



## International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics

"The Geneva Association"

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The following list presents information on **Academic Centres** working on climate change issues. They are mostly observer organisations from the sessions of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 14), in Poznan, Poland in December 2008, but the list also includes contributors to The Geneva Report No. 2 *The insurance industry and climate change—contribution to the global debate*.

All of the listed organisations are provided in the alphabetical order with a brief presentation of their goals and main activities in the field of climate change and environmental protection. This publication also provides contact details.

The list is not exhaustive and the decision to include organisations has been made subjectively. Any comments or changes should be mailed to:  
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**Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR)**

The Center for Climate Systems Research (CCSR) at the Columbia University has an overriding objective to provide an enhanced understanding of the Earth's climate sensitivity and variability, as well as the forcing and feedback mechanisms that control them. The center is especially concerned with aspects of the climate system that have the potential to impact human populations and environmental stability. Its goal is to provide information that will help governments, industries and citizens to prepare for future climate-related problems or to seize the opportunities that may be presented if environmental changes can be rendered more predictable.

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**Duke University**

**Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy  
Solutions**

The Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions at the Duke University aims to provide a forum for research and policy analysis in several critical areas such as: energy, climate, water, habitat, and oceans policy. It seeks to address some of the world's most pressing environmental problems through scientifically grounded, rigorous, balanced nonpartisan policy analysis and broad-based dissemination of the Institute's work.

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## EARTH University

The EARTH University is a private, international, non-profit university dedicated to education in the agricultural sciences and natural resources in order to contribute to sustainable development in the tropics by seeking a balance between agricultural production and environmental preservation. Its academic program emphasizes the rational management of natural resources.

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## Harvard University

### Harvard University Center for the Environment (HUCE)

The Harvard University Center for the Environment (HUCE) encourages research and education about the environment and its many interactions with human society. Because the most pressing problems facing natural environment are complex, often requiring collaborative investigation by scholars versed in different disciplines, HUCE draws its strength from faculty members and students from various fields including chemistry, earth and planetary sciences, engineering and applied sciences, biology, public health and medicine, government, business, economics, religion and the law.

The Center facilitates new and innovative research through seed grants, stimulating visiting scholars to campus and offering research opportunities. Its main research areas are:

- Climate;
- Ecology & Biodiversity;
- Energy;
- Human Health;
- Public Policy, Economics and Society.

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The Imperial College London is a globally positioned science-based university, with excellent results in teaching and research.

The College runs research on climate change and environmental issues via its units such as:

- Centre for Environmental Control and Waste Management;
- Centre for Environmental Policy;
- Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering;
- Energy and Environment Office;
- Grantham Institute for Climate Change.

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**Linköping University (LiU)**

**Water and Environmental Studies (WES)**

The Linköping University (LiU) is one of Sweden's larger academic institutions, renowned for its long-standing tradition of interdisciplinary studies and research.

The establishment of environmental research at LiU resulted in the founding of the Water and Environmental Studies (WES). It has from its start integrated social and natural science research based on the understanding that the complex water and environmental issues would gain from a close co-operation between scientists from different disciplines. The research covers a spectrum of environmental issues and questions in the borderland of nature/society and is continuously examining its future role in facing new challenges.

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The Climate Risk Concentration of Research Excellence (CORE) located at the Macquarie University is a multi-disciplinary centre with expertise in climatology, water, coastal processes, geomorphology, ecology, economics, law and governance, social policy, planning and risk analysis. It works on examining the impacts of climate variability and change. The challenge of the Climate Risk CORE is to quantify and assess climate change-associated risks for key sectors such as water, food, biodiversity, economies, financial markets and national security.

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The aim of the Münster University of Applied Sciences (MUAS) is to be the top address for practical education and research, which is conducted in the field of six competence areas.

The competence area *Construction/Environment/Resources* focuses on planning, construction and the maintenance of buildings. A main emphasis is put on sustained dealing with resources for environmental protection and thereby the creation of a quality of life.

There are the following interdisciplinary focal areas:

- Eco-friendly manufacturing technology: dry processing, minimal lubrication;
- Eco-friendly seal technology: prevention of pollutant emission;
- Utilisation of biomass for energy and substances;
- Facility management, integral planning, public/private partnership;
- Water in the urban space measuring, modelling, managing.

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## Princeton University

The Princeton University simultaneously strives to be one of the leading research universities and the outstanding undergraduate college.

The Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI) is an interdisciplinary center, committed to advancing knowledge, creating awareness and developing the next generation of leadership in the environmental field. PEI works on several high-profile environmental research initiatives, such as climate change, energy, conservation, biodiversity, water and infectious diseases.

The Princeton University, in partnership with BP and Ford Motor Company, contributes to the activity of the Carbon Mitigation Initiative (CMI), whose goal is to find solutions to the carbon and climate problems. Its unique approach brings together scientists, engineers, and policy experts to design carbon mitigation strategies that are safe and effective, as well as being affordable.

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## Purdue University

### Purdue Climate Change Research Center (PCCRC)

The Purdue Climate Change Research Center (PCCRC) at the Purdue University was established to serve as a crucible for interdisciplinary research on climate change and its ecological, social, economic and political impacts. It is built on a foundation of scientific excellence, interdisciplinary perspective and the momentum generated by a new, multi-departmental faculty hiring plan.

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**Stanford University**

**Woods Institute for the Environment**

The Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University harnesses the expertise and imagination of leading academics and decision-makers to create practical solutions for people and the planet. It uses pioneering innovative approaches to meet the environmental challenges of the 21st century—from climate change to sustainable food supplies and ocean conservation.

The Woods Institute carries out its mission by:

- Sponsoring research that leads to new solutions to global environmental sustainability issues;
- Infusing science into policies and practices of the business, government and NGO communities;
- Developing strong environmental leaders for today and the future;
- Serving as a catalyst and a hub for the university's interdisciplinary work in environmental research, education and action.

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**The Australian National University (ANU)**

**ANU Climate Change Institute**

The Australian National University Climate Change Institute has a mission to contribute to climate change solutions through innovative, interdisciplinary approach to research and teaching. It draws on the wealth of expertise across the University's seven Colleges, and connects its work to governments, the private sector and civil society.

The Institute conducts research on a broad spectrum of climate-related areas, such as:

- *Understanding the climate system;*
- *Human dimensions of climate change;*
- *Climate change & the Asia-Pacific region;*
- *Mitigation: energy, economics & institutions;*
- *Adapting to the impacts of climate change.*

The ANU Climate Change Institute also plays a strong role in bringing together interdisciplinary teams designed to tackle the most complex climate change problems.

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**The London School of Economics and Political  
Science (LSE)**

The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is one of the foremost social science universities in the world. Through its research centres, LSE contributes actively to the understanding of a climate change phenomena.

The Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, chaired by Lord Stern of Brentford, author of the 2006 Stern Review, brings together international expertise on economics, finance, geography, the environment, international development and political economy to establish a centre for policy-relevant research and training in climate change and the environment.

The Centre for Environmental Policy and Governance brings together the wealth of research expertise across the social science disciplines at LSE to address critical environmental policy questions. These include climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Centre hosts a variety of academic and practitioner seminars, workshops and public events.

The Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy is hosted jointly by the University of Leeds and the London School of Economics and Political Science. Its mission is to advance public and private action on climate change through rigorous, innovative research.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

The University of Tokyo

### Center for Climate System Research

The Center for Climate System Research was established at The University of Tokyo in order to promote research activities in climate systems by using climate models and to provide facilities for the collaborative utilisation by investigators in this research field in national universities throughout Japan.

The Center is divided into two sections: Climate System Modelling and Climate Variability Research.

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Tongji University Shanghai

### College of Environmental Science and Engineering

The College of Environmental Science and Engineering of Tongji University was one of the earliest institutes for environmental education and research in China. Currently, the college comprises three specialty programs: Environmental Engineering, Municipal Engineering (Water Supply and Sewage) and Environmental Science. The research fields cover pollution control engineering, environmental planning and management, water resource, urban water supply and sewage, environmental chemistry and environmental biology engineering.

With the aim to enhance scientific research and elite cultivation of global environment and sustainable development, the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and Tongji University have jointly established the UNEP-TJU Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development in line with the signed Cooperation Agreement in 2005.

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**Tsinghua University**

**Global Climate Change Institute (GCCCI)**

The Global Climate Change Institute (GCCCI) is a representative research centre at Tsinghua University, engaged in fundamental climate change policy studies. It provides strategy advice, technical support and sound policy to national policy-makers on mitigation of climate change. In particular, GCCCI works on Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) policies, methodologies, technology options for CDM projects, project development and international cooperation on CDM, as well as international negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol.

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**Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**  
**(Free University of Brussels)**

**Centre d'Etudes Economiques et Sociales de  
l'Environnement (CEESE)**  
**(Centre for Economic and Social Studies on  
Environment)**

The Centre for Economic and Social Studies on Environment (CEESE), created at the Free University of Brussels, is made up of a multidisciplinary research team which devotes its activities to the quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the interactions between the economy and the environment. Its studies meet two principal objectives. Thus, on the one hand, they assist decision-makers to work out environmental policies in a present or future economic and social context and, on the other hand, they contribute to fundamental research into relations between the economy and the environment. A large part of the research carried out at the CEESE takes place on the basis of networks and/or in partnership with other Belgian and European universities.

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## University College London (UCL)

The University College London (UCL) is a British university institution and a constituent college of the University of London.

The Environmental Change Research Centre (ECRC) is one of UCL's many inter-disciplinary research centres. Its work concerns primarily aquatic ecosystem change and climate change on the range of time scales, past, present and future.

The University College London is also a base for Aon Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre (ABUHRC), which is a multidisciplinary academic hazard research centre. The ABUHRC comprises three research groups: Geological Hazards, Meteorological Hazards & Seasonal Forecasting, and Disaster Studies & Management.

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## University Luigi Bocconi

### Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (IEFE)

The Centre for Research on Energy and Environmental Economics and Policy (IEFE) located at University Luigi Bocconi is an international research centre in the fields of energy, environment policy and economics, as well as the economics and regulation of public utilities. It creates a multi-disciplinary approach and ongoing relationship with institutional and economic actors, which means that research can focus on issues that not only have a great theoretical relevance, but are also current for policy-makers and economic actors.

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**University of Cambridge**

**ClimateWise**

The ClimateWise is facilitated by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership and operates as a sectoral initiative of The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change. It is a global collaboration of leading insurers focused on reducing the risks of climate change. ClimateWise's principles are to:

- Lead in risk analysis;
- Inform public policy-making;
- Support climate awareness;
- Incorporate climate change into investment strategies;
- Reduce the environmental impact of business;
- Report and be accountable.

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**University of Cape Town**

**Energy Research Centre (ERC)**

The Energy Research Centre (ERC) at the University of Cape Town is a multi-disciplinary centre, which pursues excellence in technology, policy, sustainable development research, education and capacity-building programmes at the local and international levels.

*Energy, environment and climate change* is one of ERC's research areas. It researches the intersection between energy, local environment and global climate change. It aims to contribute to minimising impacts of energy use and production, from social, economic and environmental perspectives.

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The Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) was created at University of Colorado at Boulder. The Institute is committed to identifying and pursuing innovative research in Earth System Science and fostering public awareness of these processes to ensure a sustainable future environment. CIRES is dedicated to fundamental and interdisciplinary research targeted at all aspects of Earth System Science and to communicating these findings to the global scientific community, decision-makers and the public.

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## The University of Copenhagen

The University of Copenhagen is the largest institution of research and education in Denmark. The purpose of the University is to conduct research and provide further education to the highest academic level.

In preparation to the next UN Climate Conference (COP15) in December 2009 in Copenhagen, it launched a series of climate activities. One of the main activities was an international research congress held in March 2009.

The following areas present an overview of the wide range of climate research at the University of Copenhagen:

- Earth System Science;
- Atmospheric Science;
- Global warming and the Cryosphere;
- Natural Resources Management;
- Agriculture, Environment and Food Security also in Developing Countries;
- The Food System;
- Bioenergy;
- Water Resources, Stability and Human Health;
- Biodiversity and Ecology;
- Human Health;
- Environmental Governance;
- Security, Risk analysis, Migration.

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**University of Delaware****Center for Energy and Environmental Policy**

The Center for Energy and Environmental Policy, established at the University of Delaware, is an institution for interdisciplinary graduate education, research and advocacy in energy and environmental policy.

The Center is composed of an internationally diverse faculty and research staff with backgrounds in a variety of disciplines including economics, sociology, geography, political science, philosophy, urban planning and environmental studies. It is led by Dr John Byrne, Distinguished Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, who shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his contributions to Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

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**University of East Anglia (UEA)**

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is one of Britain's premier research and teaching universities and is committed to achieving international standards of excellence.

The Faculty of Science has a reputation for innovation and works across the boundaries of different academic disciplines. It comprises five centers and one Institute focusing on climate change and environmental issues, such as:

- Centre for Social and Economic Research on the Global Environment (CSERG);
- Climatic Research Unit (CRU);
- Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Conservation (CEEC);

- Centre for Environmental Risk;
- Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research;
- Zuckerman Institute for Connective Environmental Research (ZICER).

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**University of Guelph**

**Global Environmental Change Group**

The Global Environmental Change Group is an applied research group based in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph. The focus of its research is climate change vulnerability, adaptation and capacity-building. The Group's research also addresses international development, risk management, resilience, governance and livelihood enhancement.

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**University of Leeds**

**Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy**

The Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy is a partnership between the University of Leeds and the London School of Economics and Political Science. The Centre brings together some of the world's leading researchers on climate change economics and policy from many different disciplines in order to examine how the political and economical systems may adapt to climate change and what could acceptably and efficiently be done to limit emissions. It has five research programmes:

- Developing climate science and economics;
- Climate-change governance for a new global deal;
- Adaptation to climate change and human development;

- Governments, markets and climate-change mitigation;
- The Munich Re Programme: Evaluating the economics of climate risk and opportunities in the insurance sector.

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**University of Oslo**

**Senter for Utvikling og Miljø (SUM)  
 (Centre for Development and the Environment)**

The University of Oslo is Norway's largest and oldest institution of higher education. It seeks to be an active partner in the international academic community, stimulating academic environments to quality and cooperation in research and education.

The Centre for Development and the Environment was established primarily as a research institution. Research at the centre is especially concerned with comparative analysis over time and space and on different levels—global, regional and local—and interactions between these.

Research within the area of development and the environment is also carried out at several other departments, such as the Department of Sociology and Human Geography, the Department of Geology, the Department of Biology, the Department of Chemistry and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

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## University of Oxford

### Environmental Change Institute (ECI)

The Environmental Change Institute (ECI) is an interdisciplinary unit within Oxford University that undertakes research on environmental issues and fosters university-wide networks and outreach on the environment. It was designed to answer questions about how and why the environment is changing and how we can respond through public policy, private enterprise and social initiatives. The Institute is currently organised around three major research themes—*Climate*, *Energy* and *Ecosystems*. The other two important subjects that are studied in cooperation with the School of Geography and the Environment are: *Climate Systems and Policy* and *Biodiversity*.

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## University of Regina

### Office of Energy and Environment (OEE)

The University of Regina is a public research university located in Regina, Canada. The Office of Energy and Environment (OEE), located at the university, undertakes a variety of initiatives to:

- Create a broad understanding of the social and economic issues in the resource and energy sectors and key environmental issues—climate change—affecting these sectors;
- Promote and build acceptance of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology;
- Educate stakeholders and the general public on the technology and benefits of CCS and clean energy alternatives;
- Develop relationships and opportunities for research and partnerships on CCS in the province, country and abroad.

The OEE director is also responsible for other Energy and Environment Centres and Institutes at the University.

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Universität Stuttgart

University of Stuttgart

**Institut für Energiewirtschaft und Rationelle  
Energieanwendung (IER)  
(Institute of Energy Economics and Rational Use  
of Energy)**

The Institute of Energy Economics and Rational Use of Energy (IER) is located at the University of Stuttgart, one of the leading technical universities in Germany with highly ranked programmes in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.

The IER's research emphases are:

- analysis and assessment of new technologies and energy systems;
- technology assessment and environmental analysis;
- development of models and decision-support systems for energy economics and energy policies;
- energy systems analysis;
- rational use of energy.

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University of Waikato

**International Global Change Institute (IGCI)**

The International Global Change Institute (IGCI) is a self-funding unit within the University of Waikato. IGCI is an interdisciplinary research and teaching institute, focusing on the human dimensions of global environmental change. Its goal is to integrate knowledge on the natural and human dimensions of global environmental change for use in policy development and decision-making.

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**Utrecht University**

**Department of Science, Technology and Society  
(STS-UU)**

The Department of Science, Technology and Society was created within the Department of Chemistry of the Science Faculty to strengthen and coordinate the education and research activities at Utrecht University.

Its overall objective is to obtain insight and reflect critically upon the interaction between natural sciences and society. Such insights and reflection facilitates the use of technical and scientific knowledge in such a way that a sustainable development of society can be obtained. The mission of the department is to investigate which contributions science and technology can make to a sustainable development of society. This is done by both reactive and pro-active research in the areas of energy, environment and land-use.

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**VU University Amsterdam**

**Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)**

The Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) is an interdisciplinary research institute at VU University, located at the Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences. Its aim is to conduct studies that are problem-oriented and useful to a wide range of audiences in science, government, industry and civil society.

The research at IVM is stimulated by confrontation with real-world problems and its unique feature is a capacity to conduct environmental studies in their societal and economic context.

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