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RGGI, Inc. Board Selects Executive Director to Support First CO₂ Cap-and-Trade Program in the U.S.

New York, NY)—The Board of Directors of RGGI Inc. has announced its selection of Jonathan E. Schrag as the organization’s Executive Director to support the first CO₂ cap-and-trade program in the U.S.

“The Board is pleased to have someone of Jonathan’s experience and dedication to lead the implementation of the RGGI program”, said Pete Grannis, the Chair of RGGI, Inc. and Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. “He has a proven capacity to work with state governments and stakeholders, and he knows the issues”, continued Grannis.

RGGI, Inc. was created in September 2007, to provide technical and administrative support to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. While each participating state in the RGGI will continue to be responsible for its regulatory program, RGGI Inc will support and assist in the implementation of those programs. For example, each state’s program includes auction, offsets, emissions tracking, and market monitoring components which will require administrative and technical support and implementation.

“I look forward to building RGGI Inc. into a dependable administrative ally of each state’s RGGI program”, said Schrag. “The states have done tremendous work to develop the first CO₂ cap-and-trade system in the U.S. Now it’s time to implement it.”

Prior to accepting the position of Executive Director, Schrag was President of Hudson Strategic Energy Advisors LLC, an energy consulting firm based in New York City which specialized in advising state governments on energy and environment issues. In this capacity, Schrag has worked with the states of Wyoming, West Virginia, and Montana as well as the Western Governors Association. From 2005 to 2007 Schrag was Executive Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, the energy unit of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, where he also served as Research Staff with the Global Roundtable on Climate Change and as a Research Associate for Columbia University's Center for Carbon Management. Jonathan graduated from Harvard University and received a Fulbright scholarship for research in the history of electrification. He lives in New York City.

RGGI, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. More information about RGGI, Inc. is available at <http://www.rggi.org/ro.htm>