

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

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

Jan 26, 2016

Statement on Washington Draft GHG Rule

On January 6, Washington State released a draft rule to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. Although the RGGI states commend Washington for moving forward to limit greenhouse gas emissions, the proposal raises substantive issues relating to the potential use of RGGI allowances. The RGGI states will evaluate the proposal with input from RGGI stakeholders and anticipate submitting comments to Washington as it proceeds with the rulemaking.

About Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the third 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 declines 2.5 percent each year until 2020. The RGGI states also include interim adjustments to the RGGI cap to account for banked CO₂ allowances. The 2015 RGGI adjusted cap is 66.8 million short tons.

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