2009 UCAR Member Forum
Introduction

Jack Fellows
UCAR Corporate Affairs Vice President
Some History

- **Transition Document.** In early 2008, the UCAR community led a partnership of nine organizations to write a document that outlined program, budget, and management recommendations that our country’s leaders needed to implement to make our nation more resilient to severe weather and climate change.

- **Community Nominations.** UCAR provided nominations for senior Obama weather and climate positions.

- **2008 UCAR Members Meeting.**
  - **Theme:** Making the Nation More Resilient to Severe Weather and Climate Change.
  - Universities discussed local climate adaptation projects in the areas of agriculture, air quality, forestry, water, and public health.

---

Advice to the New Administration and Congress: Actions to Make Our Nation Resilient to Severe Weather and Climate Change

More than 70 percent of natural disasters around the world are triggered by climate. In the U.S., at least a quarter of our annual deaths (20,000) are related to weather and climate events, which affect our health, safety, economy, recreational opportunities, and national security. Each year, the U.S. suffers billions of dollars in economic and social losses from tropical storms, ice storms, heat waves, heavy rains, and drought.

All sectors are impacted by these events and are only partially clear how these impacts will change as the climate changes. For example, extreme weather and climate change are already affecting agriculture and economic conditions. Changes in agricultural systems can be expected to result in economic and social instability, for example, by causing food and water supplies unreliable and unsustainable.

Our options in climate action are not prepared to adapt to climate change and related social risks. Decisions made about our environment must be informed, but our models are to the limits of research, observations, and computer modeling.

**Recommendations:**

1. **Observations.** Fully fund the Earth observing system from weather and climate research, including both satellite and ground-based systems, as recommended by the National Research Council.

2. **Supporting Organisations.** Create a Community for University Research.

3. **Leadership and Management.** Implement effective leadership, management, and evaluation approaches to ensure that these investments are done in the best interest of society.

**Research Needs and Implications**

This document is aimed to ensure that the new Administration and Congress have a comprehensive understanding of climate issues.

Implementing these recommendations over the next 10 years will cost between $10 billion and $20 billion, but the benefits will be far greater. Our climate future is determined by the choices we make in the next 10 years, and the consequences of those choices will be felt for years to come.

For more specific details on our organization's involvement in this effort, contact us at...
Some History and Future Activities

- **December 2008 AGU.** Session on same topic very well attended and chosen for AGU Press Conference.

- **April/May 2009 Hill Briefings.** Four House/Senate “resiliency” briefings with a broad range of community members and urban and regional decision makers (webcasts on UCAR OGA website).

- **2009 UCAR Members Meeting.** Highlight Federal climate policy issues, Chicago and New York City climate adaptation plans done in partnership with universities, and examine how NCAR and universities can contribute to this climate adaptation effort.

- **2010 National Climate Adaptation Summit.** The President’s Science Advisor has asked UCAR to hold a national climate adaptation summit (details still being worked on).
2009 Forum Overview

• **Introduction.** Brief summary of Forum goals.

• **Keynote.** Overview of Obama Administration climate adaptation research and policy planning and initiatives. The Congressional view was provided by LBA.

• **Break**

• **City/Region Panel.** Highlight NYC and Chicago city-university partnerships on climate adaptation planning and a look at how regional partnerships could be applied in future on western water challenges.

• **Lunch**

• **UCAR Community Panel.** NCAR, Member University, Academic Affiliate, and Early Career Faculty/Scientist representatives will discuss what tools and information they can provide now and what is needed in the future. There will be time for general discussion.

• **Break**

• **Wrap-up.** NCAR and university summary of what we heard and a general discussion on next steps.
2009 Forum Agenda

• Introduction. Continue our community conversation on helping local and regional planners adapt to a changing climate and associated severe weather. Forum goals:
  – getting the needed network partnerships, tools, and data in place to help States make the best use of anticipated climate adaptation funds from CO2 cap and trade legislation,
  – identifying both short-term and long-term research and education needs to support this effort.
  – brainstorming what role our community should play in training the next generation climate adaptation workforce.

• 9:40 Keynote. Honorable Sherburne “Shere” B. Abbott, Associate Director for Environment, Office of Science and Technology Policy

• 10:15 Break

• 10:35 City/Region Panel.
  – Adam Freed, Deputy Director, Mayor’s Office of Long-Term Planning and Sustainability, City of New York
  – Joyce Coffee, Director of Project Development, Policy and Research, for Chicago’s Department of Environment
  – Brad Udall, Director of the University of Colorado Western Water Assessment

• 12:00 Lunch CG Lobby and Mezzanine – BE BACK PROMPTLY AT 1PM!!
2009 Forum Agenda

• 12:00 Lunch

• 1:00 UCAR Community Panel.
  – Moderator: Rosina Bierbaum (University of Michigan and World Bank)
  – Greg Holland (NCAR), NCAR perspective
  – Ricky Rood (University of Michigan), Member University perspective
  – Jose Maliek, (SUNY-Brockport), Academic Affiliate perspective
  – Judith Berner (NCAR), Early Career Scientist and Faculty perspective

• 2:00 Break

• 2:30 Wrap-up. Eric Barron (NCAR Director) and Don Wuebbles (Univ of Illinois) will summarize what they have heard from the Forum and lead a brief discussion on next steps.