

Climate Change Policy from an Environmental Justice Perspective

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What is the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)?

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the first mandatory, market-based effort in the U.S. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions using a cap-and-trade approach
- The ten participating states that have pledged to reduce their CO₂ emissions from the power sector 10% by 2018 are Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island
- States will sell emission allowances through auctions and invest the proceeds in the following areas: energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other clean energy technologies



My Role at WE ACT: RGGI Public Policy Research and Development

- Helped WE ACT to organize and host the “Advancing Climate Change” National Conference, held January 29-30, 2009
- Participated in meetings and conference calls with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Assisted with public comments submissions requesting prioritization of programs that help low-income communities suffering from higher energy costs and protect them from the harmful environmental impacts of RGGI
- Researched other cap-and-trade programs, including the U.S. Acid Rain Program, the European Union’s Emissions Trading Scheme, and California’s Regional Clean Air Incentives Markets
- Created an educational pamphlet on RGGI

