

# MBA Careers in Climate Tech

## Overview

"Climate tech" encompasses a wide range of industries involved in the decarbonization of the global economy—from renewable energy and electric vehicles (EVs) to frontier innovations in carbon removal tech, regenerative agriculture, adaptation/resilience, and more. In 2021, VCs invested an estimated \$40 billion in climate tech startups alone<sup>1</sup>; even more was invested by corporations, governments, and public investors. To work in climate tech, you'll want to consider which type of functional role you want to pursue (finance, business development, operations) as well as what type of company/industry you want to join.

## Roles

Example MBA roles have included:

- Consultant, Climate & Sustainability Strategy, BCG
- Global Supply Manager, Tesla
- Project Developer, EDF Renewables
- Program Manager, Climate Resilience & Biodiversity, Meta

## What You Need to Know

There are many ways to leverage your MBA skills to work on climate solutions—from investing in decarbonization technologies to developing corporate climate strategies. Some of the important topics you need to be familiar with include:

- Climate policy developments, especially the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in the U.S. and outcomes of the annual Council of Parties (COP) meetings
- Climate risk disclosure trends, including recommendations from the [Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures \(TCFD\)](#)
- Voluntary and compliance carbon markets
- Emissions trends and future scenarios—for instance, see the [IEA Net Zero by 2050 Report](#)
- Decarbonization opportunities and "Net Zero" pathways in incumbent industries
- Clean energy technologies for power generation, energy storage, and sustainability mobility (for instance, EVs)
- Carbon removal solutions (including both mechanical and nature-based solutions)

A range of terms including "climate tech", "cleantech", "energy transition" and "sustainability" are used to describe companies and industries in the space; be prepared to look for the right keywords when researching jobs. An MBA can be an opportunity to pivot industry, but there may also be ways to apply skills from your MBA to climate-related roles in an industry you are familiar with. For example, traditional energy producers and service companies often have clean energy divisions that recruit MBAs.

<sup>1</sup> <https://climatetechvc.substack.com/p/40b-2021-climate-venture-recap>

Lead Authors: Tom Nelson, MBA '23, Jones School of Business, Rice University; Katie Kross, MBA, Managing Director, Center for Energy, Development, and the Global Environment (EDGE), Duke University.

## Key Resources

### Learning

- [Project Drawdown "Climate Solutions 101"](#)
- [Terra.do](#)
- [Climate School \(climate.axa\)](#)
- [Climate Tech Careers](#)

### Job Postings

- [Climate Tech VC job board](#)
- [Work on Climate Slack group](#)
- [Climatebase Jobs](#)
- [MCJ Collective Slack group](#)
- [Ed Carley's newsletter](#)
- [BEV Job Board](#)
- [Lower Carbon Capital Job Board](#)

### Internship/Fellowship Programs

- [EDF Climate Corps](#)
- [CELI Fellowship](#)
- [EDICT Internship Program](#)
- [US DOE Clean Energy Corps](#)
- [ARPA-E Summer Scholars](#)

### News

- [Canary Media](#)
- [Climate Tech VC](#)
- [GreenBiz Climate Tech Weekly](#)
- [Axios Generate](#)
- [Bloomberg Green](#)
- [EtechMonkey](#)

### Podcasts

- [Climate One](#)
- [Climate Now](#)
- [My Climate Journey](#)
- [HBS Climate Rising](#)
- [Invested in Climate](#)
- [Catalyst with Shayle Kann](#)
- [Watt It Takes](#)
- [Tech 4 Climate](#)