



Clean Air-Cool Planet Policy Initiatives

1. Reducing Arctic Short-Lived Pollutants to Slow Arctic Melting and Buy Time for the Arctic

Long-term preservation of the Arctic environment will require deep reductions of CO₂. At the same time, it appears possible that a near-term effort to reduce short-lived pollutants impacting the Arctic could help slow warming in the region. Without such reductions, warming will continue to accelerate and will greatly impact the Arctic environment and people, possibly passing a “tipping point” that would entail even greater Arctic, and global, effects.

Clean Air-Cool Planet and Clean Air Task Force (CATF) are engaged in a three-year effort to focus world attention on the contribution of short-lived pollutants to Arctic warming and to craft a response strategy among governments with territory in Arctic regions. To date, CA-CP/CATF have convened two intergovernmental meetings for scientists and government officials, and spurred the eight-nation Arctic Council’s Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program (AMAP) to commission a scientific and policy assessment that could inform policy decisions by Arctic foreign ministers at their April, 2009 meeting. The Council has requested CA-CP/CATF to assist in the preparation of the assessment.

CA-CP/CATF’s overall goal is to alert policymakers to the immediate opportunities to slow the rate of warming in the Arctic through reductions in short-lived pollutants (SLPs), and to provide a road map that incorporates actions that can be implemented by governments. Immediate objectives of our joint efforts include:

- Developing the scientific and technical information to support actions that could be taken today to slow Arctic warming within ten years or less. (Projects include work on global-based methane reductions; implementing a northern-hemisphere tropospheric ozone reduction strategy; implementing a black-carbon reduction strategy; and minimizing emissions of SLPs within the Arctic.);
- Building political support across Arctic governments, NGOs and industry. (Projects include: outreach on the Arctic to other NGOs; drafting regulatory and legislative policies; and media outreach.); and
- Targeting selected research to 1) improve understanding of Arctic warming and its impacts, and 2) lay the foundation for other actions to slow the warming.

2. Designing a Cost-effective Cap-and-Trade System

Having a national strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is critical to our long-term effort to control global warming. The most likely option for such a plan is a cap-and-trade system. In this type of system, the U.S. places a cap on its total emission of greenhouse gases, and “permits” are allocated among businesses, major institutions and municipalities allowing them to emit. A system is established whereby these permits can be traded in the market to ensure that greenhouse gas reductions occur efficiently and equitably. Proper design or architecture of this plan is central to success.

Cap-and-Trade Design Issues:

- The point of regulation should be upstream, where carbon first enters the economy, where there are the fewest regulation points. Greenhouse gas emission is an economy-wide problem and therefore it is critical that all sectors of the economy are incorporated into a cap-and-trade system, ensuring the system gets the cheapest tons of carbon wherever they may be.
- Global warming is a global problem and therefore requires a global solution. Cap-and-trade legislation must take into consideration the behavior of other countries like China and India in order to make it effective and to avoid the leakage of jobs and emissions overseas.
- To avoid shocks to our economy, the cap-and-trade system should have a “price collar” – representing the high and low prices regulated for permits – which would escalate over time. This mechanism provides regulated industries, consumers and the economy at large with certainty and predictability about the future cost of allowances.

3. Our ARPA-E Study: Strengthening U.S. Climate-Energy R & D

On August 9, 2007, President Bush signed into law H.R. 2272, the “America Competes Act,” which establishes an Advanced Projects Research Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E. ARPA-E is modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and is charged with funding transformational R&D to overcome the long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of energy technologies, and enhance the economic and energy security of the United States. Clean Air-Cool Planet played a significant role in engaging Congress in the potential of such an approach to energy R&D, and we were one of the few organizations that initially raised the idea of creating an ARPA-E with key members of both the House and Senate. Our goal is to ensure that the R&D issue emerges as a major component of energy and climate discussions.

The goals for ARPA-E, which became a reality with a \$400 million appropriation in 2009, are to develop technologies that will reduce imported energy, reduce energy-related emissions including greenhouse gases, and improve energy efficiency of all economic sectors.

Clean Air-Cool Planet’s ARPA-E Study examines the opportunities and challenges in implementing the new agency. The report details why the United States needs a new special type of R&D organization, the critical ways in which the management of evolutionary and revolutionary R&D differ, and why, without a separate, specifically aligned organization like ARPA-E, transformational and revolutionary R&D will fail.

CA-CP Project Goals:

The goal of the report is to help the Administration and Congress understand the specific structural needs, characteristics and skill sets that will be necessary in the leadership of the new agency, as well as authorities that the new agency will need if it to meet its goal of managing transformational R & D in the fields of energy security and climate change.



Finding and promoting solutions to global warming

Established in 1999, Clean Air-Cool Planet (CA-CP) is in the business of solving the global warming problem, engaging and mobilizing Americans to take action on climate change. A science-based, non-partisan 501c3 organization, CA-CP has succeeded in energizing universities, businesses, communities, citizen's groups, and institutions to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to bring concern about climate change directly to their elected officials and the presidential candidates to demand action.

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