

Biological Discovery in Woods Hole

Office of Communications and Public Affairs

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About Jerry Melillo

Jerry Melillo is a senior scientist and former co-director of the Ecosystems Center at the MBL, where he has conducted research for more than three decades. He is also a professor of Biology at Brown University. Melillo specializes in the impacts of human activities on the biogeochemistry of terrestrial ecosystems. He has studied carbon and nitrogen cycling in ecosystems across the globe, including arctic shrublands in northern Sweden, temperate forests in North America, and tropical forests and pastures in the Amazon Basin of Brazil.

Melillo has had a long association with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), having served as a lead author on both the 1990 and 1995 IPCC Assessment Reports. He was selected by the IPCC to contribute to the reports because of his special expertise in climate change research.

Melillo holds a B.A. and a M.A.T. from Wesleyan University

and a M.F.S. and Ph.D. from Yale University. From 1996 to 1997, Melillo served as the Associate Director for Environment in the President's Office of Science and Technology Policy, and was the Director of the Ecosystems Studies Program for the National Science Foundation from 1986 to 1988.

Melillo has served as President of the Ecological Society of America and of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), the environmental assessment body of the International Council for Science. He has also served several terms as a Trustee of the MBL and is currently on the Board of the H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment, and the Board of the National Ecological Observatory Network. Melillo is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the American Philosophical Society, and an Honorary Professor in the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Earlier this year, Melillo spearheaded a report released by the Obama Administration offering the most comprehensive assessment on the impacts of climate change on the United States to date.