

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Talking Points

- The [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#) (known as RGGI) is a bipartisan multi-state program started in 2008 that works by setting a cap on pollution from power plants, and reducing those caps each year. So, the air keeps getting cleaner and cleaner each year, while also requiring power plant owners to pay for their pollution, thus prodding them to cut their emissions even faster. States that are part of the program can then invest the money raised for renewable energy projects, and energy efficiency and conservation, which cuts climate pollution even further.
- Governor Wolf issued an executive order in October 2019, directing Pennsylvania to join RGGI as well. As one of the largest polluters in the country, Pennsylvania joining RGGI would have an outsize impact on reducing emissions.
- Now, the Governor's proposal for PA to join RGGI is under attack, and we need to make sure this important step towards curbing climate pollution is not thwarted. [In early July, HB2025 passed the House](#), legislation that attacks the state's authority to regulate emissions. So, now we are working to ensure this attack does not pass the Senate.
- As we work to oppose attacks on RGGI, we always want to be garnering support from the public and our legislators across the state. [A public comment period on RGGI is expected to open in the next few months](#), and when it does we want thousands of Pennsylvania's to submit comments in support of RGGI.
- **Stats you can use in your letter:**
 - a. [Since taking effect in 2009](#), carbon emissions from power plants in RGGI states have fallen by 47%. This decline is 90% greater than in the rest of the United States.
 - b. Meanwhile, economic growth in the RGGI states outpaced the rest of the country by 31%.
 - c. Public health benefits associated with air quality improvements have been estimated at nearly \$6 billion between 2009 and 2014.
 - d. To date, RGGI has raised over 1.3 billion dollars in the participating states for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
 - e. By joining RGGI, it's estimated that Pennsylvania could reduce its carbon pollution by 180 million tons by 2030.
- **Call to action, Include one:**
 1. **Option 1:** Regarding HB2025: (Look up your legislator [here](#), vote count [here](#))
 - a. **If they voted NO:** Thank them for opposing attacks on RGGI, and ask them to do whatever they can to get this program to the finish line
 - b. **If they voted YES:** Tell them you were disappointed to see they voted against this commonsense program and that you hope they will support RGGI moving forward.
 2. **Option 2:** Ask your State Senator to vote NO on HB2025 and support RGGI.
 3. **Option 3:** Express your personal support for joining RGGI and say you hope elected officials at every level will do whatever they can to get this program to the finish line

