

# Climate Change: Preparations for a Low-Carbon Future



## Call for Papers

Abstracts due April 30, 2009

Papers due August 31, 2009

Climate change has become an inescapable issue in national and international policy arenas. The scientific evidence for anthropogenic climate change has become increasingly clear and suggests the need for very significant and far-reaching changes across many spheres of economic, social, and political activity, both in terms of reducing emissions levels and adapting physical and social infrastructures to cope with future changes in climatic patterns and human environments. Yet, despite growing scientific consensus, the pace of addressing this challenge has varied considerably across policy-making areas, societies, and sites of governance. The *St Antony's International Review* (*STAIR*) seeks to examine the policy responses which are taking place across the full spectrum of global social and economic life, and invites academics, emerging scholars, and policy experts to submit abstracts of papers that explore one or more of the following topics related to preparations for a low-carbon future.

### ***Framing the Issue***

The way in which climate change discourse has been framed (in terms of a debate regarding the prioritization of mitigation versus adaptation, or whether commitments should be voluntary or legally binding) has implications for what action needs to be taken and by whom, and how present and future costs and benefits are distributed. How does construction of climate change as an issue vary across different policy areas? Is a shared understanding of the challenges posed by climate change necessary for effective action?

### ***Rethinking Existing Policy***

The twin challenges of mitigation and adaptation are posing new and far-reaching questions for policy-making across subjects as wide-ranging as international development, food, migration, health, forestry, international trade, technology, and intellectual property policy. How are different policy-making spheres addressing the issue of climate change? Does the incorporation of a climate dimension in sectoral policy debates represent a genuine shift, or is it a form of 'green-washing' or 'cheap talk'?

### ***Actors and Sites of Governance***

A wide range of actors and sites of political action have emerged in response to the drive to address climate change, spanning the public and private sectors, as well as the global, regional, national, and sub-national levels. Which actors and forums have been privileged in this process, and with what consequences? Which elements of the problem are amenable to solution at local or national level, and which require truly global responses? Are existing institutions fit for the challenge, do the 'rules of the game' need to be changed, or is there a need for entirely new institutions?

### ***Societal Attitudes towards Consumption***

Values and attitudes towards consumption and the environment are crucial to how climate change, and efforts to tackle it, will unfold. Are pressures from societal actors forcing shifts in policy-making, or are governments taking a lead in promoting low-carbon modes of production and consumption? Are some governments running too far ahead of the preferences of their electorates? Who should be responsible for encouraging such a transition, and by what means?

In conjunction with this general call for papers, *STAIR* also seeks to publish book reviews of works that adhere to the advertised theme of the issue.

Notes for contributors are available at [www.stair-journal.org](http://www.stair-journal.org)  
Please send submissions to: [stairclimate@googlemail.com](mailto:stairclimate@googlemail.com)