Proposed Advanced Technology Development Project Description
June 8, 2009

Advanced technologies will be a key part of the solution for achieving dramatic long-term GHG reduction goals. This project is intended to utilize ETAAC’s broad expertise to help derive the best practices for public policy and public investment on advanced technology RD&D. In addition to helping meet climate goals, effective programs can provide additional societal benefits such as economic growth, job development, and energy security.

The purpose of developing ETAAC recommendations is to help facilitate effective and efficient policy making in support of advanced technologies, a critically important issue for meeting California’s long term GHG reduction goals and similar proposed national targets. These policies and technologies will also be necessary to slow, stop, and reverse the upward trend of GHG emissions in rapidly developing nations around the world.

We propose that ETAAC will:
• Assess the current role of the public and private sector in the technology RD&D process, as well as potential gaps such as the gap between development of advanced technologies and demonstration of these technologies.
• Examine non-financial potential barriers.
• Analyze existing technology development programs for lessons learned. Potential examples include the US DOE and EPA programs, California PIER and Prop 118 programs, the South Coast AQMD technologies advancement program, CALSTART, UK Carbon Trust, and similar examples from other countries including Japan and Germany. One critical issue is balancing the need to prioritize resources for the development of different technologies with concerns about picking winners.
• Consider specific case studies that may provide examples of best practices.
• Evaluate these lessons for policy makers wishing to support emerging technologies.

We propose that the ETAAC report would be completed by the end of 2009.