We are excited to announce the second annual AERE Summer Conference. The conference is held each year (except in World Congress years) and is larger in scope than past AERE Workshops. Yet it retains many features of the workshop that were so successful through the years.

The conference will feature several parallel tracks (General Sessions) open to all topics of interest to environmental and natural resource economists. In addition, it will include one track of Sponsored Sessions and one track of Graduate Students’ Featured Sessions that will extend throughout the two-day conference. The Sponsored Sessions will focus on a single topic, and the theme for 2012 is New Directions in Climate Change Policy and Analysis. Papers accepted for these Sponsored Sessions will receive longer presentation and discussion times. For sponsored sessions, registration and travel costs (up to a maximum of $1,000 for travel1) for one presenter will be covered. The Graduate Students’ Featured Sessions will cover the latest research advances in any topic of interest to environmental and resource economics. Papers accepted for these sessions will receive longer presentation and discussion times, and selected graduate students will receive a modest travel scholarship.

Call for Abstracts: General Sessions

An author who wants to present a paper in one of the General Sessions should submit his/her abstract to the conference website (http://www.aere2012.com). The submitter should plan to attend and present. Each submission requires an abstract of no more than 1,000 words (not including references) that describes the paper. Each potential presenter may submit a maximum of two abstracts (though may be a co-author of papers to be presented by others). All participants must register for the conference by April 15, 2012 in order to be included in the final program.

Electronic acknowledgement of submission will be sent to all submitters. Proposals for complete sessions are also encouraged. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit complete information for each of the papers. The submission form on the conference website includes a space in which to indicate that papers are part of an organized session. Papers submitted as part of a proposed session may be accepted or rejected on an individual basis unless the organizer specifically requests the session be considered only in its entirety. Finally, we will consider papers on any topic related to the environment for a concurrent poster session. Please note that all selected paper and poster presenters must be 2012 AERE members.

Sponsored Sessions Call for Abstracts: New Directions in Climate Change Policy and Analysis

One set of sessions will be dedicated to the topic of New Directions in Climate Change Policy and Analysis. The past two years have seen major changes in the policy landscape for addressing climate change. Comprehensive cap-and-trade legislation addressing greenhouse gases passed the U.S. House of Representatives in 2009 but stalled in the Senate. International climate negotiating sessions in Copenhagen and Cancun witnessed a shift from a legally binding emissions trading system among a subset of developed countries (as was envisioned in Kyoto) to a patchwork of domestic pledges among all major economies. This was coupled with a new emphasis on financing, both public and private, with specific attention to adaptation. Meanwhile, some countries such as those in the European Union, and perhaps soon Australia, continue to move toward market-based programs to price greenhouse gases.

1 Expenses eligible for reimbursement include coach airfare, ground transportation, hotel, meals (if not otherwise provided), and incidental conference-related expenses. All expenses must be documented with original receipts and submitted by August 15, 2012.
The Sponsored Sessions in 2012 will focus on questions raised by these new twists in both the U.S. and international landscape. The structure of Sponsored Sessions will follow the traditional AERE workshop format. We are looking for both theoretical and applied economic research related to the broad topic of these New Directions in Climate Change Policy and Analysis. Issues could include but are not limited to:

- features of carbon pricing schemes highlighted by the 2009 climate legislation debate;
- domestic policy alternatives to legislated carbon pricing schemes;
- features of the Copenhagen-Cancun arrangements;
- implications for R&D, adaptation, and geo-engineering;
- lessons from existing and emerging climate policies in other countries.

The Sponsored Sessions will include 8 to 10 papers, with a discussant for each paper. Abstracts submitted for the Sponsored Sessions will also be considered for the General Sessions unless requested otherwise by the author.

Graduate Students’ Featured Sessions: Call for Abstracts

In addition to the general call for papers, one set of sessions will be dedicated to feature outstanding graduate students about to enter the job market. These session aim to feature the latest methodological advances in any topic of environmental and resource economics. The graduate students’ featured sessions will include 8 to 10 papers. Discussants will be identified for each. Abstracts submitted for consideration in the Graduate Students’ Featured Sessions will also be considered for the General sessions unless requested otherwise by the author.

Abstract Submission and Conference Details

The conference will be held at the Grove Park Inn, near beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, from Sunday evening June 3 to Tuesday afternoon, June 5. The conference will kick off with an informal reception on Sunday night; the academic program takes place on Monday and Tuesday. The program will provide ample opportunities for discussion and interaction among authors, discussants, and the audience. Further information, including registration forms, travel, and lodging information will be posted on the conference website early in 2012.

Submissions will be accepted starting December 15th, 2011 and must be received by midnight (Eastern Standard Time) on January 15th, 2012. The registration form will allow authors to indicate whether the abstract should be considered for inclusion in the program as a paper in the General Sessions, Sponsored Sessions, Graduate Student Sessions, or as a poster. More than one category may be selected.

Authors will be notified of the status of their submissions by February 28, 2012. Presenters with discussants (in the Sponsored and Graduate Student Sessions) must share their papers with the discussants before May 10, 2012. Accepted papers must not be published before the time of the conference.

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Conference Organizing Committee

(Co-Chair) Don Fullerton, University of Illinois
(Co-Chair) Joe Herriges, Iowa State University
Antonio Bento, Cornell University
Billy Pizer, Duke University

Questions should be directed to the Co-Chairs of the conference organizing committee, Don Fullerton and Joe Herriges, at the following address: areconference@gmail.com