

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to cap and reduce power sector CO₂ emissions.

RGGI is composed of individual CO₂ Budget Trading Programs in each participating state. Through independent [regulations](#), based on the RGGI [Model Rule \(2013\)](#) and the [Summary of RGGI Model Rule Changes](#), each state's CO₂ Budget Trading Program limits emissions of CO₂ from electric power plants, issues CO₂ allowances and establishes participation in regional CO₂ allowance auctions.

The RGGI states are now in the early stages of the [2016 Program Review](#), a process by which the RGGI states are able to gather input from stakeholders and experts relating to the program's design.

Following a [2012 Program Review](#), the RGGI states implemented a new 2014 RGGI cap of 91 million short tons. The RGGI CO₂ cap then declines 2.5 percent each year from 2015 to 2020.

Regulated power plants can use a CO₂ allowance issued by any participating state to demonstrate compliance with an individual state program. In this manner, the state programs, in aggregate, function as a single regional compliance market for CO₂ emissions.

RGGI is the first mandatory, market-based CO₂ emissions reduction program in the United States.