

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

Contact: Cooper Tamayo RGGI, Inc. 212-417-7327 cooper.tamayo@rggi.org

July 8, 2024

2022 RGGI Investments Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits

\$364 Million Invested in Strategic Energy and Consumer Benefit Programs

The participating states of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) today released a report tracking the investment of proceeds generated from RGGI's regional CO_2 allowance auctions. The report tracks investments of RGGI proceeds in 2022, providing state-specific success stories and program highlights. The RGGI states have individual discretion over how to invest proceeds according to state-specific goals. Accordingly, states direct funds to a wide variety of programs, touching all aspects of the energy sector.

In 2022, \$364 million in RGGI proceeds were invested in programs including energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, beneficial electrification, greenhouse gas abatement, and direct bill assistance. Over their lifetime, these 2022 investments are projected to provide participating households and businesses with \$1.8 billion in energy bill savings and avoid the emission of 6.6 million short tons of CO_2 .

The largest share of the investments was directed to energy efficiency, with 49% of the 2022 total. Other categories receiving significant investments include direct bill assistance, clean and renewable energy programs, beneficial electrification, and greenhouse gas abatement and climate adaptation programs. Approximately 30% of these investments went towards environmental justice and equity focused programs. For more details on both 2022 and cumulative investments and benefits, see the full report, <u>Investment of RGGI Proceeds in 2022</u>.

"The latest report on the investment of RGGI proceeds highlights the environmental, economic, and public health benefits that states are able to deliver to their communities thanks to RGGI funds," said Katie Dykes, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In my home state of Connecticut, we are reinvesting RGGI proceeds to provide energy efficiency upgrades to local families and businesses, and increase renewable energy deployment across the state. This is just a small sample of the many programs across the region helping communities thanks to RGGI funds."

"Investment of RGGI proceeds by the participating states is a key component of RGGI design, which provides benefits beyond regulating power sector emissions," said Serena McIlwain, Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and Vice Chair of the RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors. "In Maryland, RGGI proceeds are invested in the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which reduces energy bills, creates jobs, increases resiliency, and promotes energy independence."

About the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The 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 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 provide CO₂ allowances equal to its emissions for each three-year control period. RGGI's fifth control period began on January 1, 2024 and extends through December 31, 2026. For more information visit www.rggi.org.

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>.