

State Greenhouse Gas Legislation Survey: Climate Change Policy from an Environmental Justice Perspective



Victoria Diaz-Bonilla,
WE ACT for Environmental Justice intern

What is RGGI (“Reggie”)?

- The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is the first mandatory, market-based effort in the U.S. to reduce GHG 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, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- 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 this past January 29-30
- Participated in meetings and conference calls with DEC and 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, EU’s ETS, and CA’s RECLAIM
- Created an educational pamphlet on RGGI

Information and images from www.weact.org

