

On Campus

Alexis Abramson Named Dean of Climate School

Winter 2024-25



Columbia Climate School

Alexis Abramson, a prominent engineering scholar and sustainable-energy expert, has been appointed as the new dean of [Columbia Climate School](#).

Abramson joins Columbia after serving as dean of Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering since 2019. In that role, she spearheaded initiatives that strengthened faculty recruitment, experiential-learning opportunities, research, graduate programs, and entrepreneurship, while also fostering an inclusive campus community.

A mechanical engineer by training, Abramson has deep expertise in developing and commercializing sustainable-energy technologies to combat climate change. Before

her tenure at Dartmouth, she was a professor at Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, where she directed a major energy-research institute. Her own research has focused on designing and synthesizing nanomaterials for applications in renewable energy.

Abramson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Tufts University and a PhD in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. During the Obama administration, she served as chief scientist and manager of the emerging-technologies team at the Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office, overseeing investments in energy-efficient building innovations.

The Climate School, launched in 2020, serves as a hub of interdisciplinary climate research and education across the University. It recently launched a new master's degree program, the MS in climate, whose first cohort will begin classes in fall 2025.



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