING

Cold recycling avoids GHG emissions by reusing the material **in-place** and processing the material without having to heat to mix and apply in road reconstruction.

Cold Recycling Mills, Crushers, and Mixes the asphalt with emulsion at an ambient temperature. This can be done on site in a train of equipment nearby to utilize abandoned stockpiles of reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP)

Cold Central Plant Recycling (CCPR)

60%

Reductions in GHG emissions versus HMA/WMA

90%

Existing Roadway Used in Place compared to the typical 20–25% for conventional recycling

Cold In-Place Recycling (CIR) Equipment Train

PROJECT IMPACTS



4,925
Lane-Miles Reclaimed



384,973
Tonnes Avoided Emissions



5.1M
Tons Recycled Pavement Used



190,879
Hauling Trips Avoided

Project ID	Name/Region	Lane Miles Rebuilt	Verified Emissions Reductions (Carbon Credits)	Tons of Recycled Pavement	Trips Reduced
VCS 3094	I-64 Project Virginia, USA	214	17,790	395,925	6,049
VCS 3616	Project Midstate, Midwest, USA	1,502	118,521	1,615,852	69,362
VCS 3839	US Project #1 West Coast	255	21,116	252,671	7,110
VCS 4546	Project California California, USA	541	44,960	567,267	21,807
VCS 4547	US Project #2 NY, PA, CT, VT, USA	2,413	182,586	2,306,637	86,550

 ClimatePave

MARKET TRANSFORMATION

Uniquely we leverage carbon finance in direct partnership with contractors, to educate transportation departments, and the engineering community to break through regulatory arbitrage to **turn a policy void into a public win**. By converting idle waste into a low-emission paving solution, we enable states to finally outpace their infrastructure backlogs and **build safer, more sustainable roadways**.

Specifications Gap

Our primary targets are states that currently lack cold mix specifications. By introducing these standards, we unlock bidding opportunities for sustainable technology that was previously excluded.

Idle Asphalt Waste

We identify states with massive "RAP gaps"—where the estimated tonnage of recyclable asphalt far exceeds current reported reuse. This represents untapped, low-cost raw material.

Road Conditions

We prioritize regions with an International Roughness Index (IRI) of Grade C or D. These roads are approaching or require structural rehabilitation, making them prime candidates for the deep-lift of cold recycling.

Contractor Presence

We leverage existing regional networks. By tracking where neighboring contractors are already mobilized, we can lower the barrier and travel emissions to entry for new state pilots.



"Given the amount of material recycled and the high cost savings for this project, we really considered this project a success. We expect a long service life."

Brian Diefenderfer, PhD, PE, Principal Research Scientist at the Virginia Transportation Research Council (VTRC).

COLD RECYCLING ASPHALT OPERATIONS

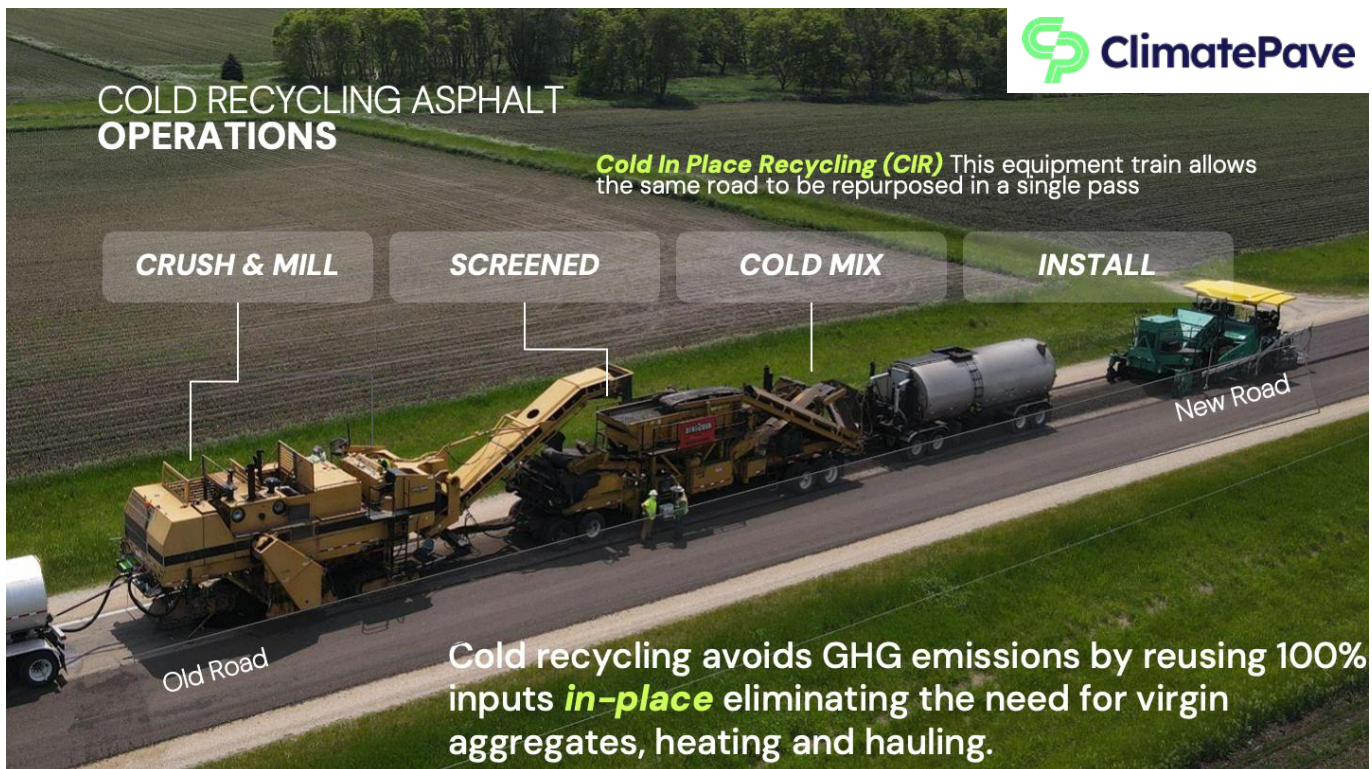
Cold In Place Recycling (CIR) This equipment train allows the same road to be repurposed in a single pass

CRUSH & MILL

SCREENED

COLD MIX

INSTALL



Cold recycling avoids GHG emissions by reusing 100% inputs **in-place** eliminating the need for virgin aggregates, heating and hauling.



Get in Touch

For more information on this report, email the MIT Sloan Sustainability Initiative team at:



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For more information about the ClimateCAP MBA Summit, email the ClimateCAP team at:



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