Dear Colleague:

Climate change is a global issue with local impact so CCAP is working with developed and developing countries to create Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) that will not only help mitigate harmful impacts, but will improve lives and set the bar higher for international negotiations.

We are excited to be moving into the next phase of the Colombia’s Transit-Oriented Development NAMA, which CCAP designed with our Colombian partners. This NAMA is supported by the NAMA Facility on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). We look forward to our continuing work with other developing country partners to develop and implement high-quality, transformative NAMAs in multiple economic sectors.

As the United Nation’s Green Climate Fund (GCF) continues to take shape, CCAP will be on the ground in Korea and elsewhere, meeting with GCF board members and advisors (as we did in Indonesia) to provide expert input on what criteria makes the ambitious programs and policies worthy of support in the fight against global climate change.

Below you’ll find an update on the transformative work CCAP is doing and important news (to the left) on climate policy challenges.

Sincerely,

Ned Helme
President, Center for Clean Air Policy
attended by GCF board members, advisors and other international advocates. CCAP encouraged the GCF board to take into account six core criteria for selecting developing country proposals to support with GCF funds. Delegates from Zambia, the U.S. and Germany raised these points for discussion during the board meeting, calling for transformational policy change and the catalyzing of private sector investment to be necessary elements for GCF consideration. Click here to read the meeting summary.

In addition, CCAP was in Indonesia to participate in a NAMA workshop hosted by the Indonesian government, as well as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition’s Municipal Solid Waste Initiative’s Asian Regional Workshop. The workshop, which several CCAP staff helped to organize, launched the Initiative’s efforts in Asia.

Last month, CCAP held meetings with high ranking officials and international policy makers in Europe, Asia and Latin America, continuing our efforts, described in Leila Yim Surratt’s blog, to develop mitigation actions in developing countries, promote climate finance, and advance international climate mitigation policy.

Looking ahead, April 2 is the expected launch of a carbon trading market in China’s Hubei province. It comes shortly after CCAP’s second Hubei emissions trading workshop, which convened more than 100 enterprises and included participation of UK-FCO, GIZ, and IFC/World Bank. Experts drew on experiences from the EU and UK ETS programs, and discussed how these could be applied in Hubei, and as China develops its national ETS strategy.

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**Supporting Effective, Pragmatic Climate Pathways in the Midwest**

After months of listening, the Environmental Protection Agency is working hard to prepare guidance for states on emissions standards for existing power plants that reflects on the “best system of emission reduction” and considers costs. While we won’t know until June 2014 how the Agency proposes to balance these competing demands, Clean Air Act lawyers are in agreement that states will have considerable flexibility in devising the required state implementation plan.

To help Midwest states and stakeholders begin to think through their options, CCAP convened a Midwest Climate Policy Dialogue meeting led by Stacey Davis this past January at the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread in Racine, WI. CCAP brought together clean energy interests from across the Midwest region, along with representatives from industry, environmental groups, and state government agencies, leading in-depth discussions that laid the groundwork for flexible approaches to spur clean energy development as part of a workable and cost-effective compliance strategy.

In Washington D.C., EPA is advancing tools that can potentially
be used to support flexible compliance that includes energy efficiency and renewable energy. Originally developed in the context of the national ambient air quality standards, EPA recently released the AVERT—a new tool for estimating power sector emissions reductions that result from clean energy technologies. As we recommended in a recent blog, EPA should identify accepted quantification methods to support consistency and rigor under state programs that opt for a rate-based approach, and to expedite state implementation planning.

 Climate Resilience through Adaptation + Mitigation Synergies

CCAP’s Steve Winkelman and the Georgetown Climate Center’s Vicki Arroyo recently co-authored an opinion editorial for the Huffington Post in support of the $1 billion Climate Resilience Fund proposed in the president’s budget for FY 2015. Steve Winkelman called it “an important benchmark in the battle against climate change.”

CCAP’s Weathering Climate Risks program continues to explore the nexus between Adaptation and Mitigation synergies. CCAP presented on this idea during the National Council on Science and the Environment’s (NCSE) Building Climate Solutions conference in January, hosting a symposium and workshop to discuss the idea of maximizing the return on infrastructure and climate investments – mitigation and adaptation – while also maximizing the economic, social, and environmental benefits. Click here to read a summary of the event.

In addition, CCAP is collaborating with the U.S Global Change Research Program’s (USGCRP) National Climate Assessment Network (NCA.net) on the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Nexus – AMNex – affinity Group. As part of their outreach, the group is hosting a series of webinars featuring best practices and opportunities within the nexus. The first webinar gave an overview of the Adaptation + Mitigation nexus and the second webinar covered opportunities within the built environment.