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THANK YOU



Woodwell
Climate
Research
Center

FY 2025
Impact Report



Woodwell Climate's campus in Falmouth,
Massachusetts. / photo by Manoela Machado

cover: A team from Woodwell Climate
team celebrates completing a flux tower
installation in Toolik, Alaska / photo by
Jayme Dittmar / North Exposure Studios

From R. Max Holmes, President & CEO



Each year at this time, we pause (briefly) to take stock of all we've accomplished over the past fiscal year—and all the ways that Woodwell's incredible community has made those successes possible. It's always an important exercise. This year, as climate science and policy in the U.S. face unprecedented challenges at the federal level, it is absolutely essential.

And the news is better than you might expect.

Now in its third year of funding through the TED Audacious Project, Permafrost Pathways' pioneering scientific efforts are coming to fruition. Over the past year, important—if sobering—estimates of permafrost thaw emissions were prominent in NOAA's Arctic Report Card, prestigious scientific journals, and the mainstream media. This leadership extends to the international sphere, with Dr. Sue Natali recently selected as a lead author for the IPCC's next climate science assessment.

Our work to protect tropical forests is also gaining momentum. Decades of research and relationship building in Brazil and Democratic Republic of Congo came together in powerful ways this year. Woodwell scientists are in the thick of those nations' efforts to develop not only more ambitious climate and conservation targets, but also robust financial mechanisms to realize those goals.

In the face of devastating climate-fueled disasters around the globe, Woodwell's experts are finding new ways to help decision makers come to grips with the escalating risks we face—contributing to conversations about the future of insurance and helping the U.N. train nations to report on their vulnerabilities and adaptation efforts.

We've also stepped up our efforts to train the next generation of climate scientists, communicators, and policy advocates. This year's cohort of summer interns was our largest to date.

All of these efforts are made possible, and better, by your support. I hope you will take a moment to celebrate what WE are able to do to build a better climate future.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max".

Max Holmes
President & CEO



See your gift **in action**



At our third annual fly-in, we welcomed **17** board members, senior leadership, scientists, and staff to Washington, DC, for **13** meetings with Members of Congress, staff, and committees.

Research Scientist Dr. Manoela Machado battled wildfire smoke to carry out fieldwork in the transition region between the Amazon and Cerrado. Using drones equipped with specialized sensors, she was able to map the forest in 3D to estimate its biomass and carbon storage.



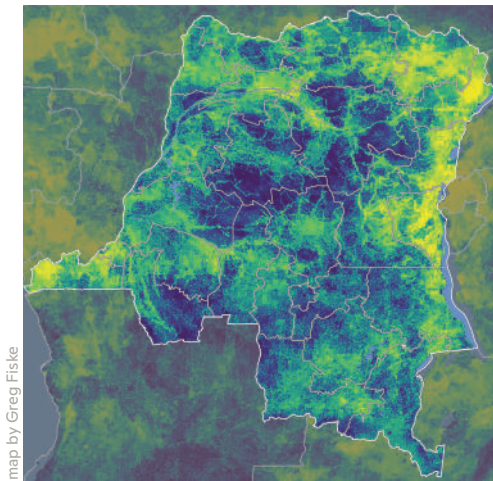
Woodwell Climate co-hosted an official COP29 side event with the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, focused on how growing emissions from wildfire will impact the global carbon budget.

Thanks to you, we are Meeting pressing needs with innovative solutions



photo by Abby Fennelly

Assistant Scientist Ludmila Rattis took a leading role in creating the **Tropical Regenerative Agriculture Model**, which seeks to accelerate the transition to regenerative agriculture in Brazil. Developed in conjunction with IPAM Amazônia and Fundação Dom Cabral, a Brazilian business school, the proposed model promotes integrating public policies and private initiatives, while ensuring environmental, social, and economic benefits.



map by Greg Fiske

Woodwell researchers developed the **Landscape Capital Index (LCI)**, a data-driven tool aimed at addressing the lack of confidence and participation in carbon markets—major barriers to their success. The LCI assesses the potential of any tract of land to deliver climate mitigation and conservation outcomes, plus other co-benefits. Using more than 40 geospatial datasets, about half of which were developed at Woodwell, the tool quantifies landscape quality, potential, and risk.



photo by Jamie Cummings

Woodwell began a **collaboration with the UNFCCC**, launching a new three-year work program to train experts responsible for reviewing countries' biennial transparency reports under the Paris Agreement. The work draws on Woodwell's expertise in reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation. Government Relations team members Dr. Matti Goldberg and Jamie Cummings have already led one training session with over 150 participants from around the world. *Additional funding will help to expand this work. If you are interested in learning more, contact Leslie Kolterman at lkolterman@woodwellclimate.org or 508-444-1584.*

Thanks to you, we are Delivering climate insights to decision makers

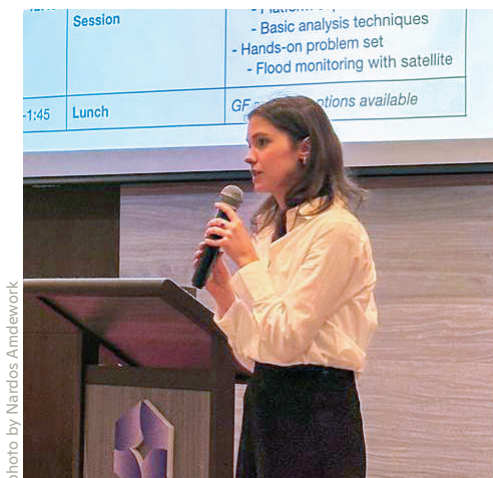


photo by Nardos Andework

Woodwell Climate delivered a **national climate risk assessment for Ethiopia**, examining the country's drought and flood risks. In May, a delegation of staff traveled to Addis Ababa to launch the report and host a capacity-sharing workshop, where participants learned technical skills in climate data analysis fundamentals.

"By offering a scientific foundation, [the report] enables Ethiopia to strategically direct investments, policies, and partnerships toward a resilient future." —Abas Mohammed with the Ethiopian Ministry of Planning and Development.



photo courtesy of Environmental and Energy Study Institute

In Washington, DC, Research Associate Dominick Dusseau participated in a **panel briefing for congressional staff** on insurance in the era of climate change, hosted by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute. Dusseau's remarks shared key points from a new Woodwell Climate policy brief, which analyzed major climate-caused risks within the insurance industry and proposed policy solutions.

"Climate change touches every part of society and our lives, and it will touch you in your insurance, in your home, in your community. So, it does affect you no matter where you live, and no matter what you do. Hopefully that sense of solidarity that we're all working through this, might be something to cut through the noise." —Dominick Dusseau



photo courtesy of Chris Neill

In collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Commission Climate Action Taskforce and Sheriff's Meadow Foundation, we produced a **report on the island's opportunities for nature-based climate solutions**. The project provided management recommendations based on an evaluation of existing carbon stocks, potential sequestration opportunities and land management strategies, and tradeoffs between enhancing carbon storage and conserving biodiversity.

Thanks to you, we are Shaping the conversation



photo by Anna Liljedahl

Senior Scientists Dr. Sue Natali and Dr. Brendan Rogers **co-led authorship of a chapter of NOAA's 2024 Arctic Report card**, focused on land carbon cycling. The chapter, which included contributions from five additional Woodwell scientists, presented evidence that the Arctic tundra is now a net source of carbon emissions to the atmosphere due to increasing wildfires, thawing permafrost, and changes in plants and microbes. Some 700 news stories about the Arctic Report Card reached an audience across more than 40 countries, with extensive attention to Woodwell researchers' scientific leadership.



photo by Dee Sullivan/MinFin Photography

We launched **Woodwell Climate Conversations**, a monthly series of in-person events that bring together experts, thought leaders, and community members to explore the latest climate science, the work being done at Woodwell Climate Research Center, and the steps we can all take toward a sustainable future. Topics have included wildfire in a warming world, the nexus of climate change and health, rewilding your backyard, and adapting to political turbulence with purpose.

"We need to get better at telling stories about why science matters, why the fruits of science and technology provide enormous benefits to people every day." —John Holdren



photo by Keri Oberly

Brooke Woods joined Deb Haaland, Former United States Secretary of the Interior, and other Indigenous leaders for **Mountainfilm Festival's flagship symposium**, "A New Era of Conservation: How Indigenous Leadership Is Reshaping What We Thought We Knew About Land Management." The panelists spoke to an audience of filmmakers and changemakers about the movement to re-Indigenize conservation and the vital role of Indigenous voices, knowledge, and history in conservation movements and land stewardship.

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Fire Management Team's Denali National Park trip, June 2025, Drs. Kayla Mathes, Peter Frumhoff, and Brendan Rogers. / photo courtesy of Kayla Mathes

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Senior Scientist Dr. Jen Francis interviewed Dr. Ron Dembo, Founder & CEO of Riskthinking.ai, on uncovering and measuring risk at the 2024 Sun Valley Forum. / photo courtesy of Sun Valley Forum



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Marsh, a 19th-century scholar, diplomat, and naturalist known to many as America's first environmentalist.

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From left: Erik Schoen (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), Airianna McGuire (University of Connecticut), and Samira Obbu (University of Connecticut) set up fishing rods for catching grayling, a target species of the EVOME Institute. Collaboration and cross-training is an important aspect of the EVOME project. / photo by Andie Norton



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Refinding sandplain grassland plots on Martha's Vineyard in preparation for resurveying plant species in summer 2025. / photo by Chris Neill



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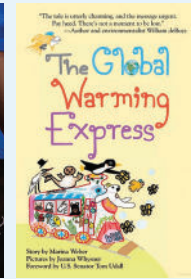
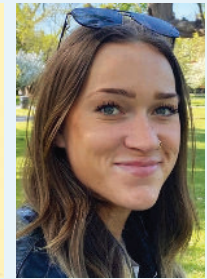
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How one letter sparked a gift of a lifetime

My father was a scientist and, when I was two, our family moved to the village of Woods Hole in Massachusetts. Although I loved science as a child, I was drawn to the arts and became a theatre director and educator—work which enabled me to experience lifestyles and environments in different parts of the world. At one point in my early adult life, as more was being written about the harmful effects of global warming, I felt the need to create a link between my work in the arts and protecting the environment.

When my daughter, Marina, was 9 years old, she helped to create that important link. Unbeknownst to me, she had written a letter to President Obama, sharing her concerns about global warming. To spur the President to greater action, Marina decided to write a book for him! A chapter book titled *The Global Warming Express*, was born.

At Marina's behest, I started a Global Warming Express after-school program at her elementary school, using Marina's book to introduce students to climate change. Living up to its name, the program gained rapid momentum, and I soon left my job to become Executive Director of a new nonprofit, The Global Warming Express (theglobalwarmingexpress.org). The program teaches 4th-6th graders about science, climate science, performing and visual arts, action and advocacy while also teaching children about inner and outer resilience. They learn about adults all over the world, like the team at Woodwell Climate, who are creating solutions to climate change. In 2017, the Sierra Club adopted the Global Warming Express program, and it has since engaged thousands of children, both virtually and through after-school classes. My goal of creating a link between my work and protecting the planet had been realized.

Five years ago, my now-grown daughter and I moved from Santa Fe to Falmouth, which fostered my reconnection to Woodwell Climate. I first met George Woodwell in 1987, when he allowed me to use a basement room of his fledgling research center for a weekend of play auditions. I continued to follow the Center's work and have been inspired to see how his vision has endured and thrived at Woodwell Climate.

I had come full circle from my childhood in Woods Hole, and it seemed only natural to create a legacy gift and join the George Perkins Marsh Society to help continue George Woodwell's lifelong commitment to the protection of the Earth. I also knew that my gift would go to the Center's endowment and permanently support climate science. This is especially important since I have spent so much of my life educating children about climate change and resilience. They deserve the best future we can give them.

To learn more about including Woodwell Climate in your estate plans, please contact Beth Bagley, Senior Director of Legacy Giving, at bbagley@woodwellclimate.org or 504-444-1517.



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Summer interns using laser
rangerfinders/hypsometers
to measure tree height on
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in western Massachusetts.

photo by Colleen Partida

