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0521607698 - The Impact of Climate Change on the United States Economy
Edited by Robert Mendelsohn and James E. Neumann
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Understanding the impacts of climate change on economic behavior is an important aspect of deciding when to take policy actions to prevent or mitigate its consequences.

This book applies advanced economics methodologies to assess the impact of climate change on potentially vulnerable aspects of the US economy: agriculture, timber, coastal resources, energy expenditure, fishing, outdoor recreation. It is intended to provide improved understanding of key issues raised in the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. This new study includes measurement of possible benefits as well as the damages. It concludes that some climate change may produce economic gains in the agriculture and forestry sectors, whereas energy, coastal structures, and water sectors may be harmed. In any event, the impacts appear to be small relative to the size of the economy. This clearly has implications for future greenhouse gas policies.

The book will serve as an important reference for the scientific, economic, and policy community interested in climate change issues. The book will also be of interest to natural resource/environmental economists as an example of economic valuation techniques. The volume will clearly be of main importance to researchers and policy-makers in the United States, but will also be influential in the rest of the world owing to the importance of the US economy, and as a model for assessment of impacts on other economies worldwide.

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Our goal as editors has been to provide an accurate and integrated work that can serve as a useful reference. Most of all, we have sought to provide thought-provoking insights on this topic of interest to us all. We hope that readers find the presentation to be interesting and enlightening, and we hope that all the individuals involved in this effort find that their contributions are accurately reflected; any remaining errors are our responsibility.

Robert Mendelsohn

James E. Neumann