



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.  
90 Church Street, 4th Floor  
New York, NY 10007

Contact: Jason Brown  
RGGI, Inc.  
212-417-3179  
[jason.brown@rggi.org](mailto:jason.brown@rggi.org)

Monday, February 24, 2014

## **RGGI Investments Provide Region's Families and Businesses with \$2 Billion in Lifetime Energy Bill Savings**

NEW YORK – The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) states today released a report summarizing the consumer, economic, and environmental impact of investments made from 2009 to 2012 using proceeds from RGGI's CO<sub>2</sub> allowance auctions. The report analyzed the lifetime impact of RGGI proceed investments made in the nine RGGI states – Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The report, [\*Regional Investment of RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Proceeds, 2012\*](#) estimates that RGGI proceed investments in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, and other strategic energy programs will return more than \$2 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to more than 3 million participating households and more than 12,000 businesses in the region.

States in the region have used more than \$700 million of RGGI proceeds to invest in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, direct energy bill assistance, and greenhouse gas abatement programs.

These RGGI proceed investments are projected to offset the need for approximately 8.5 million megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity generation, save more than 37 million mmbTU of fossil fuels, and avoid the release of approximately 8 million short tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution into the atmosphere over their lifetime.

In addition, in concert with the broader energy policies of each RGGI state, these investments are making the region a national leader in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions abatement. For example, [six RGGI states](#) were ranked among the top ten states nationwide for energy efficiency investments by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy in 2013.

"Today's report shows how our states are using RGGI proceeds to support smarter energy use, cleaner air and local jobs," said Kenneth Kimmell, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In Massachusetts, RGGI proceeds are helping to fund our Green Communities initiative – helping our cities and towns reduce long-term energy costs, lower energy bills, and strengthen their economies."

"RGGI is the first market based carbon reduction program to use the majority of auction proceeds for strategic energy investments," said Collin O'Mara, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In my state, RGGI proceeds helped support numerous energy efficiency and clean energy projects including construction of the 10 MW Dover SUNPark project, the state's first utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) facility. These types of investments are helping our states build a smarter and cleaner energy infrastructure, while supporting construction jobs."

## **A Wide Range of Strategic Energy Investments**

As detailed in the report, the RGGI states have invested auction proceeds in a wide variety of strategic energy programs that have benefited millions of households and thousands of businesses. Programs designed by individual states, such as the examples below, channel RGGI investments to meet each state's economic and energy needs:

- Connecticut's Small Business Energy Advantage Program
- The Delaware Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Efficiency Maine's Business Incentive Program
- Maryland's EmPOWERing Clean Communities
- Massachusetts' Green Communities Designation and Grant Program
- The New Hampshire Pay for Performance Program (NH P4P)
- New York's Cleaner, Greener Communities
- Rhode Island's Large Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Efficiency Vermont's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR®

These and other RGGI-funded programs have, in turn, helped support numerous strategic energy initiatives throughout the region. The report describes a selection of successful projects that show the variety of ways in which RGGI proceeds are supporting green economic development while reducing energy usage and costs in the RGGI states, including:

- The first Habitat for Humanity home to meet the Passive House standard in Vermont.
- Green Capital Empire, which encourages private investment in early-stage clean energy and energy-efficiency companies in New York and has led to millions of dollars of private investment.
- The installation of over 300 kilowatts of photovoltaic solar capacity at a Connecticut town's elementary and middle schools.
- Delaware's first utility-scale photovoltaic facility, the 10 MW Dover SUNPark.
- An energy efficiency upgrade to a cold storage refrigeration system at a family-owned wild-blueberry company in Maine.
- Energy and cost-saving projects for 2,000 households in and around Baltimore, Maryland.
- The installation of a high-efficiency Combined Heat and Power onsite power plant at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.
- Weatherization of 382 homes in 37 resident-owned manufactured housing communities in New Hampshire.
- Several energy efficiency upgrades at a Rhode Island public school that will provide 15,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity energy savings to the school.

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

## **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 2014 RGGI cap is 91 million short tons. The RGGI cap then declines 2.5 percent each year from 2015-2020.

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 for each three-year control period. RGGI's second control period began on January 1, 2012 and extends through December 31, 2014. 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).

###