



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.  
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**For Immediate Distribution**  
**Monday, June 4, 2012**

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## **97% of RGGI Units Meet First Compliance Period Obligations**

*Power Sector CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Decline 23%*

NEW YORK, NY— 206 of the 211 power plants subject to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) requirements met program compliance obligations, according to the program's first three-year *Compliance Summary Report*. The program's first three-year control period began on January 1, 2009 and concluded on December 31, 2011.

Average annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the three-year period were 126 million short tons, a 23 percent reduction when compared to the preceding three-year period, 2006-2008. Three-year average electricity consumption across the ten-state region declined only moderately, by 2.4 percent, between the same periods, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions were collectively reduced to 33 percent below the annual pollution cap of 188 million short tons.

The RGGI states continue to analyze electricity generation and emissions trends as part of the comprehensive 2012 program review. As highlighted in a 2010 NYSERDA report, CO<sub>2</sub> pollution reductions are attributable to multiple factors, including: increased use of natural gas for electricity generation resulting from lower natural gas prices; state investments in energy efficiency and renewable technologies; increased use of renewable energy, in line with state renewable portfolio standards; and weather patterns. More information is available in the report,<sup>1</sup> at: [http://www.rrgi.org/docs/Retrospective\\_Analysis\\_Draft\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.rrgi.org/docs/Retrospective_Analysis_Draft_White_Paper.pdf).

Compliance entities are required to purchase and hold one tradable CO<sub>2</sub> allowance, as issued by a RGGI state, for each short ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emitted during the three-year control period. The number of allowances held in each compliance entity's RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Tracking System (RGGI COATS) account is matched with actual emissions and submitted to the respective state to evaluate compliance.

"The RGGI region leads the nation in reducing power-sector CO<sub>2</sub> pollution," said Collin O'Mara, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Chair of RGGI, Inc. "Today's results demonstrate the power of state and industry cooperation in addressing our greatest environmental challenges. The power sector has stepped up to the plate, working with the RGGI states to meet and exceed emissions targets well ahead of schedule."

"We are pleased to join with the RGGI states in marking this ongoing environmental success," said Robert Teetz, vice president of environmental services at National Grid. "At National Grid, we are committed to managing our environmental footprint in a responsible way and will continue to work with the RGGI states to effectively address greenhouse gas emissions."

The *Compliance Summary Report* is available in RGGI COATS at: [https://rggi-coats.org/eats/rggi/index.cfm?fuseaction=reportsv2.compliance\\_summary\\_rpt&clearfuseattrs=true](https://rggi-coats.org/eats/rggi/index.cfm?fuseaction=reportsv2.compliance_summary_rpt&clearfuseattrs=true)

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<sup>1</sup> Emission reductions in 2009 compared to 2005 were due to: Changes in fuel prices and available capacity mix (52%); Weather (24%); Energy Efficiency and Customer-Sited Generation (12%); and Economy (4%)

## **About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative**

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the second RGGI control period (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Power sector CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are capped at 165 million short tons per year through 2014. The cap will then be reduced by 2.5 percent in each of the four years 2015 through 2018, for a total reduction of 10 percent.

RGGI is composed of individual CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A CO<sub>2</sub> allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO<sub>2</sub>, as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must hold CO<sub>2</sub> allowances equal to its emissions to demonstrate compliance at the end of each three-year control period. RGGI's second control period began on January 1, 2012 and extends through December 31, 2014. CO<sub>2</sub> allowances issued by any state are usable across all state programs, so that the individual state CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs, in aggregate, form one regional compliance market for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For more information visit [www.rggi.org](http://www.rggi.org)

## **About Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.**

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) was created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. RGGI, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit: [www.rggi.org/rggi](http://www.rggi.org/rggi)

The RGGI auctions are administered by RGGI, Inc. and run on an on-line platform provided by World Energy Solutions, Inc.

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