



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc.
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2016 RGGI Investments Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits *\$436.4 Million Invested in Strategic Energy and Consumer Benefit Programs*

The nine states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) today released a report tracking the investment of proceeds generated by RGGI's regional CO₂ allowance auctions.

The report tracks investments of RGGI proceeds in the year 2016, and provides state-specific success stories and program highlights. The RGGI states have individual discretion over how to invest RGGI proceeds according to state-specific goals, and invest in a wide variety of programs touching upon all aspects of the energy sector.

In the year 2016, over \$436.4 million in RGGI proceeds were invested in programs including energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance. As in previous years, the largest share of the investments was directed to energy efficiency, with 55 percent of the 2016 total. Clean and renewable energy was next with 17 percent, followed by greenhouse gas (GHG) abatement and direct bill assistance with 11 percent each.

Over the lifetime of the projects, these 2016 investments are projected to provide participating households and businesses with \$1.7 billion in energy bill savings, while avoiding the use of 7.0 million MWh of electricity and 30.4 million MMBtu of fossil fuel.

For more details on both 2016 and cumulative investments and benefits, see the full report, [*Investment of RGGI Proceeds in 2016*](#).

"The RGGI states' reinvestments of auction proceeds generate direct benefits for consumers, as well as broader effects across the region." said Ben Grumbles, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "Investing in projects such as energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy reduces regional power demand and increases the cost-effectiveness of RGGI as a whole. In Maryland, RGGI funds helped to install new combined heat and power systems, which can significantly reduce wasted energy from large facilities."

"Residential energy efficiency programs provide a more comfortable living environment and tangible savings to individual customers," said Katie Dykes, Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "The report highlights how in Connecticut, the Home Energy Savings Program incentivized improvements to a multi-family apartment building, saving money each month for the tenants."

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About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

The New England and Mid-Atlantic states participating in the fourth 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 2018 RGGI cap is 82.2 million short tons. The RGGI states also include interim adjustments to the RGGI cap to account for banked CO₂ allowances. The 2018 RGGI adjusted cap is 60.3 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 fourth control period began on January 1, 2018 and extends through December 31, 2020. For more information visit 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