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# CO<sub>2</sub> Allowances Sold for \$19.76 in 67<sup>th</sup> RGGI Auction

First Auction of 2025 raises \$465 Million for Reinvestment

NEW YORK — The participating states in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first market-based regulatory effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution, today announced the results of their  $67^{\text{th}}$  auction of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) allowances.

 $23,527,000 \text{ CO}_2$  allowances were sold at the auction at a clearing price of \$19.76. This includes an initial offering of 15,392,222 allowances, and 8,134,778 CCR allowances. Bids for the CO<sub>2</sub> allowances ranged from \$2.62 to \$50.00 per allowance. Additional details are available in the <u>Market Monitor Report for Auction 67</u>, which is appended.

The auction generated \$464.9 million for states to reinvest in strategic programs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct bill assistance, beneficial electrification, and GHG abatement programs.

8.13 million cost containment reserve (CCR) allowances were available for sale during Auction 67. The CCR is a fixed additional supply of allowances that are made available for sale if an auction's interim clearing price exceeds a certain price level (17.03 in 2025). Of the 23,527,000 CO<sub>2</sub> allowances sold in Auction 67, 8,134,778 were CCR allowances. This represents the full complement of CCR allowances available in 2025. As a result, no further CCR allowances will be available for the three remaining 2025 auctions.

7.55 million emissions containment reserve (ECR) allowances were available for withholding. The ECR is a designated quantity of allowances to be withheld if an auction's interim clearing price is below an established price level (\$7.86 in 2025). No ECR allowances were withheld in Auction 67.

"Since 2008, the RGGI states have invested in programs that help households and communities lower energy bills, improve public health and deliver economic and environmental benefits," said Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "Auction 67 marks the start of another successful year for RGGI and we look forward to continued investments that directly benefit the residents, businesses and communities in our states."

"RGGI continues to demonstrate that bipartisan cooperation can deliver effective policy and meaningful results," said Philip Bartlett, Chair of the Maine Public Utilities Commission and Vice-Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In the coming year, the RGGI states will invest auction proceeds into our local economies to create further environmental, economic, and health benefits for our constituents."

Auction 67 Results At-A-Glance		
Auction Date	March 12, 2025	
Allowances Initially Offered for Sale	15,392,222	
CCR Allowances Available	8,134,778	
CCR Allowances Sold	8,134,778	
Total Allowances Sold	23,527,000	
Ratio of Bids to Initial Supply	3.7x	
Clearing Price	\$19.76	
Reserve Price	\$2.62	
Proceeds from Auction 67	\$464,893,520.00	
Total Cumulative Proceeds (All Auctions)	\$9,081,279,694.45	
Number of Bidders in Auction 67	57	
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance- Oriented Entities in Auction 67	52%	
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auction 67	56%	
Percent of Allowances Purchased by Compliance Entities in Auctions 1 – 67	72%	

More auction data is also available at: <u>https://www.rggi.org/auctions/auction-results</u>. Market monitor reports are available at: <u>https://www.rggi.org/auctions/market-monitor-reports</u>. To receive announcements relating to future auctions and other RGGI news, please join the RGGI, Inc. mailing list at <u>http://eepurl.com/h2ICM</u>.

#### About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The Eastern states participating in the sixth RGGI control period have implemented the first mandatory market-based regulatory program in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 provide CO<sub>2</sub> allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's sixth control period began on January 1, 2024 and extends through December 31, 2026. For more information visit <u>www.rggi.org</u>.

#### About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.

The 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: <u>www.rggi.org/rggi-inc/contact</u>.



# MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 67

**Prepared for:** 

RGGI, Inc., on behalf of the RGGI Participating States

**Prepared By:** 



March 14, 2025



This report was prepared by Potomac Economics (the contractor) in the course of performing work contracted for and sponsored by RGGI, Inc. on behalf of states participating in RGGI (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania,<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island, and Vermont). The opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of RGGI, Inc. or any of the states participating in RGGI, and reference to any specific product, service, process, or method does not constitute an implied or expressed recommendation or endorsement of it. Further, RGGI, Inc., the states participating in RGGI, and the contractor make no warranties or representations, expressed or implied, as to the fitness for particular purpose or merchantability of any product, apparatus, or service, or the usefulness, completeness, or accuracy of any processes, methods, or other information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report. RGGI, Inc., the states participating in RGGI, and the contractor make no representation that the use of any product, apparatus, process, method, or other information will not infringe privately owned rights and will assume no liability for any loss, injury, or damage resulting from, or occurring in connection with, the use of information contained, described, disclosed, or referred to in this report to in this report.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first mandatory market-based regulatory initiative in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. RGGI is a cooperative effort of New England and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) from the power sector.

RGGI, Inc. is a non-profit corporation created to provide technical and administrative services to the states participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> While technically a RGGI participating state, Pennsylvania is currently awaiting adjudication from the state's Supreme Court as to whether it will be allowed to actively participate in RGGI & RGGI Inc. related activities.



## MARKET MONITOR REPORT FOR AUCTION 67

As the Market Monitor for the RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> allowance market, Potomac Economics monitors the conduct of market participants in the auctions and in the secondary market to identify indications of market manipulation or collusion. We also review the administration of the allowance auctions by Enel X. This report summarizes our findings regarding RGGI Auction 67, which was held on March 12, 2025.

We observed the auction as it occurred and have completed our review and analysis of its results. Based on our review of bids in the auction, we find no material evidence of collusion or manipulation by bidders.

Fifty-seven bidders participated in the auction for CO<sub>2</sub> allowances. Bids were submitted to purchase 3.7 times the initial offering of approximately 15.4 million allowances. However, the quantity for which bids were submitted above \$17.03 per ton exceeded the initial offering, so the Cost Containment Reserve ("CRR") was made available at the CCR Trigger Price of \$17.03 per ton. Over 8.1 million additional allowances were sold as the CCR for 2025 was fully depleted, resulting in a clearing price of \$19.76 per ton in the auction. Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 52 percent of the allowances in this offering. There was no indication of barriers to participation in the auction.

Based on our review of the administration of the market, we found that:

- The auction was administered in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with the noticed auction procedures and limitations.
- The auction results were consistent with the market rules and the bids received.
- Sensitive information was treated appropriately by the auction administrator.
- There was no indication of issues with the auction platform such as hardware or software problems, communications issues, or security breaches.

In summary, the results of our monitoring of RGGI Auction 67 raise no material concerns regarding the auction process, barriers to participation in the auction, or the competitiveness of the auction results. The appendix provides additional information about the market for RGGI CO<sub>2</sub> allowances and outcomes of the auction.

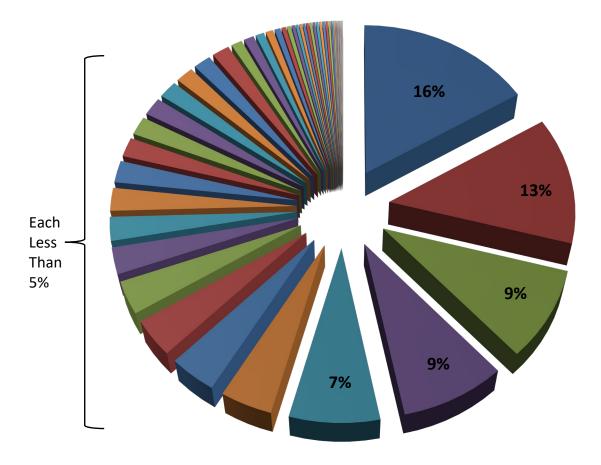


# APPENDIX

### A. DISPERSION OF PROJECTED DEMAND

The wide dispersion of projected demand for RGGI allowances across compliance entities facilitates the competitive performance of the auction.

The demand for  $CO_2$  allowances is based on the requirement for each compliance entity in the RGGI footprint to obtain one  $CO_2$  allowance for each short ton of  $CO_2$  that it emits from the sale of electricity. The following figure shows the relative shares of projected demand for RGGI allowances by compliance entity in the sixth control period. The largest compliance entity represents 16 percent of the total projected demand for allowances. Nearly half of the projected demand. Participation by a large number of entities facilitates the competitive performance of the auction.



#### Figure 1: Projected Demand for RGGI Allowances Shares by Compliance Entity



### **B.** SUMMARY OF PURCHASES OF ALLOWANCES IN AUCTION 67

Awards were distributed across 50 bidders with eight bidders purchasing one million tons or more and 27 bidders purchasing 200,000 tons or more.

This report summarizes participation in Auction 67. Participation in the RGGI market involves many different firms with various interests in RGGI allowances. Some participate in order to satisfy compliance obligations, others have investment interests, and still others participate for both purposes. To more effectively track the activity of different participants, we use several classifications for participant firms. Figure 2 summarizes the relationship between these classifications.

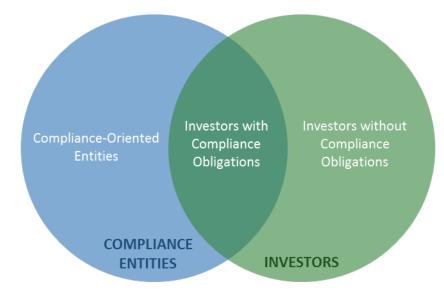


Figure 2: Classifications of Participant Firms in the RGGI Marketplace

- *Compliance-Oriented Entities* are compliance entities that appear to acquire and hold allowances primarily to satisfy their compliance obligations.
- *Investors with Compliance Obligations* are firms that have compliance obligations but which hold a number of allowances that exceeds their estimated compliance obligations by a margin suggesting they also buy for re-sale or some other investment purpose. These firms often transfer significant quantities of allowances to unaffiliated firms.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The assessment of whether a compliance entity holds a number of allowances that exceeds its compliance obligations by a margin that suggests they are also buying for re-sale or some other investment purpose is based on: (a) the entity's forecasted share of the total compliance obligations in the RGGI footprint through 2026, (b) the total number of allowances in circulation, and (c) consideration of the pattern of the entity's allowance transfers to unaffiliated firms versus affiliated firms. Since the designation of a compliance entity as an investor is based on a review of its transactions and holdings, the designation of a particular firm may change over time as more information becomes available.



• Investors without Compliance Obligations are firms without any compliance obligations.

These three categories form the basis for two overlapping groups.

- *Compliance Entities* All firms with compliance obligations and their affiliates.<sup>3</sup> Combines the first and second of the above categories.
- *Investors* All firms which are assessed to be purchasing for investment rather than compliance purposes. Combines the second and third of the above categories.

In Auction 67, Compliance Entities purchased 56 percent of the allowances sold. In the first 67 RGGI auctions, Compliance Entities purchased 72 percent of the allowances sold. In Auction 67, Compliance-Oriented Entities purchased 52 percent of the allowances sold.

After settlement of allowances sold in Auction 67:

- Fifty percent of the allowances in circulation will be held by Compliance-Oriented Entities.
- Fifty-four percent of the allowances in circulation are believed to be held for compliance purposes. The number of allowances that are believed to be held for compliance purposes includes 100 percent of the allowances held by Compliance-Oriented Entities and a portion of allowances held by Investors with Compliance Obligations.

The following table shows the quantity of allowances purchased by each bidder. The identity of each bidder is masked, and the bidders are ranked according to the amount of allowances awarded, from largest to smallest.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Affiliates are firms that: (i) have a parent-subsidiary relationship with a compliance entity, (ii) are subsidiaries of a parent company that has a large interest in a compliance entity, (iii) have substantial control over the operation of a budget source and/or responsibility for acquiring RGGI allowances to satisfy its compliance obligations.

Bidder	Number of Allowances Awarded	Bidder	Number of Allowances Awarded
Bidder 1	3,350,000	Bidder 26	200,000
Bidder 2	2,348,000	Bidder 27	200,000
Bidder 3	2,000,000	Bidder 28	172,000
Bidder 4	1,523,000	Bidder 29	165,000
Bidder 5	1,253,000	Bidder 30	140,000
Bidder 6	1,200,000	Bidder 31	125,000
Bidder 7	1,070,000	Bidder 32	101,000
Bidder 8	1,000,000	Bidder 33	100,000
Bidder 9	964,000	Bidder 34	100,000
Bidder 10	855,000	Bidder 35	98,000
Bidder 11	680,000	Bidder 36	95,000
Bidder 12	652,000	Bidder 37	69,000
Bidder 13	525,000	Bidder 38	53,000
Bidder 14	500,000	Bidder 39	35,000
Bidder 15	500,000	Bidder 40	32,000
Bidder 16	450,000	Bidder 41	27,000
Bidder 17	433,000	Bidder 42	26,000
Bidder 18	414,000	Bidder 43	25,000
Bidder 19	400,000	Bidder 44	25,000
Bidder 20	325,000	Bidder 45	24,000
Bidder 21	300,000	Bidder 46	13,000
Bidder 22	275,000	Bidder 47	12,000
Bidder 23	261,000	Bidder 48	10,000
Bidder 24	200,000	Bidder 49	1,000
Bidder 25	200,000	Bidder 50	1,000

## Table 1: Quantity of Allowances Awarded by Bidder



#### C. DISPERSION OF BIDS IN AUCTION 67

Bids were submitted by 35 Compliance-Oriented Entities and 22 Investors. In our review of the bids and the qualification process, we found no material evidence of anti-competitive conduct or inappropriate barriers to participation.

The following figure summarizes the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted by each bidder. Eight Compliance-Oriented Entities and nine Investors submitted bids for a large quantity of allowances (i.e., at least 1 million tons). Overall, Compliance-Oriented Entities accounted for 52 percent of the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted. The quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was 3.7 times the Initial Offering. In the previous auction, the quantity of allowances for which bids were submitted was 2.4 times the Initial Offering.

The bid quantities were widely distributed among the 57 bidders. The concentration of bids, using the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index ("HHI"), was relatively low at 424. The HHI is a standard measure of concentration calculated by squaring each entity's percent share and then summing the squares across all entities (i.e., the index ranges from 0 to 10,000).

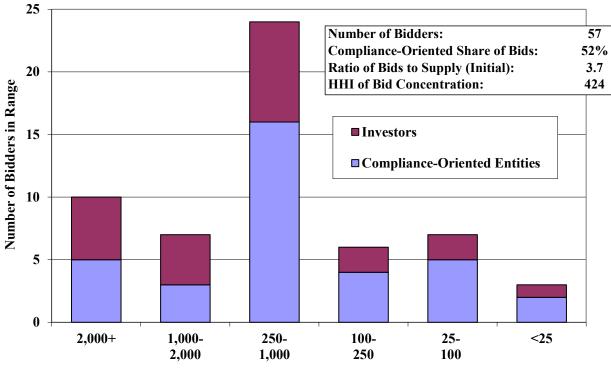


Figure 3: Number of Bidders by Entity Type and Total Allowance Quantity Bid

Total Allowance Quantity Bid by Individual Bidder (in Thousands of Tons)

#### **D.** SUMMARY OF BID PRICES IN AUCTION 67

Bids were submitted across a wide range of prices in the auction and the clearing price of \$19.76 was relatively consistent with average bid prices submitted.

The following table reports several statistics regarding the bid prices for bids submitted in Auction 67. The median and mean bid prices are weighted by the quantity of each bid.

Bid Prices:	
Minimum	\$2.62
Maximum	\$50.00
Average (Median)	\$19.14
Average (Mean)	\$19.31
<b>Clearing Price:</b>	\$19.76



#### E. NAMES OF POTENTIAL BIDDERS IN AUCTION 67

In accordance with Sections 2.8 and 3 of the Auction Notice for CO<sub>2</sub> Allowance Auction 67, the Participating States are releasing the names of Potential Bidders in Auction 67. The states defined potential bidders as: "Each Applicant that has been qualified and submitted a complete *Intent to Bid.*" The list of 74 Potential Bidders is as follows:

Abatement Capital LLC Aetos Capital Global Carbon Fund LP Astoria Energy, LLC ATNV Energy, LP Braeswood Climate Partners, LP Braintree Electric Light Department Caithness Long Island, LLC Calpine Energy Services, LP Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce Carbon Lighthouse Association Castleton Commodities Merchant Trading, LP City of Vineland Cogen Technologies Linden Venture, L.P. Consolidated Edison Comp. of NY, Inc. Constellation Energy Generation, LLC Cooler, Inc. CPV Maryland, LLC CPV Shore, LLC CPV Towantic, LLC CPV Valley, LLC Cricket Valley Energy Center, LLC Delaware City Refining Company, LLC Delaware Municipal Electric Corp. DRW Investments LLC DTE Energy Trading, Inc. Dynegy Marketing and Trade, LLC East Coast Environmental, LLC **ECP** Capital LP ECP Capital Parallel Fund LP Empire Generating Co., LLC Energy Center Dover Fortistar North Tonawanda Inc Francisco del Villar Freepoint Commodities LLC Global Carbon Opportunity (SPV) Fund LLC Global Emission Fund LP Granite Shore Power LLC

Hartree Partners, LP Hawkeye Energy Greenport Indeck-Corinth Limited Partnership J. Aron & Company Kendall Green Energy LLC Kleen Energy Systems, LLC LMR Multi-Strategy Master Fund Limited Lockport Energy Associates, L.P. Macquarie Energy, LLC Massachusetts Muni. Wholesale Elec. Co. Mercuria Energy America, LLC Morgan Stanley Capital Group, Inc. MV Global Carbon Fund LP National Grid Generation LLC dba National Grid Nautilus Power, LLC Newark Energy Center NextEra Energy Marketing, LLC NRG Business Marketing LLC Old Dominion Electric Cooperative Pacific Summit Energy LLC Parkway Generation, LLC Pegasus Development Corporation PetroChina International (America), Inc. Power Authority of the State of New York RBC Red Oak Power, LLC Revere Power, LLC Selkirk Cogen Partners, LP Shell Energy North America (US), LP Statkraft US, LLC Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant Trafigura Trading LLC Trailstone Commodity Trading US, LLC Uniper Global Commodities North America LLC Virginia Electric and Power Company Vitol Inc. West Coast Environmental, LLC