



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.
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April 21, 2015

RGGI Report: Investments Provide \$2.9 Billion in Energy Bill Savings 3.7 Million Participating Households Benefit

NEW YORK – The nine states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) today released a report tracking cumulative investments made through 2013 using proceeds from RGGI's CO₂ allowance auctions.

The report, [*Investment of RGGI Proceeds Through 2013*](#), analyzes the investment of the RGGI proceeds and the benefits of these investments throughout the region. The report estimates a return of more than \$2.9 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to more than 3.7 million participating households and 17,800 businesses.

More than \$1 billion in RGGI auction proceeds were invested in programs including energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance. Energy efficiency continued to receive the largest share of investments, and has been widely proven to be one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce pollution while driving economic growth.

Over their lifetime, these investments are projected to save more than 48.7 million mmBTU of fossil fuels and 11.5 million MWh of electricity, avoiding the release of approximately 10 million short tons of harmful carbon pollution. The report's findings build on the positive trends already seen in the region, including a 40 percent decline in power sector carbon pollution since 2005, while the regional economy has grown eight percent (adjusted for inflation).

Programs funded with RGGI investments have spanned a wide range of consumers, providing benefits and improvements to private homes, local businesses, low-income housing, industrial facilities, community buildings, retail customers, and more.

"Each RGGI state is reinvesting its proceeds into programs that support the consumers of their states," said Kelly Speakes-Backman, Commissioner of the Maryland Public Service Commission and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In Maryland, for example, RGGI proceeds have funded programs like EmPOWERing Clean Communities, which has helped provide 11,880 low-to-moderate income families with energy efficiency improvements on their homes."

"Using energy more efficiently is a win for businesses and individual consumers," said Katie Dykes, Deputy Commissioner for Energy at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and a Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In Connecticut, the 2013 Energize Waterbury and Energize Hamden campaigns reached more than 4,300 homes and businesses, saving a projected 1.76 million in kilowatt hours (kWh) and over \$579,000 annually."

"The report illustrates the successful RGGI cap-and-invest model for reducing pollution," said Joe Martens, Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and a Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "New York has invested \$325 million in auction proceeds in programs that promote clean and efficient energy, reduce energy bills, create jobs and

result in additional emission reductions. For example, our investment in Cleaner Greener Communities projects to date is estimated to avoid 1.9 million tons of carbon pollution over the life of these projects."

More information on these and other projects that have benefited from RGGI funding can be found in the [Full Report](#) and [Fact Sheet](#).

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. The 2015 RGGI cap is 88.7 million short tons. The RGGI cap then declines 2.5 percent each year until 2020.

RGGI is composed of individual CO₂ budget trading programs in each state, based on each state's independent legal authority. A CO₂ allowance represents a limited authorization to emit one short ton of CO₂, as issued by a respective state. A regulated power plant must hold CO₂ allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's third control period began on January 1, 2015 and extends through December 31, 2017. For more information visit 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.

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