We are excited to announce the inaugural AERE Summer Conference. The conference will be an annual event (except for World Congress years) and will be larger in scope than past AERE Workshops. It will, however, retain many features of the workshop that helped make it such a success throughout the years.

The conference features several parallel tracks (General Sessions) open to all topics of interest to environmental and natural resource economists. In addition, the conference includes one track of Sponsored Sessions that focuses on a specific theme, includes a keynote speaker, and extends throughout the two-day program. In 2011, the Sponsored Sessions have the theme Metropolises, Urbanization, and the Environment with keynote speaker Professor Edward L. Glaeser of Harvard University. Papers in the Sponsored Sessions receive extended presentation and discussion times. Additionally, for the sponsored sessions, travel costs for one presenter per paper are covered up to a maximum of $1,250.\(^1\) Sponsored Sessions, which follow the traditional AERE workshop format, are made possible by our supporters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Economics; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.

General Sessions: Call for Abstracts

Authors wishing to have a paper considered for the General Sessions should submit their abstract to the conference website, which can be reached through the AERE web page: www.aere.org. Each submission requires a long abstract of no more than 1,000 words (not including references) that describes the paper and includes a list of suggested discussants. Authors may submit more than one abstract.

Proposals for complete sessions are also encouraged. Organizers of proposed sessions should submit the individual papers to the conference website as noted above. A session proposal, which clearly identifies the organizer, papers, chairs and discussants (if applicable) and contains a narrative of less than 500 words describing the session, should be emailed to aereconference@gmail.com by the regular submission deadline. 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, the conference features a concurrent poster session on any topic related to the environment.

Sponsored Sessions Call for Abstracts: Metropolises, Urbanization, and the Environment

The Sponsored Sessions in 2011 focus on the key research questions at the nexus of urbanization and the environment under the theme Metropolises, Urbanization, and the Environment. Papers submitted to the Sponsored Sessions should be identified in the submission form on the conference website which can be reached through the AERE web page: www.aere.org. As with submissions to the General Sessions, each submission requires a long abstract of no more than 1,000 words (not including references) that describes the paper and provides a list of suggested discussants. Authors may submit more than one abstract.

The importance of this theme is highlighted by the global share of the urban population, which has risen from only 13% in 1900 to approximately 50% just one hundred years later. In addition to local environmental

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\(^1\) 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.
stressors, urban growth management has implications for global environmental conditions. We welcome submissions on both theoretical and applied economic research related to the broad topic of *Metropolises, Urbanization, and the Environment*. Issues could include but are not limited to:

- valuation of environmental amenities within and across urban centers
- design and effectiveness of pollution control policy in the urban context
- urbanization and climate change – cause and effects
- urban water and energy demand, supply, and innovation
- vehicle-related policy design, including impacts of market and nonmarket mechanisms
- local governance and the environment
- economic consequences of environmentally contaminated properties and their re-development
- urban land-use and the environment

The Sponsored Sessions will include up to twelve papers. As with the General Sessions, each paper is designated a discussant. Abstracts submitted for consideration in the Sponsored Sessions are also considered for the General Sessions unless requested otherwise by the author.

**Abstract Submission and Conference Details**

The conference will be held at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel in the beautiful city of Seattle, Washington from Wednesday evening, June 8, to Friday afternoon, June 10. The conference kicks off with an informal reception on Wednesday night, with the academic program taking place on Thursday and Friday. The program provides 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 2011.

Submissions will be accepted starting December 15th, 2010 and must be received by midnight (Eastern Standard Time) on January 15th, 2011. The submission form allows authors to indicate whether the abstract should be considered for inclusion in the program as a paper in the General or Sponsored 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, 2011. Presenters in the General and Sponsored Sessions must share their papers with the discussants before May 10, 2011. Please note that all selected paper and poster presenters must be 2011 AERE members and priority consideration for discussants will be given to 2011 AERE members. All presenters and program participants must be registered for the conference by April 15, 2011 in order to be included in the final program. Further, accepted papers must not be published before the time of the conference.

Questions should be directed to the conference organizers Maximilian Auffhammer and Laura Taylor at the following address: aireconference@gmail.com.