

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

an Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States of the U.S.

RGGI Participating States Congratulate the Western Climate Initiative on the Release of its *Design for the WCI Regional Program*

July 29, 2010

The states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) congratulate the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) on the release of a comprehensive strategy to address climate change. The release of the *Design for the WCI Regional Program* is a major accomplishment, marking a path to a cleaner energy future.

RGGI, a collaborative initiative of ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, is the nation's first mandatory, market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Together, the RGGI states have held eight successful CO₂ allowance auctions – yielding more than \$662.8 million for investment in energy efficiency, renewable energy and other consumer benefit programs. RGGI's success has shown that a market-based regulatory program can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and drive investment in clean, renewable energy sources.

The RGGI participating states are encouraged to see another group of states develop market-based programs to foster a clean energy economy. RGGI states look forward to continued collaboration with the Western Climate Initiative, and other jurisdictions, to share best practices and successful innovations for program implementation.

Working together, state and regional programs can serve as a model for strong national climate policy, and as an engine for a cleaner energy future.

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