

WELCOME

Research to the Service of Public Policy



PHILIP R. SHARP
PRESIDENT

Using careful scholarship to inform policy choices is at the core of what we do at RFF. This issue of *Resources* offers several excellent illustrations of how we bring serious research and ideas to the service of public policy.

As I write this, the United States is in the midst of a campaign to choose a new president. Energy and environmental issues loom large, and RFF University Fellow Jon Krosnick provides some valuable context for understanding this phenomenon and its implications for the policy landscape.

Much of his extensive research of American public opinion has been conducted with RFF's Ray Kopp

Visiting Scholar Nigel Purvis takes on the difficult question of the linkage between domestic climate action and securing international agreements, proposing a novel way out of an issue that has emerged as a major impediment to U.S. international climate negotiators. A full institutional analysis underpinning this proposal can be accessed at www.rff.org/tradingapproachesonclimate.

RFF Senior Fellow Carolyn Fischer and University Fellow Richard Newell share the results of their examination of a suite of currently proposed policies to promote technological innovation of alternatives to fossil fuels. Their results provide an important insight for policymakers looking to expand green power—don't underestimate the effectiveness of an emissions price.

The strength of all of these contributions stems from their roots in serious research, something that continues to be at the heart of RFF. As our scholars are called on more and more for advice by the policy community, it is important to emphasize our continued commitment to serious academic research. In the past few months, our scholars have published in top-tier academic journals like the *American Economic Review*, *Science*, the *Proceedings of the National Academies of Science*, and the *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

To facilitate and support this kind scholarship and policy input, we have added two important players to RFF's senior leadership team: Mark Cohen, our new vice president for research, and Lea Harvey, our new vice president for development. They are already proving to be very valuable assets, bringing us fresh energy and thinking, coupled with an appreciation for the ideals that have guided this institution for over 50 years.

RESOURCES

SUMMER 2008 · ISSUE NUMBER 169



RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE

1616 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-1400
202-328-5000
www.rff.org

Resources is available to individuals and institutions at no cost. To subscribe, contact Scott Hase at RFF (hase@rff.org) or 202-328-5006. The publication is also available on the RFF website ► www.rff.org.

OFFICERS

President, Philip R. Sharp
Vice President—Finance & Administration, Edward F. Hand
Vice President—Development and Corp. Secretary, Lea Harvey
Vice President for Research, Mark Cohen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lawrence H. Linden, Chair
Frank E. Loy, Vice-Chair
Steven W. Percy, Treasurer
Vicky A. Bailey, Michael J. Bean, Preston Chiaro, Norman L. Christensen, Jr., Maureen L. Cropper, W. Bowman Cutter, E. Linn Draper, Jr., Mohamed T. El-Ashry, Daniel C. Esty, Linda J. Fisher, Dod A. Fraser, Kathryn S. Fuller, David G. Hawkins, R. Glenn Hubbard, Charles F. Kalmbach, Michael A. Mantell, Peter J. Robertson, Matthew R. Simmons, Robert N. Stavins, Joseph E. Stiglitz, Mark R. Tercek

RESOURCES

Peter Nelson, Director of Communications
Felicia Day, Managing Editor
Adrienne Foerster, Assistant Editor
Marc Alain Meadows, Art Director

Published quarterly since 1959, *Resources* (ISSN 0048-7376) contains news of research and policy analysis regarding environmental, energy, and natural resources issues. The views offered are those of the contributors and should not be attributed to Resources for the Future, its directors, or its officers.

© 2008 Resources for the Future. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced by any means, either electronic or mechanical, without permission from the publisher. Contact Felicia Day at RFF (email: day@rff.org).

Design and production: Meadows Design Office, Inc.

Printed with soy-based inks on 50% recycled (and recyclable) paper containing 15% post-consumer fiber, processed chlorine free, in an FSC-certified plant.