

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

RGGI is a cooperative effort among the states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont to cap and reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the power sector. Implemented in Rhode Island through RIGL § 23-82.

Regulated power plants in the RGGI region must obtain then surrender allowances (authorizations to emit one ton of CO₂) equal to their CO₂ emissions. In order to insure emissions reductions, the total number of allowances made available has been set (most recently in 2013) to match the regional CO₂ emissions and then reduced 2.5% each year.

Allowances are distributed through quarterly regional auctions. To date, 23 auctions have been held since the program's inception in 2008.

Proceeds from the auctions are returned to the participating states to be invested in consumer benefit programs like energy efficiency, renewable energy, direct energy bill assistance and other greenhouse gas reduction programs. The primary goal of the investments is to reduce the demand for energy, thereby reducing CO₂ emissions. To date, Rhode Island has received over \$27.6 million from auction proceeds.

Here in Rhode Island, the proceeds are managed and distributed by the Office of Energy Resources.

Annual Emissions Graph

