

RFF Board Seats Cropper, Health Economist



MAUREEN L. CROPPER

The newest member of RFF's board of directors is an old friend of the organization and a familiar face at 1616 P Street. Maureen L. Cropper won a Gilbert F. White Fellowship in 1986–87, has twice been a University Fellow (in 1987–90 and again in 1996–98), and was a senior fellow in 1990–93. She now joins the board while continuing to serve as lead economist for the Policy Research Department at the World Bank, professor of economics at the University of Maryland, and a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board.

"RFF is unique in its focus," Cropper observes, "with people doing rigorous academic work *and* relating it to policy. This is where I began to do work that was policy relevant. I'm grateful to RFF for its role in my career, and I want to give something back to the organization."

"We are especially pleased that Maureen has agreed to join the board," says RFF President Paul Portney. "She's one of the world's best environmental economists and she'll help ensure the quality of RFF's academic work for years to come."

As an economist specializing in environmental health issues, Cropper brings considerable expertise to one of RFF's core areas, public health and the environment. Her research has centered on valuing the health

benefits of environmental programs and studies of the political economy of environmental regulation. Recently she has studied the economics of deforestation in developing countries and the valuation of health impacts of particulate matter in India.

Cropper has examined critical issues from both empirical and theoretical perspectives. She has studied the optimal depletion of natural resources, extinction of common property resources, public preferences for saving lives at different times and among persons of different ages, and EPA decisionmaking that infers the value of lives saved by environmental regulations.

Collaborations with RFF

She was a panelist at RFF's February 2003 conference "Valuing Health Outcomes" and has collaborated with RFF researchers on many important publications. "My own most important work," she says, "has been done in conjunction with RFF people." In 1992 she coauthored a review of the environmental economics literature with RFF University Fellow and University of Maryland colleague Wallace E. Oates, published in the *Journal of Economic Literature*. She and RFF President Paul R. Portney wrote the chapter "Environmental Federalism: Welfare Losses from Uniform National Drinking Water Standards"

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in *Environmental and Public Economics: Essays in Honor of Wallace E. Oates* (1999), along with numerous journal articles.

She has coauthored papers with Alan J. Krupnick on the effect of information on health risk valuations; with Krupnick, Anna Alberini, and Winston Harrington on the value of reduced morbidity in Taiwan; with Krupnick and Alberini on contingent-valuation surveys to determine willingness to pay for mortality risk reductions; and with Dallas Burtraw and Karen Palmer on sulfur dioxide control by electric utilities.

Her monograph *Valuing Environmental Benefits: The Selected Essays of Maureen Cropper* was published by Edward Elgar in 1999.

Cropper earned her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1973. Before joining the Maryland faculty in 1980, she taught at the University of California–Riverside and at the University of Southern California. She is a past president of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists. ■

RFF Council Meets on Energy Technology

On April 10–11, members of the RFF Board of Directors and Council met in Santa Barbara to discuss the appropriate role for government in the development of advanced energy technologies. Special presentations highlighted the stages of development of specific technologies, including hydrogen for vehicle use, carbon capture and sequestration, nuclear, and renewables. James R. Mahoney, assistant secretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and deputy administrator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, delivered the keynote address on the Bush administration’s climate science program.

The Council recognizes RFF’s most significant individual and corporate contributors. Their gifts help to underwrite RFF’s research and public education activities on a broad spectrum of issues—from antibiotic resistance to zero emission vehicles. For more information on the Council, please contact Lesli A. Creedon, corporate secretary and director of development, at (202) 328-5016 or creedon@rff.org. ■



Top left: RFF Trustees Maureen Cropper, lead economist for policy research, the World Bank, and Larry Linden, advisory director, Goldman Sachs. | **Bottom Left:** Hal Harvey, program officer for the environment, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, offers an analysis of current government energy policies. | **Top right:** David Hawkins, RFF trustee and senior attorney, Air and Energy

Program for the Natural Resources Defense Council, and Dale Heydlauff, senior vice president—environmental affairs, American Electric Power. | Bottom right: Jim Lang, director, power production, Electric Power Research Institute, and Byron McCormick, executive director, fuel cell research, General Motors Corporation.

Recent Gifts and Grants

RFF would like to acknowledge the generous gifts of two companies who are new contributors to the institution: ExxonMobil Corporation (\$25,000) and Consolidated Edison (\$5,000). They join almost 60 other companies in providing unrestricted support to help underwrite RFF’s research and public education activities.

RFF also recently received grants from the following philanthropic organizations for specific research projects:

- \$31,000 from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for a workshop on public policy, learning-by-doing, and technological progress
- \$50,000 from The Tinker Foundation to study policies to preserve Mexican shade-coffee
- \$50,000 from The G. Unger Vetlesen Foundation to support climate change related public education activities
- \$75,000 from the Ford Foundation for “Clearing the Air: Why Air Quality Reforms Finally Took Hold in Delhi”
- \$173,102 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support the development of a model for evaluating and ranking the public health impact of foodborne disease