At a Glance

The MIT Energy Initiative, also known as MITEI, pairs MIT’s world-class research teams with government and industry to identify future energy challenges, develop cutting-edge solutions, and implement change by bringing new technologies to the marketplace and new approaches to policy makers. Through research, education, and outreach, MITEI’s interdisciplinary approach covers all areas of the energy spectrum – from supply and demand to security and environmental impact.

Leadership
- Robert Armstrong is the director of MITEI, and has served in that role since May 2013. Prior to 2013, Armstrong had served as MITEI’s deputy director since the Initiative’s founding.
- Robert Stoner is MITEI’s deputy director for science and technology, and has served in that role since October 2013. Stoner also serves as co-director of the Tata Center for Technology and Design at MIT, which has the charter of educating students who will apply deep technical knowledge to the challenges of the developing world.
- MITEI was founded in the fall of 2006 by former MIT President Susan Hockfield. Ernest Moniz served as MITEI’s founding director until becoming US Secretary of Energy in the spring of 2013.

Research
- More than two-thirds of MITEI’s research underscores its core mission of enabling the adoption of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon management technologies.
- Solar energy technology and policy is the largest single area of research funded through MITEI. Other research focuses on meeting contemporary energy needs through the efficient use of conventional energy sources.
- MITEI publishes an ongoing series of multi-year, multidisciplinary “Future of...” studies focused on a particular area of research and designed to provide policy makers, researchers, environmentalists, and industry leaders with technically grounded analyses and to inform them about options for a low-carbon energy future. The seventh study in the series is The Future of Solar Energy.
- MITEI’s Utility of the Future study, also currently underway, is examining several possible scenarios for the future of the electricity sector in order to inform utilities, regulators, policy makers, and new market actors attempting to navigate this rapidly changing industry.
- Thirty percent of all MIT faculty is engaged in energy-related research and education efforts.
- The MITEI Seed Fund Program helps to support innovative early-stage research projects that address energy and related environmental issues – 140 energy-related research projects have been awarded to date. Many Seed Fund projects have led to the formation of start-up companies, while others have received government funding or have become MITEI member-supported sponsored-research projects.
**Education**

- In 2009, MITEI established the Institute-wide Energy Studies Minor, which has graduated students from MIT’s five schools, and is now the third largest undergraduate minor at MIT.
- MITEI members have supported more than 300 graduate fellows studying varying aspects of energy; MITEI members and donors have supported more than 185 students via the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.
- MITEI hosts the Tata Center for Technology and Design at MIT, which supports approximately 50 graduate students whose thesis projects are directed at using advanced engineering knowledge to create products and systems to address the challenges of the developing world.

**Outreach**

- MITEI partners with the Department of Energy to facilitate the Clean Energy Education and Empowerment Program in the Unites States to advance women’s participation in the clean energy field, and hosts the annual Women in Clean Energy Symposium.
- MITEI holds an annual symposium that brings together a multidisciplinary group of experts from academia, industry, government and non-governmental organizations to debate today’s most important energy challenges. The discussion is synthesized into a report to guide decision makers and to help form MITEI’s research agenda.
- In June 2014, MITEI and Stanford’s Hoover Institution released the results of a multiyear collaboration, *Game Changers: Energy on the Move*. The book, edited by George Shultz and Robert Armstrong, highlights the historic and current effects of research and development efforts from five US universities. It stresses the importance of sustained support for basic energy research and development if the United States is to meet its goal of a cheaper, cleaner, and more secure national energy system.

For more about The MIT Energy Initiative, visit mitei.mit.edu