

# FOREWORD

We are very pleased to present the Workshop Summary Report of the "New England Regional Climate Change Impacts Workshop," held at the New England Center on the University of New Hampshire's campus in Durham, New Hampshire from September 3-5, 1997. The Workshop was hosted by the University's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, with funding support provided by the National Science Foundation. This report summarizes the results of the Plenary and Sectoral Breakout sessions held during the Workshop.

The New England Workshop, including upstate New York, was one of a series of Regional Workshops held at the request of the U.S. Global Change Research Program and the Office of Science and Technology Policy for the purpose of assessing the potential impacts of climate change and climate variability on the region. A focused effort was made to include participants from a broad range of stakeholders representing Business, Industry and Insurance, Energy and Utilities, Government and Resource Management, Human Health, Information Transfer, Natural Resources, and Recreation/Tourism, from the seven states. These stakeholders were brought together with climate change research scientists and federal agency representatives in order to open a dialogue between interested parties regarding the latest information on climate change, as well as local and regional concerns and perceptions of sectoral vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. Efforts were also made to identify coping strategies and mitigation approaches appropriate for the New England region. This Workshop Summary Report will be integrated along with other regional reports into the first National Assessment Report, to be developed as part of the US Climate Forum, hosted by the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., November 12-13, 1997.

Of the 122 participants attending the two-day workshop, approximately one-half (57) represented non-academic, non-agency sectors from across the region. We view the Workshop as only a first step in the process of engaging the public in the climate change debate. A continuing effort must be made to solicit a broader range of input regarding climate change impacts to the New England/upstate New York region.

We wish to express our thanks to the members of the Steering Committee: David Bartlett, Thomas Baerwald, Richard Birdsey, Robert Brower, Ann Bucklin, Paul Epstein, Kate Hartett, Wanda Haxton, Clara Kustra, Paul Mayewski, Fay Rubin, and Shannon Spencer, who helped design and organize this highly-successful Workshop format. We also recognize the role of the New England Region of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for assisting us with identifying speakers and participants, and the Workshop Co-organizers for the development of the White Paper (Appendix I) and the final Agenda (Appendix III). Finally, we wish to thank all of the authors of this Workshop Summary Report and editorial team of Jane Fithian, Denise Hart, Clara Kustra, and Shannon Spencer who assisted us with compiling all that was said and discussed. Both the Workshop and this Report are excellent examples of the combined efforts of stakeholders, research scientists, and University personnel willing to engage in open and honest discussions both during and after the Workshop, and then rolling up their sleeves in order to produce a document that captures the flavor and the details of this regional Workshop.



Dr. Berrien Moore III  
Workshop Co-Chairman



Dr. Barrett N. Rock  
Workshop Co-Chairman

