

# Climate Change: Past and Present

On May 30 and 31, 2008, the National Bureau of Economic Research will hold a Universities' Research Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts with the theme "Climate Change: Past and Present."

## CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

The program is being organized by Gary Libecap of UC, Santa Barbara and NBER, and Richard Steckel of Ohio State University and NBER. There will be no published proceedings, but the conference will be summarized in the NBER *Reporter*.

## CONFERENCE THEME

The objective of the conference is to broaden our understanding of the impact and human response to major climate events in the past and present. There is considerable discussion about climate change, its causes, implications, and appropriate policy responses. Generally, this dialogue makes little reference to past experiences with historical climatic events. Yet, these occurrences may provide important insights into their short and long-term effects, as well as human responses that were successful in mitigation or that exacerbated costs. The conference seeks papers that examine past or current climate-related factors, including drought, floods, warming, and cooling, that have affected agricultural and industrial production and organization, trade, health, disease patterns, urbanization and migration, as well as papers that examine past and current policy responses such as introduction of day light savings time; water storage, transport,

and rationing; initiatives to promote technological change; actions to protect the environment; legal and regulatory institutional responses; and others. Linking past and current experiences with climatic events, their records, impacts, and policies can generate valuable new information for addressing contemporary problems of climate change.

## SELECTION PROCESS

In keeping with the Bureau's tradition, priority will be given to empirical research or theoretical work with direct empirical applications. We encourage submissions from researchers early in their careers and also from non-NBER affiliates.

Participants will be selected on the basis of papers or abstracts of about 500 words, with a strong preference for papers. Any research that will not be published at the time of the conference can be submitted. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2008. Authors chosen to present papers will be notified by April 8, 2008. Final drafts of the papers will be due at the NBER on May 9. The NBER will pay the domestic travel and hotel expenses for one author per paper and for discussants at the conference.

Please email your submissions to: [rshannon@nber.org](mailto:rshannon@nber.org) in a .pdf or Word file. U.S. paper format only please. Please indicate "Universities' Research Conference, May 2008" in the subject heading.