The unprecedented rate of climate change in the Arctic observed in recent decades creates greater opportunities to exploit oil, natural gas, and mineral resources. Extracting these resources will require labor migration into the Arctic. The effect of climate change is amplified in urban centers, where the presence of population, natural resource development, and other human activities exert additional pressure on Arctic ecosystems. Promoting urban sustainability in the Arctic is critical because the fragility of the environment, economy, and population makes mistakes more costly and likely to have a lasting impact than they would in more resilient environments. Policy makers and corporations focused on maximizing profit margins are not paying sufficient attention to such sustainability concerns meaning that the continuation of current practices could do irreparable damage to the Arctic environment.

On June 4 and 5 IERES will host a conference addressing a variety of topics central to promoting Arctic urban sustainability. The panels will address such issues as the role of cities in Russia, sustainability in various Arctic urban centers, energy resource development in the Arctic, and the future of Arctic cities in comparative perspective.

Please find the full agenda for the event and short summaries of the presentations here: http://www.gwu.edu/~ieresgwu/programs/conference_2015.cfm

Thursday and Friday, June 4-5, 2015
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Alumni House (1918 F St NW)
Washington, DC 20052
Please RSVP at http://go.gwu.edu/arcticurbansustainability