

PROTECT EE and THE RGGI funds for CT



Dear Honorable Legislators of Connecticut's General Assembly ,

Please find the data and national study information as a follow up to several Senator and CT State Representative's conversations this session. We appreciate your support regarding the importance of providing information to legislators on the direct benefits to Connecticut's residents resulting from EE and RGGI .

We ask that you would please move to Protect Clean Energy and Efficiency, with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (from the RGGI auction proceeds). Every \$1 of these funds invested in energy efficiency programs provides \$3 in ratepayer benefits, as well as reduced healthcare costs and improved CT resident health benefits created by reduced air and water pollution and a strengthened energy grid with less black outs.

Energy Efficiency represents 34,000 EE jobs in CT. These are local taxpayers who would be unemployed.

Benefits of the Energy Efficiency fund and its programs are sighted in the two studies below.

RGGI: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (from the RGGI auction proceeds).

1. Supports 34,000 CT EE jobs (National DOE 2016 EE jobs report)
2. Economic Benefits- Every \$1 of these funds invested in efficiency programs provide \$3 in ratepayer benefits.
3. Lowered missed work days which were to due asthma or air pollution effects. Lowered state healthcare costs
4. Reduction in climate change based diseases spreading further: zika virus , lyme disease, heat stroke, heart attacks, loss of workdays to due heat stress, and other climate related health problems, well as the reduced healthcare costs and health benefits of reduced air and water pollution.
5. Deeper comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades being implemented in homes across CT.
6. **These EE upgrades have demonstrated a 20% to 30% cut in residential energy usage further reducing the strain on our energy grid, diversifying supply, and lowering our dependence on fossil fuels.**

JOBS & Economic growth

The 2016 DOE Jobs report cites 33,948 energy efficiency related jobs in Connecticut. This includes insulators, electricians, Window installers, HVAC and sales. Many EE jobs are held by CT residents previously receiving state subsidy, and now gainfully employed CT taxpayers and voters. There is additional room for economic development. By increasing EE we lower bills and provide residents and business larger budgets to invest in business growth, local economies, or to buy necessities, food, medicine, or to pay insurance premiums. We should seek to strengthen the EE programs and remove any barriers which might hinder low to moderate income families from participation in EE assessments or deeper home or business retrofits.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

RGGI is a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions - a greenhouse gas that causes global warming. To help address climate change, the RGGI states operate the nation's first multi-state, market based, CO₂ cap and trade program applicable to the electricity generating sector. Under the program fossil fuel fired electricity generators must hold 1 carbon dioxide allowance for each ton of CO₂ emissions at the end of each compliance period. The States auction the allowances periodically and invest the majority of the proceeds from the auctions in consumer benefit programs such as energy efficiency initiatives, renewable energy deployment initiatives, direct greenhouse gas emissions reductions strategies, and bill assistance for low-income ratepayers. In Connecticut, nearly 70% of proceeds from the auctions are invested in energy efficiency programs administered by the electric distribution companies and municipal electric utilities. 23% of proceeds from the auctions are invested in the deployment of Class I renewable resources.

Current National reports and data:

RGGI January 2017 report

A study by Abt associates released in January 2017 concluded that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative has generated \$5.7 billion in saved health care costs; the study attempted to quantify the impacts on public health in the Northeast between 2009 and 2014. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first regional market-based carbon dioxide (CO₂) trading program in the United States.

Key finds from the RGGI January 2017 report include:

- 300 to 830 lives saved
- More than 8,200 asthma attacks avoided
- 39,000 lost work days averted and
- \$5.7 billion in health savings and other benefits

The 2017 DOE report Key Findings:

- 33,948 energy efficiency related jobs in Connecticut.
- CT is now in 5th place nationally on the ACEE's 2016 Energy efficiency scorecard
- Renewable energy jobs such as solar and wind are increasing in Connecticut.

Protect the health of our youth through EE



Suggested Actions: Continue to Invest Wisely to Support the Economy through EE Funds & RGGI

Solution: Protect the Clean Energy and Efficiency, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (from the RGGI auction proceeds). Every \$1 of these funds invested in energy efficiency programs provides \$3 in ratepayer benefits, as well as reduced healthcare costs and improved CT resident health benefits created by reduced air and water pollution.

The energy we save through Energy Efficiency in homes and buildings is the least expensive way of meeting our state's energy needs and has the added benefit of reducing our dependence on carbon heavy fossil fuels.

References:

1. 2017 U.S. Department of Energy; Energy and Employment Report <https://energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report>
2. Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Abt Associates, January 2017 <http://abtassociates.com/RGGI>
3. Leticia Colon de Mejias Bio - nationally awarded female minority energy conservationist and building scientist, <http://eesgogreen.com/about-us/awards/> .