The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

An Initiative of Eastern States of the United States

The Investment of RGGI Proceeds in 2023

Published July 2025

www.rggi.org

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Executive Summary

Proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) have powered significant investment in the energy future of the participating states. This report reviews the benefits of programs funded in 2023 by \$852.4 million in RGGI investments, which have reduced harmful carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions while spurring local economic growth. The lifetime effects of 2023 RGGI investments are projected to avoid the release of 7.8 million short tons of carbon emissions. RGGI-funded programs also save consumers and businesses money, create jobs, and provide targeted assistance to low-income communities throughout the RGGI region. RGGI investments in 2023 are estimated to return \$2.7 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to 200,000 households and over 1,600 businesses that participated in programs funded by RGGI proceeds, while over 141,000 households and 39,000 businesses received direct bill assistance in 2023. As a whole, the RGGI states have reduced power sector CO₂ emissions by about 50% since 2005, while the region's gross domestic product has continued to grow.

The benefits tracked in this report arise from RGGI investments in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, beneficial electrification, direct bill assistance, and greenhouse gas abatement. Any benefits associated with other funds (such as transfers to general funds) are outside the scope of this report.

RGGI states have individual discretion as to how they invest proceeds. Investments fall into five major categories:

Energy efficiency makes up 64% of 2023 RGGI investments and 56% of cumulative investments. Programs funded by these investments in 2023 are expected to return about \$1.9 billion in lifetime energy bill savings to more than 181,000 participating households and 1,083 businesses in the region and avoid the release of 5.3 million short tons of CO₂.

Clean and renewable energy makes up 6% of 2023 RGGI investments and 12% of cumulative investments. RGGI investments in these technologies in 2023 are expected to return over \$647 million in lifetime energy bill savings and avoid the release of more than 1.9 million short tons of CO₂.

Beneficial electrification makes up 9% of 2023 RGGI investments 4% of cumulative investments. RGGI investments in beneficial electrification in 2023 are expected to avoid the release of 436,000 short tons of CO₂ and return over \$94 million in lifetime savings.

Greenhouse gas abatement and climate change adaptation makes up 2% of 2023 RGGI investments and 7% of cumulative investments. RGGI investments in greenhouse gas (GHG) abatement and climate change adaptation (CCA) in 2023 are expected to avoid the release of more than 49,000 short tons of CO₂.

Direct bill assistance makes up 15% of 2023 RGGI investments and 15% of cumulative investments. Direct bill assistance programs funded through RGGI in 2023 have returned over \$128 million in credits or assistance to consumers.

These investments, in concert with the broader energy policies in each RGGI state, have enabled the region to continue to set a national example in driving decarbonization while strengthening economic resilience.

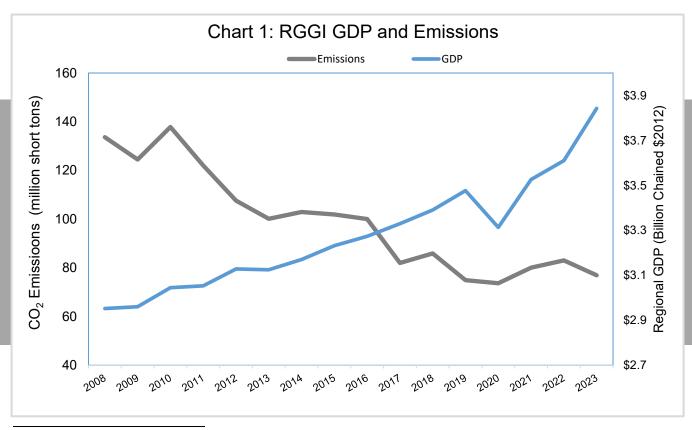
Introduction

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RGGI is the nation's first multi-state initiative to reduce power sector CO₂ emissions. The RGGI states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) establish a regional cap on the amount of CO₂ emissions that power plants can emit by issuing a limited number of tradable CO₂ allowances. Each allowance represents an authorization for a regulated power plant to emit one short ton of CO₂. Individual CO₂ budget trading programs in each RGGI state together create a regional market for CO₂ allowances. This allows market forces to determine the most cost-effective means of reducing emissions, and creates market certainty to drive long-term investments in clean energy.

Over RGGI's history there have been nine consistently participating RGGI states (Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont). New Jersey participated in RGGI from 2009 to 2011 and resumed its participation starting in 2020. Virginia participated in RGGI during the fifth control period, from 2021 through 2023. Pennsylvania initiated participation in 2022 but is prevented from distributing allowances or enforcing compliance due to ongoing litigation regarding the state's RGGI regulation. RGGI investments in this report include the 2023 investments reported by the ten fully participating RGGI states in 2025. Each state's independent regulations are based on the RGGI Model Rule. **Chart 1** shows the change in CO₂ emissions compared with GDP since RGGI's inception for the ten states included in this report.

The RGGI states have distributed 90% of CO₂ allowances through quarterly regional auctions, generating proceeds for reinvestment. The remaining allowances are allocated to state set-aside accounts, from which allowances may be distributed according to state-specific regulations or auctioned in future years. Each RGGI state has full discretion over the investment of RGGI proceeds and the administration of RGGI-funded programs.



¹ While Virginia participated in RGGI from 2021 through 2023, the state was no longer participating during development of this report in 2025, and so VA investments are not reported here. For more information on investment of RGGI proceeds in Virginia, reach out to the VA Department of Environmental Quality.

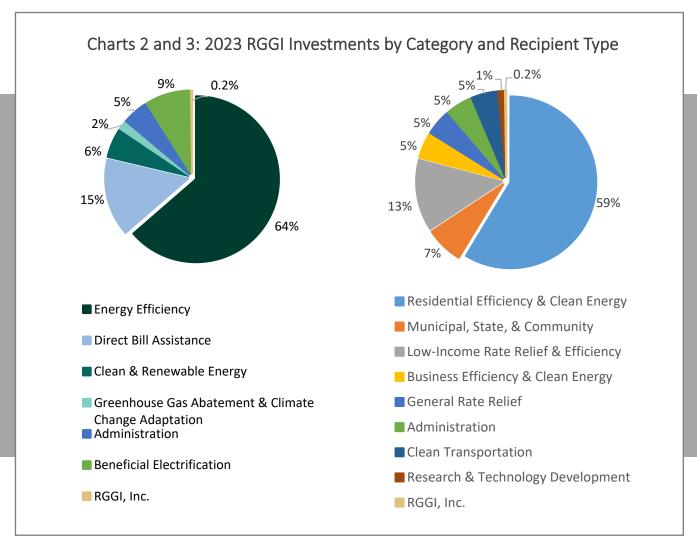
2023 RGGI Investments

This report estimates the benefits, such as energy bill savings and avoided CO₂ emissions, that arise from \$852 million in 2023 RGGI investments. RGGI investments as defined within this report include investments in energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, beneficial electrification, greenhouse gas abatement and climate change adaptation, and direct bill assistance, as well as administrative costs associated with these programs. This report focuses on 2023 annual investments. RGGI investments throughout the region cover a wide variety of programs.

Chart 2 shows 2023 RGGI investments divided among major program categories. **Chart 3** illustrates the same 2023 funds divided according to the type of end-user who benefits from the program or ultimately receives funding.

Many of the categories in Chart 3 can be seen as subcategories of those in Chart 2. Direct Bill Assistance is split between assistance for low-income consumers, and general rate relief for all consumers. GHG Abatement and CCA includes a wide variety of program types, including research funding, community flood preparedness, and clean transportation programs. The Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy program categories mainly flow to residential, business, and municipal, state, & community recipients, with a substantial number of programs specifically serving low-income households.

Due to rounding, pie charts may not sum to exactly 100%.



In 2023, RGGI investments have saved participants money on their energy bills, created jobs, and reduced carbon emissions. Over their lifetime they will save participants an estimated \$2.7 billion on energy bills and avoid the emission of 7.8 million short tons of harmful CO_2 emissions. For details, see **Table 1**.

RGGI investments benefit more than just those who directly participate in RGGI-funded programs. For example, money not spent on energy by families and businesses can be used in other ways that boost the economy. Reduced demand for energy also keeps power prices lower for everyone and avoids investments in costly infrastructure to meet peak demand.

RGGI states have long been and continue to be leaders in energy efficiency, with millions of MWh saved. As the region's generation becomes cleaner, many states are also investing in beneficial electrification programs, which reduce carbon emissions by replacing direct fossil fuel use with electric power. Often, these programs result in an increase in MWh, but do reduce carbon emissions overall. As the grid becomes cleaner, the emissions from electrified appliances become cleaner, as opposed to the fixed emissions intensity of fossil-powered appliances.

Avoided MWh continues to be a relevant metric for energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy programs and will be reported in the tables associated with these respective investment categories.

	Table 1: Benefi	ts of 2023 RGGI Investme	ents
Category		Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments	Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments
	Short Tons CO₂ Avoided	459,734	7,816,686
	Energy Bill Savings	\$199,319,603	\$2,722,795,150

One of RGGI's strengths is the discretion held by each state to invest RGGI auction proceeds according to state-specific goals. This can present challenges for data collection; for example, a program offering discounts on efficient lightbulbs will collect quite different data from a program helping businesses to install large-scale equipment, or funding the installation of electric car charging stations. The data in this report are compiled using the output of state-based and program-based estimates for actual and projected savings and benefits. Methods for estimating program benefits differ across states and across programs. The appendix at the end of this report contains more details on how each metric is estimated for different types of programs.

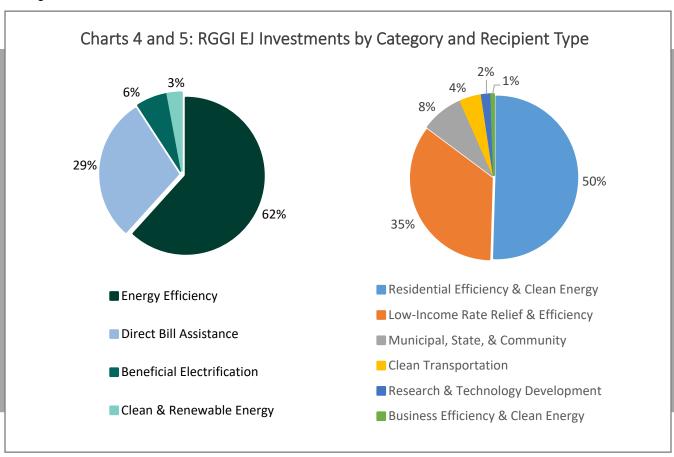
States may also combine RGGI funds with funds from other sources. In many cases, the reported benefits from the program are adjusted based on the percentage of the program's funding that comes from RGGI. In cases where states determine a program could not have gone forward without RGGI funds, states will report the full benefits associated with that program.

Environmental Justice and Equity Focused Investments

Across the RGGI states, auction proceeds are invested in a variety of programs focused on environmental justice (EJ) and equity to deliver benefits directly to EJ communities. For example, this can include providing targeted bill assistance, installing weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades in low-income households, offering incentives for clean vehicles and renewable energy, investing in electrification infrastructure in EJ communities, and more.

Each RGGI state reports EJ and equity investments according to its own specific criteria and definitions. The EJ and equity investments included in this report represent the sum of the states' individual reporting, totaling approximately 36% of all RGGI proceeds invested by the participating states in 2023. For more information on how each state defines and invests in EJ and equity programs, reach out to the Program Contacts found on page 51 of this report.

Chart 4 shows how 2023 RGGI investments into EJ and equity programs were divided among the major program categories. **Chart 5** shows how the same funds were divided according to the type of end-user benefiting from the funding.



Over their lifetime, investments into EJ & equity programs in 2023 are expected to deliver \$439 million in bill savings to residents and avoid the emission of 900,000 tons of CO₂. For details, see **Table 2**.

Table 2: Benefits of 20.		2023 RGGI EJ & Equity Inv	vestments
		Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments	Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments
	Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided	86,966	899,562
	Energy Bill Savings	\$24,145,465	\$438,738,845

In addition to proceeds discussed in this section, which are directed to EJ- and equity-focused programs, a variety of other programs supported by RGGI proceeds provide benefits to EJ communities. For example, investments in clean energy and energy efficiency programs both improve air quality and mitigate climate change impacts which disproportionately affect disadvantaged communities.

The states are continually working to improve the reporting of RGGI investments, including with respect to investments in EJ communities and the distribution of benefits created by RGGI investments. Future reports will seek to update and expand on the reporting included here.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency remains the largest portion of 2023 RGGI investments, at 64%. Over the lifetime of the installed measures, 2023 RGGI investments in energy efficiency are projected to save participants over \$1.9 billion on energy bills, providing benefits to more than 181,000 participating households and 1,083 participating businesses. They are also projected to avoid the release of 5.3 million short tons of CO₂ (see **Table 3**).

Table 3: Benefits of 2023 RGGI Investments in Energy Efficiency

	Category	Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments	Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments*
	Participating Households	181,791	n/a
0	Participating Businesses	1083	n/a
*	Increased Employment	n/a	1,021 job years**
	Short Tons CO₂ Avoided	310,096	5,348,806
	Energy Bill Savings	\$122,864,696	\$1,929,454,837
(^)	MMBtu Saved	2,735,485	51,941,998
(A)	MWh Saved	930,506	8,466,879

^{*}For each investment category, states use assumptions about the lifespan of their investments in terms of years, and calculate lifetime benefits based on assumptions about their ISO's carbon intensity, energy cost, etc. over the lifespan of an investment.

Energy efficiency improvements can be achieved cost-effectively by upgrading appliances and lighting, weatherizing and insulating buildings, upgrading HVAC at offices, and improving industrial processes. For example, occupancy sensors automatically turn lights off when a room or building is not in use, saving significant amounts of energy. These programs allow consumers and businesses to take full advantage of modern appliances, heating, and cooling, increasing the comfort of homes, offices, and businesses while using less energy and saving on their energy bills.

Energy efficiency also creates jobs. Programs such as home retrofits directly spur employment gains in housing and construction, with 2023 RGGI investments projected to create an estimated additional 1,021 direct job-years

^{**}Estimated job-years created. This estimate was created by applying job factors used in the 2021 NYSERDA Clean Energy Industry Report to corresponding programs receiving RGGI investments. These estimates represent direct job-years created only, excluding indirect and induced job creation estimates. For more information, see Increased Employment in the Glossary and Methodology section of this report.

across participating states. Lower energy costs also create numerous benefits across the economy, allowing businesses to expand and families to save and invest in other priorities.

Ultimately, all electricity consumers, not only those who make upgrades, benefit from energy efficiency programs. Lower overall demand for electricity results in lower wholesale electricity rates, as power plants with the highest costs do not run as often, and expensive transmission upgrades can be deferred in some cases. The full economywide benefits of energy efficiency are not modeled in this report. However, a range of other independent reports have affirmed these widespread benefits of energy efficiency, including work by the Analysis Group, the Regulatory Assistance Project, and others.

RGGI-funded investments in energy efficiency, in concert with the broader energy policies in each RGGI state, have made the region a leader in this field. Five RGGI states ranked among 2023's top ten states for energy efficiency, with all RGGI states ranking in the top twenty, according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy.

Clean and Renewable Energy

Clean and renewable energy represents 6% of 2023 RGGI investments in the region. Over the lifetime of the projects installed in 2023, these investments are projected to offset \$647 million in energy expenses. They are also projected to avoid the release of over 1.9 million short tons of CO₂ emissions (see **Table 4**).

Т	able 4: Benefits of 20	023 RGGI Investments in	Clean Energy
	Category	Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments	Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments
	Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided	122,005	1,981,871
	MWh Avoided*	147,962	3,213,522
*	MMBtu Avoided	154,537	1,731,830
	Energy Bill Savings	\$29,144,756	\$647,765,163

^{*}RGGI investments in clean and renewable energy decrease the electricity generated from marginal generating units, which are typically more expensive and carbon-intensive.

Clean energy systems require labor to install, which creates jobs and boosts local economic activity. Energy expenditures that might otherwise flow to out-of-state fossil fuel resources stay within the region. As with energy efficiency, "behind-the-meter" programs also contribute to lowering wholesale electricity prices by lowering the demand for electricity at the wholesale level. As demand for electricity decreases, the most expensive power plants run less often, driving long-term prices down for all consumers. Households and businesses both with and without clean energy systems save money on bills.

While RGGI investments are just a small part of widespread clean and renewable energy investments in the region, together these actions are having a measurable impact on the energy mix. Since 2008, RGGI states have increased their non-hydro renewable generation by 127%. In 2023 the RGGI states derived 48% of total generation from clean or renewable sources.

Beneficial Electrification

Beneficial electrification refers to programs that reduce carbon emissions by displacing direct fossil fuel use with electric power. In contrast to energy efficiency programs, which reduce electricity or fuels usage, beneficial electrification programs can increase MWh consumption, but result in a net reduction in carbon emissions. Examples include programs that promote the use of electric vehicles, reducing oil consumption, or the installation of electric heat pumps, reducing heating fuel and natural gas consumption.

Beneficial electrification represents 8% of 2023 RGGI investments in the region. Over their lifetime, the investments in beneficial electrification made in 2023 are expected to avoid 436,000 short tons of CO₂ emissions and result in over \$94 million in customer bill savings (See **Table 5**). Beneficial electrification investments will yield even greater emissions reduction benefits over time, as renewables take up a larger portion of the electric grid composition. Investments in beneficial electrification programs, and the resulting bill savings, also lead to job creation and spur local economic activity.

In addition, some programs reported as energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, or greenhouse gas abatement may include beneficial electrification components, but the outcomes of these projects are not reported under beneficial electrification.

Table 5: Benefits of 2023 RGGI Investments in Beneficial Electrification

	Category	Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments	Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments
	Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided	24,350	436,646
	Energy Cost Savings*	\$5,587,415	\$94,401,471
^	MMBtu Saved	300,223	5,471,411
	MWh Increased	113,218	1,718,622

^{*}Energy cost savings is the net result of increased MWh costs from beneficial electrification combined with the decrease in avoided fuel costs (i.e. heating oil, gasoline).

Greenhouse Gas Abatement and Climate Change Adaptation

Greenhouse gas (GHG) abatement and climate change adaptation (CCA) is a broad category encompassing other ways of reducing greenhouse gases, apart from energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy, as well as projects that focus on preparing for and addressing the impacts of climate change on local communities. Approximately 2% of 2023 RGGI investments supported GHG abatement and CCA programs. Over their lifetime, the investments made in 2023 are expected to avoid the release of over 49,000 short tons of CO₂ and result in \$11 million in bill savings (see **Table 6**).

Programs in the GHG abatement and CCA category may vary significantly and may drive GHG emission reductions in multiple sectors. For example, technology, research, and development programs are tracked as GHG abatement and CCA, as they may lead to advancements resulting in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Climate change policy research, coastal resilience, and flood preparedness programs are also tracked as GHG abatement and CCA.

GHG abatement and CCA programs vary in the types of benefits they provide. Some projects reduce electricity and fossil fuel use as part of their efforts to reduce overall emissions, generating economic benefits similar to those realized through energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy programs. Other projects may not return immediately trackable benefits within the scope of this report, but still provide important long-term benefits in climate preparedness and mitigation.

Programs related to climate change adaptation represent a new and growing focus of programs receiving RGGI investment. Because of this, the RGGI states are considering how best to report the benefits of investment in these programs which might not be captured by the metrics used in this report. The states continue to develop their reporting of RGGI investments and look to more comprehensively capture the variety of benefits created by investment in these programs.

Category Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments Participating Households 4,711 Participating Businesses 72 n/a	Table 6: Benefits of 2023 RGGI Investments in GHG Abatement & CCA			
		Category		Lifetime Benefits of 2023 Investments
Participating Businesses 72 n/a		Participating Households	4,711	n/a
	0	Participating Businesses	72	n/a
Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided 3,284 49,363		Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided	3,284	49,363
Energy Bill Savings \$594,146 \$11,139,805		Energy Bill Savings	\$594,146	\$11,139,805

Direct Bill Assistance

Direct bill assistance returns money to consumers as a rebate on their energy bills. Approximately 15% of 2023 RGGI investments have funded direct bill assistance. RGGI investments in direct bill assistance in 2023 returned \$128 million in bill savings to energy consumers in over 141,000 households and 39,000 businesses (see **Table 7**)

These programs provide rate relief to electricity consumers in the RGGI region. Some programs provide assistance specifically to low-income families, while other programs provide small on-bill credits to all consumers.

Direct bill assistance typically appears as a credit on a consumer's electricity bill. Direct bill assistance programs support economic activity by providing funds directly to consumers, who can then spend those funds on other priorities. Unlike energy efficiency or clean energy programs (which generate benefits for the lifetime of the installed measures), direct bill assistance programs provide benefits only for the length of the bill-assistance program. Direct bill assistance programs also do not reduce or affect wholesale electricity prices.

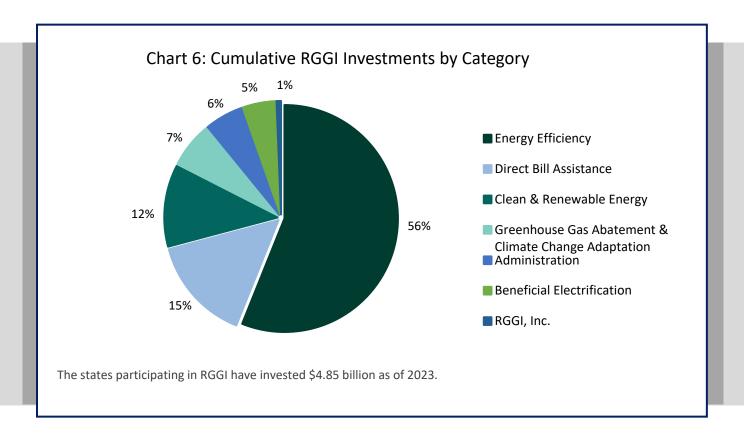
RGGI proceeds provide a small percentage of low-income direct bill assistance programs across the states. Other sources of funds come from on-bill system benefit charges, and federal funds in the case of LIHEAP programs.

Table 7: 2023 RGGI Investments in Direct Bill Assistance		
	Category	Annual Benefits of 2023 Investments
	Participating Households	141,085
	Participating Businesses	39,348
	Energy Bill Savings	\$128,446,590

Cumulative Uses of Auction Proceeds

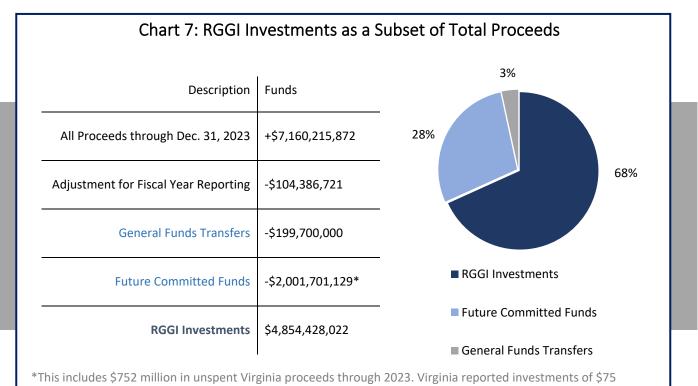
While this report focuses primarily on 2023 data, information on cumulative RGGI investments is provided in this section as an overview of RGGI's track record. **Chart 6**, below, shows the percentage of all-time RGGI investments directed to each of the major program categories.

This pie chart shows each program category as a percentage of all-time RGGI investments.



RGGI investments are themselves a subset of total proceeds. Most RGGI proceeds through 2023 are defined as RGGI investments. Other uses of funds, such as transfers to state general funds, are outside the scope of this report. See **Chart 7**, below, for more details on total RGGI proceeds.

Two states report program data according to the fiscal year (July 1-June 30) rather than the calendar year. A fiscal year adjustment is used to compare numbers between fiscal-year and calendar-year states.



All-time benefits metrics may be best understood as a general indication of the cumulative benefits of RGGI-funded

million in 2021, but was not participating in RGGI during development of the 2022 and 2023 reports, so

investment of VA proceeds during these years are not reflected in this report.

All-time benefits metrics may be best understood as a general indication of the cumulative benefits of RGGI-funded investments since the program's inception. **Table 8** shows that the track record from all RGGI investments includes benefits on the order of billions in customer bill savings, and tens of millions of short tons of CO₂ avoided. Note that as the program's track record grows longer, all-time numbers may include changes in states' methodologies from year to year.

Table 8: All-Time Benefits of RGGI Investments		
Category		Lifetime Benefits of All RGGI Investments
	Participating Households	8,282,710
0	Participating Businesses	415,766
	Short Tons CO ₂ Avoided	60,170,134
	Megawatt-Hours Saved	101,691,503
()	MMBtu Saved	390,329,804
	Energy Bill Savings	\$20,255,827,633
	I	

Previously reported cumulative data plus 2023 data may not sum exactly to updated cumulative data. This is due to state adjustments or corrections to prior cumulative calculations.

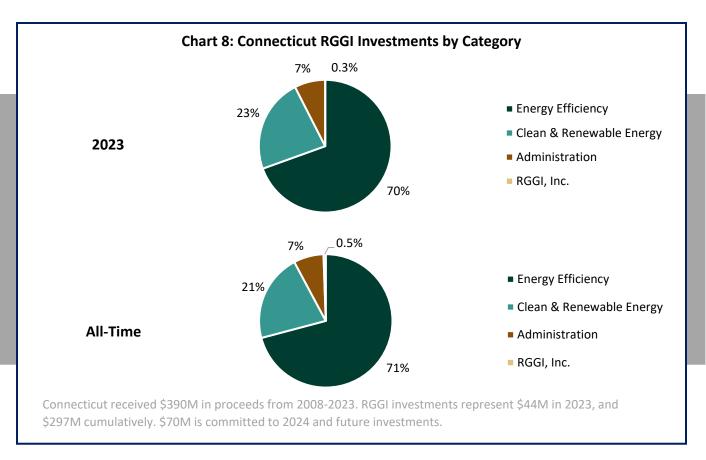
Connecticut

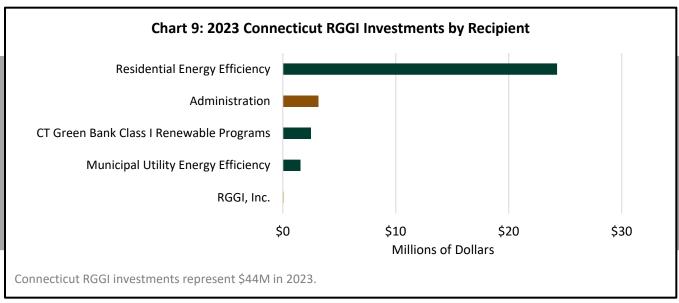
The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies directs that RGGI auction proceeds be reserved for investment towards programs resulting in energy efficiency improvements and for financing for renewable energy projects. The allocation of auction proceeds for 2023 is as follows:

- 69.5% of its auction proceeds (\$30.4 Million) to support the energy efficiency programs overseen by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board (CEEB) and administered by Eversource Energy and The United Illuminating Company, as well as those of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Collective (CMEEC) and the Town of Wallingford - Electric Division (WED).
- 23% to the Connecticut Green Bank up to \$5.2 million per fiscal year (\$10.1 million for the calendar year) to fund development of Class I renewable energy sources. After \$5.2 million is allocated to the Green Bank in a fiscal year, excess funds from this allocation are to be directed toward the Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate (CHEAPR) program.
- 7.5% to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (\$3.28 million) for administrative purposes.

In 2023, Connecticut allocated RGGI auction proceeds to the following programs:

- Home Energy Solutions Program: Under this program The United Illuminating company and Eversource Energy invested RGGI funds to conduct residential energy audits and weatherize homes. Over 17,000 residential customers participated in some form of fossil fuel energy efficiency program in 2023 resulting in \$9.8 million in savings to ratepayers in the form of lower energy use.
- Environmental Justice Screening tool: A joint project between the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) and the University of Connecticut (UCONN), the EJ screening tool provides an interactive map to help researchers and policymakers identify locations within the state experiencing environmental quality issues and develop solutions toward addressing them.
- Home Energy Savings Program: Under this program, WED used RGGI funds to perform residential energy audits and weatherized homes. In 2023, WED's program served 862 homes in Wallingford and provided weatherization services to 246.
- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program: Under this program, the Connecticut Green Bank offers low interest, zero-down payment financing for clean and renewable energy projects. In 2023, the Connecticut Green Bank invested RGGI proceeds in C-PACE to help finance thirteen projects, three of which were completed by 2024. The remaining projects are still in development. These projects collectively have saved over \$17 million in electricity costs and resulted in a reduction of 75 GWh of electricity load.
- Various energy efficiency projects: CMEEC used RGGI funds toward the deployment of residential and commercial energy efficiency projects and retrofits. CMEEC used RGGI funding to perform energy saving upgrades for 175 residential customers and 22 commercial customers.





Program Highlight: Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate

In 2022, Connecticut passed <u>Public Act 22-25</u> which went into effect in 2023 and provides for the use of RGGI funding to be directed toward the <u>Connecticut Hydrogen and Electric Automobile Purchase Rebate</u> (CHEAPR), an incentive program that provides incentives in the form of cash rebates for Connecticut residents toward the purchase of a new or used battery powered electric vehicle or plug in hybrid vehicle. This program also provides for increased incentives for income-qualified individuals that otherwise would not have the resources to take advantage of the

program. Beginning January 2025, the standard rebate is up to \$1,500 while the income qualified rebates are \$4,500 toward the purchase of a new EV and \$5,000 for a used EV

In Addition to incentives for electric vehicle purchases, CHEAPR administers the state's <u>Electric Bicycle (eBike)</u> <u>Incentive Program</u>. The eBike incentive program provides a cash voucher to be used toward the purchase of an eBike at retail locations within the state. The standard incentive provides a \$500 cash voucher while a separate stackable voucher for \$750 is available to qualifying individuals. The program has proven popular enough that a lottery system has been implemented and through two rounds of voucher awards \$1.5 million of incentives have been allocated toward this program.

Success Story: Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening Tool

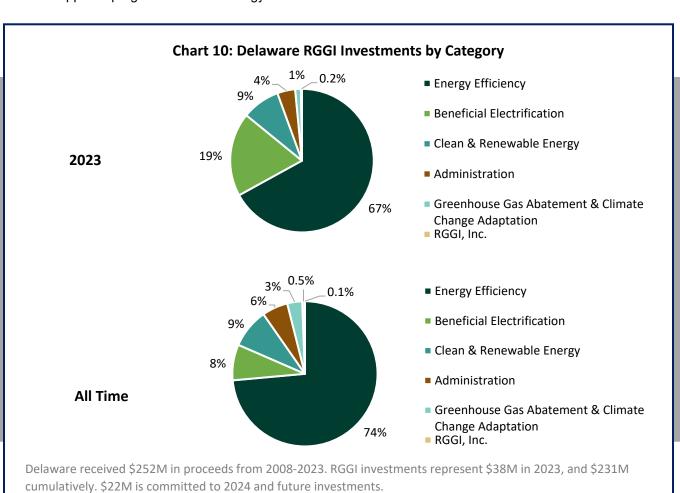
In August 2023, the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) along with the University of Connecticut (UCONN) released the <u>final report</u> on <u>the Connecticut Environmental Justice Screening tool</u>. This tool is available in <u>English</u> as well as <u>Spanish</u>, and is a new approach to identifying and mitigating the state's Environmental justice challenges in the wake of climate change and other environmental hazards and was developed over the course of two years. This tool is a geographic imaging tool which provides interactive maps to aid in identifying and locating environmental hazards and sensitive populations within communities based on their proximity to known pollutants as well as socio-economic and demographic information.

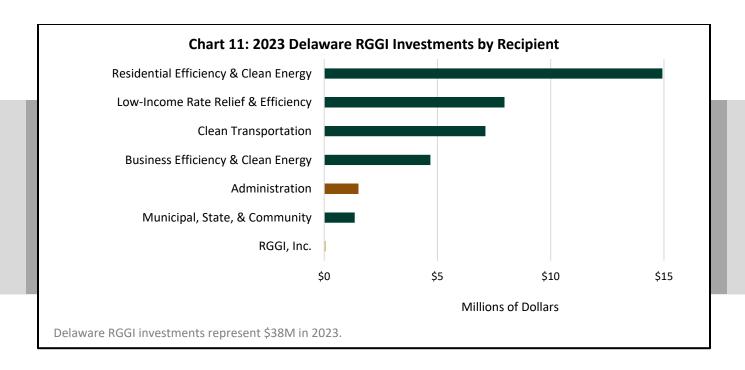
The CIRCA/UCONN tool, by combining demographic information and environmental burdens, allows users to visually explore environmental health conditions for the entire state, as well as granularly down to the census tract level. The available data are combined into a standardized score to allow users to compare different areas and neighborhoods to understand the relationship between environmental justice and the community. This information allows policymakers as well as individual citizens and advocates to understand the challenges faced by our communities as well as form policy to address these issues.

Delaware

Delaware invests RGGI allowance proceeds in a variety of programs that allow Delaware families and businesses to make energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements while providing opportunities for innovation in greenhouse gas reductions. The allocation of auction proceeds in Delaware is as follows:

- 65% of its allowance proceeds are allocated to the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (Energize Delaware). Energize Delaware serves Delawareans by promoting the use of affordable, reliable, clean energy, and providing a variety of incentives for energy efficiency improvements.
- 30% of its allowance proceeds are allocated to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC). DNREC directs 10% of proceeds to administer innovative programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as the Clean Transportation incentive program and infrastructure grants. Another 10% of proceeds is directed to the state's Energy Office to implement the state's Weatherization Assistance Program which provides no-cost upgrades to homes to decrease energy use and decrease bills. The remaining 10% is reserved for administration of programs including support for Delaware's Climate Action Plan.
- 5% of its allowance proceeds are directed to the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services to support a program to reduce energy bills for low-income customers.





Program Highlight: Energize Delaware Energy Savings Performance Contracting Program

The Energize Delaware Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) program is a comprehensive energy-saving program for schools, universities, municipalities, hospitals, and other nonprofits and privately held institutions. It provides a comprehensive approach to assess energy use and implement energy and water efficiency improvement projects by providing contractual and financing mechanisms to execute the upgrades with minimal financial risk.

The appeal of ESPC projects is the ability to use guaranteed future cost savings to finance the construction of energy efficiency and clean energy technology projects without initial capital investment. The program is delivered through a pool of area Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) that have been prequalified. The ESCOs offer guaranteed energy savings that cover annual payments for project costs, usually over a contract term of 15 to 20 years.

Success Story: New Castle County Vo-Tech, Red Clay School Distract, and Delaware Department of Health and Social Services Projects

The ESPC Program was introduced in 2007, with the first projects breaking ground in August 2011. Three projects were completed in 2023; New Castle County Vo-Tech School District, Phase 2 of the Red Clay School District, and Phase 3 of the Department of Health and Social Services. Through this program, the New Castle County Vo-Tech School District will cut its carbon footprint by 25 percent using energy efficiency improvements and solar in their district. Combined, the projects' total first-year guaranteed energy savings is \$1,783,770 with MMBtu savings of 119,253 and GHG abatement of 50,478 metric



SOLAR INSTALLATION - BIRD VIEW OF ST. GEORGES VO-TECH

tons. In addition to the ESPC program, both school districts applied for Energize Delaware's Solar for Schools² program and secured more than \$2 million in clean energy investment.

Dr. Joseph Jones, the superintendent of New Castle County Vocational Technical School District provided the following testimonial on behalf of the organization on their experience with the program:

"This is about safeguarding our future – preserving what we have for generations to come. It's about honoring nature and cherishing the place we are so fortunate to enjoy every day."



BOILER UPGRADE BEFORE AND AFTER- DELCASTLE VO-TECH. OLD BOILER(LEFT): TWO 10-MILLION BTU BOILERS. NEW BOILER (RIGHT): EIGHT 2-MILLION BTU HIGH-EFFICIENCY BOILERS.

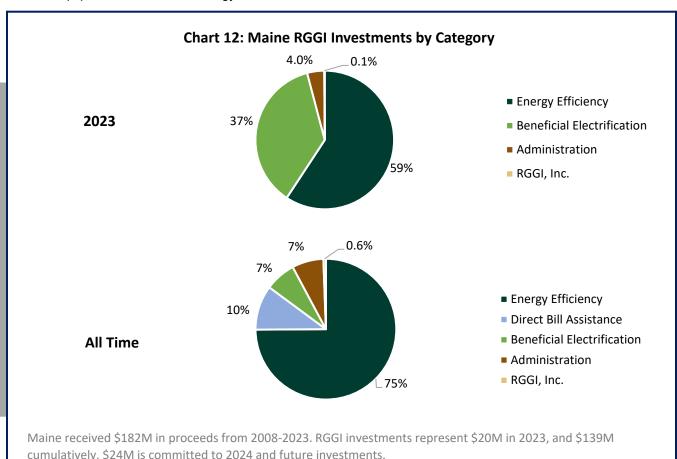
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² The **Energize Delaware Solar for School Program** is designed to help Delaware public school districts transition to solar energy.

Maine

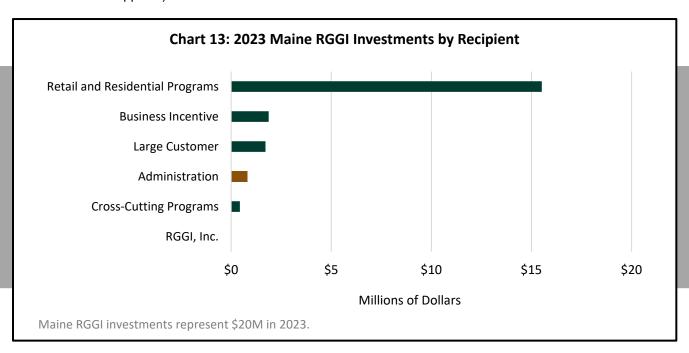
The Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) is the independent, quasi-state agency established to plan and implement energy efficiency programs in Maine. Through its suite of nationally recognized programs, Efficiency Maine provides consumer information, marketing support, demonstration pilots, discounts, rebates, loans, and other initiatives to promote high-efficiency equipment and operations that help Maine's homes, businesses, and institutions reduce their energy costs and lower their greenhouse gas emissions. The result is job growth, better grid reliability, improved energy independence, a stronger local economy, and critical progress toward meeting the State's climate change goals. The organization's purposes include the following:

- Consolidating under one roof the funds for Maine's consumer-focused efficiency and alternative energy programs for all fuel types, including electric, natural gas, and unregulated fuels;
- Procuring distributed energy resources (such as efficiency and alternative energy) that cost less than traditional energy to help individuals and businesses meet their energy needs at the lowest cost; and
- Helping transform the energy market in Maine so that energy-efficient products, alternative energy
 equipment, and related energy services are more accessible and affordable to end-use customers.



Efficiency Maine's programs are funded primarily by a combination of electric and natural gas system benefit charges, Forward Capacity Market proceeds, and RGGI proceeds. During its 2023 fiscal year (FY 2023), Efficiency Maine invested over \$20.3 million in RGGI proceeds, directing approximately 96% towards a combination of energy efficiency and beneficial electrification programs; the remaining 4% went towards general administration. Though nearly all of Efficiency Maine's programs leveraged RGGI funding to some degree in FY 2023, the bulk of funds were invested through the following programs:

- Home Energy Savings Program: Drove market-based home weatherization and heat pump space heating by offering rebates, providing customer education, and developing and maintaining a vendor network.
- Low-Income Initiatives: Targeted low-income customers by providing enhanced incentives for home weatherization and high-performance heat pumps within the market-based channel and by offering free heat pump water heaters through a direct-install channel.
- Commercial and Industrial (C&I) Prescriptive Program: Provided fixed-price incentives for a prescriptive suite of "off-the-shelf" energy efficiency and beneficial electrification measures for C&I customers.
- *C&I Custom Program:* Targeted larger C&I customers by offering incentives for custom, site-specific energy efficiency projects that require unique engineering analyses.
- Retail Initiatives: Leverages relationships with retailers to promote Efficiency Maine's mail-in rebates or
 instant discounts on energy-efficient products that sell in relatively high volumes and achieve predictable
 energy savings.
- *Distributor Initiatives:* Offers incentives for energy-efficient products acquired through distributors (i.e., supply houses where contractors and larger customers go to purchase plumbing, heating, refrigeration, and electrical supplies.)



Over the lifetime of the investments made in FY 2023, Maine's RGGI-funded measures are estimated to generate savings over 4.9 million MMBtu in avoided consumption of natural gas and other heating or process fuels. Though some measures will also generate electricity savings, most will actually increase electricity consumption. Indeed, Maine invested in a growing number of beneficial electrification projects involving a switch away from a fossil fuel end use [e.g., heat pumps]. These projects require increased electricity usage, but significantly displace, and therefore reduce, MMBtu consumption of high-carbon fuels. Overall, Maine's FY 2023 RGGI-funded investments will avoid energy costs of more than \$130 million.

Program Highlight: Heat Pump Water Heaters

Efficiency Maine leveraged RGGI funds and electric ratepayer funds to drive high-efficiency heat pump water heater installations in FY 2023. It did so primarily with instant/mail-in discounts through its mid-stream channels (Retail Initiatives and Distributor Initiatives), as well as through a targeted offering under Low-Income Initiatives that provided free installations to qualifying participants. Across these programs, Efficiency Maine incentivized 9,504

heat pump water heater units in FY2023, maintaining Maine's status as a national leader in this area. Overall, Maine sold 15 times the number of heat pump water heaters per capita than the United States as a whole.³

While Efficiency Maine leverages electric ratepayer funds for heat pump water heaters replacing electric resistance water heaters (i.e., those projects generating electricity savings), the RGGI funds allow it to target the many thousands of other households in Maine using fossil fuel-based water heating systems. Indeed, in FY 2023, Retail Initiatives launched a campaign encouraging customers to "Buy a heat pump water heater and give your boiler the summer off," targeting systems that pull domestic hot water off the boiler (i.e., tankless coil water heating). Low-Income Initiatives ran a similar marketing push, likely making it the only initiative in the country targeting the replacement of tankless coil systems with heat pump water heaters using a direct installation approach.

Success Story: Robbins Lumber

Robbins Lumber produces fine Eastern White Pine lumber products at four locations in Maine. Products include exterior and interior siding products, as well as flooring and specialty precoated lumber. The company is owned and managed by fifth-generation family members and has been in business for more than 140 years.

When demand for its pre-finished products increased around 2022, Robbins Lumber ordered a third profile sander for its North Searsmont facility. Rather than adding another standard, independent dust collector for this specific equipment, Robbins sought to install a dust collection system to serve the entire facility. The company investigated two options — a cheaper, baseline collection system versus a high-efficiency collection system that filters and recirculates



High-efficiency dust collection system at the Robbins Lumber facility in North Searsmont, Maine.

conditioned air and uses variable-frequency drives (VFDs) to control fan motors. Without an Efficiency Maine incentive, the incremental cost of the higher-efficiency option put it out of reach.

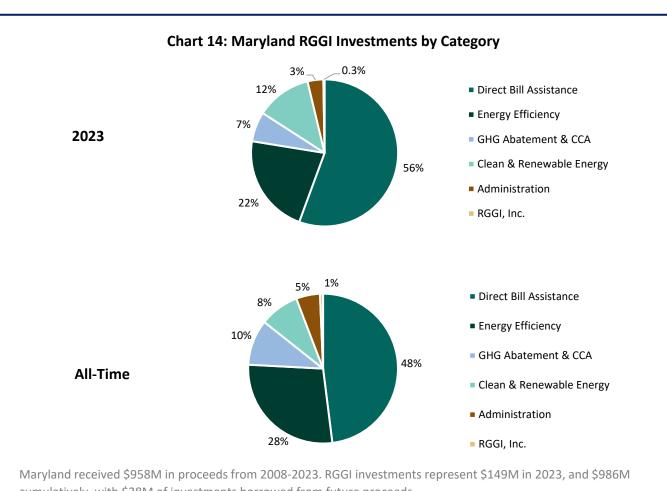
Given the relatively complex, site-specific nature of the project and the associated specialized equipment, Robbins Lumber worked with Efficiency Maine's C&I Custom Program. The program was able to validate the predicted energy impacts and offer an incentive of approximately \$36,000, roughly \$31,500 of which was funded with RGGI dollars. This investment will lead to considerable propane and electricity savings for Robbins Lumber, reducing the company's operating costs for years to come.

- Additional cost for high-efficiency option: \$75,500
- Incentive award: \$36,000
- Estimated annual energy savings: 52,400 kWh (electricity) and 1,315 MMBtu (propane)

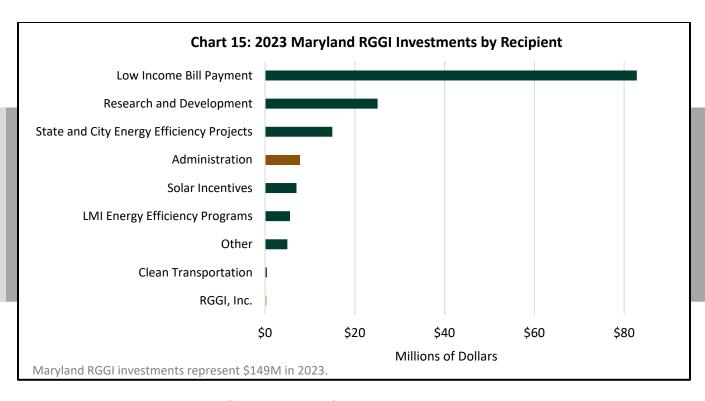
³ According to the <u>2022 ENERGY STAR Unit Shipment and Market Penetration Report</u>, there were 141,000 heat pump water heaters sold in the U.S. With a population of 330 million, that equates to 0.4 units/1,000 people/year. Efficiency Maine's programs rebate 6 units/1,000 people/year.

Maryland

Maryland allocates proceeds from the sale of CO₂ allowances into the State's Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF)—a special, non-lapsing fund administered by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). MEA deploys SEIF funds to promote affordable, reliable, and clean energy across Maryland's diverse regions and communities. These programs are intended to reduce energy bills, create jobs in growing industries, help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase resiliency, and promote energy independence.



cumulatively, with \$28M of investments borrowed from future proceeds.



Program Highlight: Maryland Smart Energy Communities Program

The Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) Program is designed to support the installation of sustainable, long-term, clean energy policies and projects at the local level that reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. Eligible activities include planning and capacity building, energy efficiency and solar projects on existing and new public facilities, and clean transportation projects.

In FY2023, the City of Cambridge was awarded a grant for the installation of a 42.64 kW rooftop solar array. The solar project will eliminate 160 metric tons of CO₂ emissions over 20 years, while also reducing operating expenses for the Department of Public Works. In the same year, MEA also invested SEIF funds to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy bills of local public buildings, parking lots and garages, and vehicle fleets across Maryland through high-efficiency lighting, heating and cooling equipment, advanced energy control systems, and electric vehicles.

The MSEC Program empowers Maryland communities by enabling county and municipal governments to plan for long-term reductions in both energy consumption and associated operating expenses and by investing SEIF funds in clean energy projects. The program directly benefits communities while advancing the state's energy and environmental goals.



MSEC grant recipient, The City of Cambridge, installed a 42.64 kW solar array which results in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and lower electricity bills.

Success Story: Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation in Allegany County, Maryland

The Evergreen Heritage Center (EHC) is a 131-acre historic Appalachian farm that has been hosting award-winning education and training programs since 2008, serving 10,000 students and visitors annually. In 2022 – 2023, the EHC plans to expand its use of green energy solutions across its campus to provide real world examples of alternative energy technology applied in rural settings. Five innovative, replicable projects have been designed to support the EHC Foundation's goals of financial sustainability, resilience, STEM education/training, and inclusive rural economic development. The EHC will provide a demonstration of renewable energy applications including a farm-wide aggregate net metering system capable of islanding during power outages, novel uses of solar such as



EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER IN ALLEGHENY COUNTY, MARYLAND

pond aeration and charging of mobile electronics, and a micro-hydro demonstrator system. The projects engage visitors at the EHC in interactive training modules based on the alternative energy installations to increase energy literacy and increase interest in energy courses and careers.

The EHC received \$108,120 in funding to support the project through MEA's OPEN Innovation Program. The OPEN program launched in 2022 to address innovative solutions that fall outside of the agency's established suite of technology and sector-specific programs. MEA occasionally receives proposals for energy projects and initiatives outside of the agency's suite of established technology and sector-specific energy programs offered in a given fiscal year.

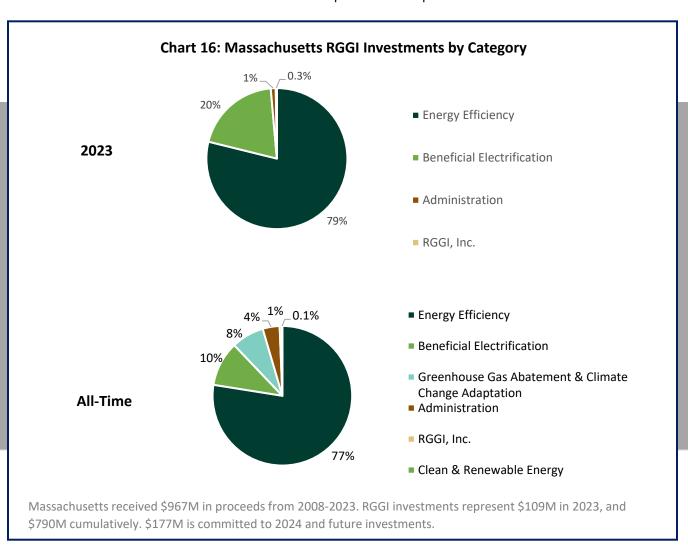
Resources:

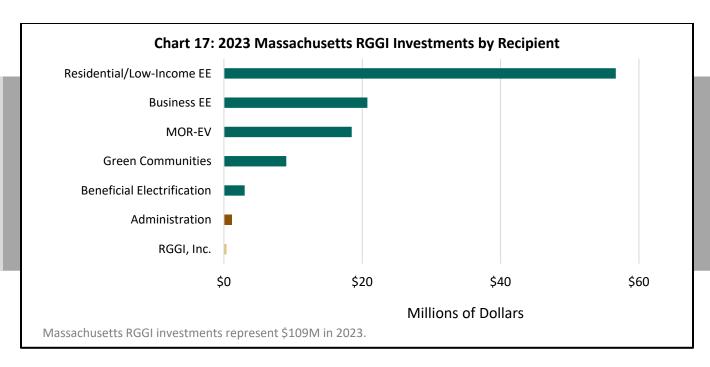
- Maryland Energy Administration Website
- Strategic Energy Investment Fund Annual Reports

Massachusetts

Massachusetts remains a national leader in climate policy, with a long-standing commitment to reducing emissions and advancing clean energy. The state has participated in RGGI since its inception and continues to shape its climate programs through landmark legislation, including the Global Warming Solutions Act (2008) and the Next Generation Roadmap Act (2021), which commits the Commonwealth to net-zero emissions by 2050.

In recent years, Massachusetts has intensified its focus on environmental justice (EJ), ensuring that RGGI-funded initiatives directly benefit communities historically overburdened by pollution and underserved in clean energy access. In 2023, this shift began to take shape, embedding equity into program design and targeting support for EJ populations—such as residents with limited English proficiency, low-income households, and communities of color. Future RGGI investments will continue to reflect and expand on these priorities.





Massachusetts invests RGGI proceeds to support its nation leading Mass Save® energy efficiency programs, Green Communities Grant Program, and beneficial electrification, which is a term for replacing direct fossil fuel use (e.g., propane, heating oil, gasoline) with electricity in a way that reduces energy costs and overall emissions.

Beginning in 2022, the Mass Save programs began to shift beyond energy efficiency to support building decarbonization through the elimination or reduction of fossil fuel end uses. Massachusetts heat pump adoption accelerated as a result, with record numbers of heat pump installations in 2022, 2023 and 2024. Nearly 20 percent of the investment of proceeds in energy efficiency programs is for low-income residents.

The state's MOR-EV program provides rebates to make electric vehicles more affordable for residents and businesses. The program helps accelerate Massachusetts' transition to electric vehicles and lowers transportation-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration made substantial changes to the program to support greater adoption of EVs in Massachusetts and provide additional funds for income-qualifying residents. Between August 2023 and December 2024, 1,415 income-qualifying rebates were issued.

The Green Communities Program provides grants, technical assistance, and local support to help cities and towns reduce energy use and costs by implementing clean energy projects in municipal buildings, facilities, and schools. The Green Communities Program contributes to reduced ongoing energy costs and healthier public buildings, which indirectly benefit all residents and businesses of the communities. For example, a grant to help a community make energy efficiency upgrades in a school directly benefits the school's operations and occupants and indirectly benefits the community by reducing public funds spent on energy costs, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and, in some cases, upgrading a municipal emergency shelter location. These benefits can positively impact the community's financial situation and overall health and well-being. In 2023, 103 of the 168 cities and towns that received Green Communities funding included at least one environmental justice criteria, which illustrates the program's ongoing support of equity.

2023 Massachusetts RGGI Investments

In 2023, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) invested \$77,395,321 in its Mass Save energy efficiency programs, of which \$15,327,464 was targeted for low-income recipients; issued \$18,475,390 in electric vehicle rebates and awarded \$12,021,851 to municipalities to implement energy efficiency and clean energy projects. Beneficial Electrification investments were made in the MOR-EV and Green Communities programs.

Clarification on Equity Metrics and Data Reporting

Efforts to measure and report progress in achieving equity, particularly for low-income communities, are influenced by several factors. These include the specific parameters set by MA statutes and the framework of data collection used by RGGI, Inc. As a result, the metrics the state used to track equity may not always align perfectly with the data structures in place for regional program reporting by RGGI, Inc. Consequently, the numbers reflecting progress in income-eligible and equity-focused initiatives may, at times, appear higher than anticipated, due to these reporting frameworks. These nuances in data collection and reporting are actively considered when interpreting the outcomes, and the state's commitment to equity remains central to the success of its climate policies.

Success Story: The Town of Warren's Green Communities Projects

The Green Communities Division serves all 351 Massachusetts cities and towns to help them fund clean energy solutions that reduce long-term energy costs, strengthen local economies, and lower air pollution in their communities.

Since becoming a Green Community in 2017, the Town of Warren has received over \$500,000 in Green Communities grants for projects to upgrade its municipal facilities. These projects include HVAC conversion and weatherization measures to increase energy efficiency in two fire stations; lighting and weatherization improvements in municipal buildings including an office building, department of public works, police station, senior center, and wastewater treatment plant; an energy-efficient freezer replacement for the council on aging, and the purchase of a hybrid electric vehicle.

These improvements resulted in an 11.3% reduction in energy use and a 10.5% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, demonstrating the town's commitment to energy efficiency and strengthening its future grant applications.

After implementing these municipal projects, the town took a more strategic approach toward energy improvements by focusing on its regional school buildings, which use far more energy than other municipal facilities.

In the summer of 2023, Warren used a \$195,000 Green Communities Competitive Grant to partially fund the replacement of its elementary school's outdated HVAC controls with a modern digital system. This upgrade improves indoor air quality and comfort, benefiting students and faculty. Serving a 47% environmental justice population (income-based), the school expects annual cost savings of nearly \$50,000 and reduced greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 36 gasoline-powered vehicles from the road. The town anticipates additional benefits like decreased maintenance, lower overhead, and improved building management.

Warren's strategic approach to Green Communities funding is expected to yield significant results. The controls project is estimated to reduce Warren's annual energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions more than all previous projects combined.

Success Story: Heat pump installations through Mass Save

The Massachusetts 2022-2024 Energy Efficiency Plan that guides the Mass Save programs represents an ambitious investment in energy efficiency and was the first time the Plan included greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals for both electricity and natural gas. Electrifying space heating played a key role in achieving these goals. Mass Save implemented several strategies to prioritize and increase installation of heat pumps, including promoting customer awareness and support of heat pump technology; ensuring contractors are well-positioned to educate customers and provide quality installations through training and a qualified "Heat Pump Installer Network;" engagement with heat pump manufacturers and distributors; and reducing financial support for fossil fuel heating equipment.

In 2023, Mass Save exceeded goals for heat pump installations in the Residential and Income Eligible sectors, which reflects the success of these efforts. Mass Save exceeded its goal by 40 percent and incentivized the installation of heat pumps in 28,273 residential and income eligible customer homes. This results in a reduction of approximately 85,000 metric tons of emissions annually through 2030 and provides lifetime benefits of

\$382,000,000. Mass Save also exceeded its specific 2023 income eligible goals, installing heat pumps in a total of 2,592 customer homes compared to the goal of 2,500. Of these installations, 48% of the homes replaced electric resistance heat, significantly reducing energy burden for these customers. Consistent with efforts to prioritize equitable access to Mass Save programs, 40% of the income-eligible homes and 90% of the moderate-income customer homes were located in the program's targeted equity communities. This is a significant increase in the number of residential and income eligible homes that installed heat pumps from 2022 to 2023.



AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INSTALLATION AT A NEW HOME DEVELOPMENT

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⁴ Based on the ResStock Analysis Tool, upgrading from electric resistance to a high efficiency heat pump creates, on average, 63% savings on heating bills for low income households. <u>ResStock Analysis Tool | Buildings | NREL</u>

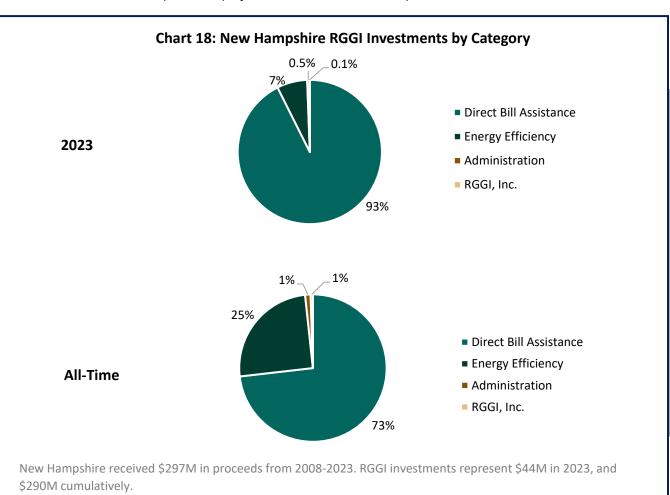
New Hampshire

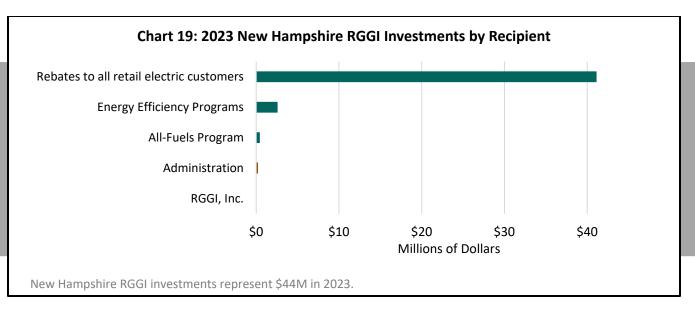
New Hampshire invests RGGI allowance proceeds in a variety of programs that reduce energy use in municipal and retail buildings, commercial and industrial facilities, and low-income households. RGGI allowance proceeds also provide direct bill assistance to reduce electric bills.

In 2023, New Hampshire received approximately \$44.4 million in RGGI allowance proceeds, of which approximately \$2.59 million was allocated to the Energy Efficiency Fund (EEF). The state's four electric utility companies administer energy efficiency fund programs through the EEF in combination with funds collected from all ratepayers through the System Benefits Charge. Approximately \$41.1 million was used to provide direct bill assistance to New Hampshire electric consumers, \$0.43 million was allocated to the all-fuels grant program, and the remaining RGGI auction proceeds of approximately \$0.26 million covered RGGI-related administrative expenses.

The state's electric utility companies' energy efficiency programs supported by RGGI funds include a Municipal program; an income-eligible Home Energy Assistance program; and an All-Fuels weatherization program targeting moderate-income households. In 2023, EEF funds were used to accomplish the following:

- Conducted energy audits and/or installed energy efficiency measures in 170 municipal buildings;
- Weatherized and/or provided weatherization self-install "kits" to 122 income-eligible homes; and
- Worked closely with Community Action Agencies to deliver weatherization services to moderate-income customers and completed 32 projects with 10 more in development.





Program Highlight: Efficiency Programs

For the measures installed in 2023, the Home Energy Assistance and Municipal programs will save approximately 60,116 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity and 53,838 million British Thermal Units (MMBTU) over the expected life of the energy efficient equipment improvements. Associated bill savings over the lifetime of these improvements installed in 2023 is estimated to be \$10.3 million.

The All-Fuels program was launched in 2016. For the most recent All-Fuels grant award, the All-Fuels programs will save approximately 630 MWh of electricity and 38,348 MMBtu over the expected life of the energy efficient equipment improvements installed through 2023. From 2016 through 2018, the program received \$1.2 million of RGGI funding to support energy efficiency measures for retail businesses, and large commercial and industrial energy users. Beginning in 2019, the All-Fuels program supported energy efficiency measures for moderate-income residential energy users with household income of 200% to 300% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Working with Community Action Agencies, the New Hampshire electric utilities provided energy audits, and offered financial incentives for installation of energy efficiency measures. Beginning in 2019, this program received a total of \$690 thousand of RGGI funding over a three-year period. The All-Fuels program experienced implementation challenges during 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic related factors; therefore, the program was extended through 2024.

Success Story: Ashland Wastewater Treatment Facility

In 2018 the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning secured funding from the U.S. Department of Energy to perform comprehensive process energy evaluations at selected New Hampshire wastewater treatment facilities. The Ashland Wastewater Treatment Facility was selected as a site to receive an evaluation. Although the Town of Ashland is a Municipal Utility, and does not contribute to the System Benefits Charge, it was eligible to participate and receive an incentive through the RGGI funded NHSaves Municipal Program.

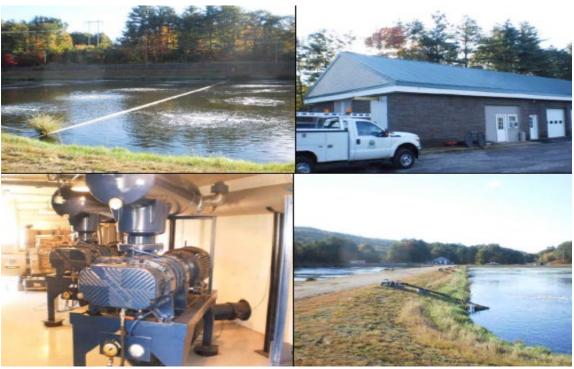
Process Energy Services (PES) was selected as the consultant to perform the energy evaluations. PES specializes in water/wastewater system process energy evaluations and has performed evaluations throughout the U.S. and internationally.

They conducted an energy study which included the following:

- Provide an energy-related review of each facility process.
- Assemble energy, flow and equipment operational information based on plant process and field measurements collected to identify potential cost saving projects.
- Provide preliminary savings and cost data for the identified energy measures.

Based on the recommendations generated from the report, the Town installed new diffusers in Lagoon #1. This project involved replacing the existing tube-style aeration diffuser assemblies where most of the treatment is accomplished. By replacing the existing diffusers with new fully intact membranes, the air transfer efficiency was increased and, by increasing the density of diffusers in Lagoon #1, the air is supplied to just two lagoons and not all four lagoons as were originally practiced. This reduced energy usage significantly when coupled with the existing VFD aeration blowers.

The total project cost was \$97,500 with the Town of Ashland receiving \$34,125 in incentives through the NHSaves Municipal Program and partner New Hampshire Electric Co-Op. Energy savings of over 200,000 kWh will save approximately \$25,000 per year and yield a 2.5-year payback.



SELECTED IMAGES OF THE ASHLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Resources:

- NH Energy Efficiency 2021-2023 Program Plan
- 2023 Systems Benefit Charge Report to New Hampshire Legislature (including Annual Report on RGGI)
- 2024 Systems Benefit Charge Report to New Hampshire Legislature (including Annual Report on RGGI)
- RGGI Annual Reports to the Legislature

New Jersey

New Jersey invests its RGGI auction proceeds in programs and projects designed to help meet the State's climate, clean energy, and environmental justice goals. New Jersey's 2023 RGGI investments utilized funds from previous calendar year auctions, as well as 2023 auctions, and are therefore guided by both triennial Strategic Funding Plans RGGI Strategic Funding Plan: Years 2020 through 2022 and RGGI Strategic Funding Plan: Years 2023 through 2025. These plans direct the investment of the State's auction proceeds, ensuring cross-agency coordination for maximum collective impact.

By law, New Jersey's RGGI funding is allocated by percentage to three state agencies (60% to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, 20% to the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and 20% to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection) and each agency is required to spend funds within specific programs areas. The 2020-2022 Plan primarily invests proceeds towards programs dedicated to clean transportation (75%), deployment of a New Jersey Green Bank (15%) and carbon sequestration projects (10%). The 2023-2025 Plan invests proceeds towards programs dedicated to clean transportation (41%), accelerating healthy homes and building decarbonization (49%), and carbon sequestration projects (10%). New Jersey joined RGGI in 2020 and is continuing to actively establish programs and internal mechanisms to facilitate the disbursement of auction proceeds that complement the State's emissions reductions, clean energy, and environmental justice priorities.

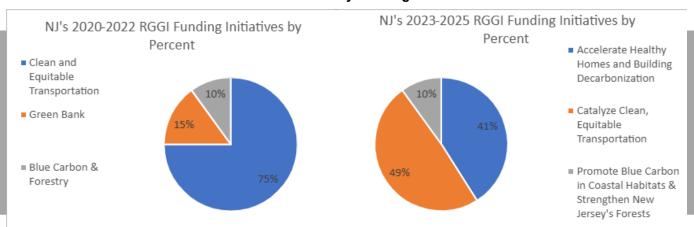


Chart 19: New Jersey Funding Initiatives

During 2023, New Jersey invested RGGI Auction Proceeds in the following programs:

New Jersey Zero-Emission Incentive Program

Initially launched in April 2021, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority New Jersey Zero-Emission Incentive Program (NJ ZIP) has shown continued success. NJ ZIP is a voucher program that aims to incentivize the adoption of zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by businesses and institutional organizations. The program offsets the costs of purchasing electric class 2b to class 8 vehicles by offering vouchers with base values ranging between \$20,000 to \$175,000. Additional bonuses are available for small businesses; women-, minority-, and veteran-owned businesses; vehicles that were manufactured in New Jersey; school buses; and vehicles operating in environmental justice communities.

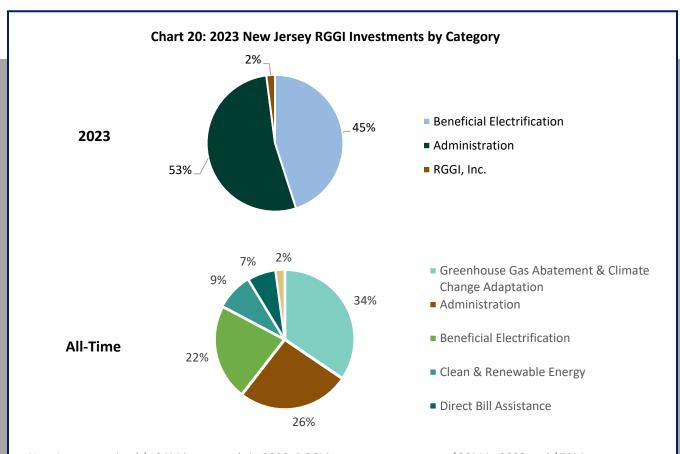
Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicle Electrification Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Medium & Heavy-Duty Vehicle Electrification grant program funds the incremental costs of purchasing new, medium-and heavy-duty electric vehicles including school buses, garbage trucks, transit, and shuttle buses along with associated charging stations. The program's award recipients include local governments and contractors that provide services to residents. Projects were identified

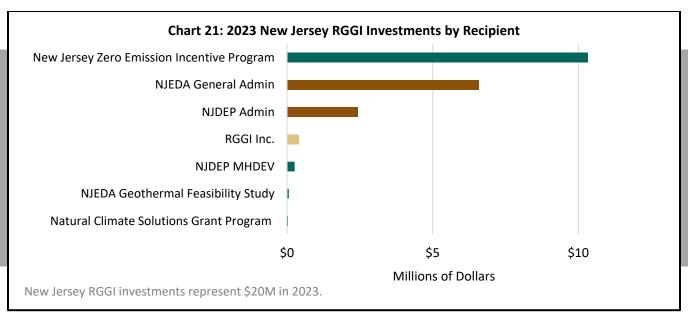
through a series of open solicitations with priority given to projects in overburdened communities that demonstrate the best greenhouse gas cost effectiveness.

Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program

The Natural Climate Solutions Grant program funds on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's natural carbon sinks, such as salt marshes, seagrass beds, forests, urban parks and woodlands, and street trees. Natural resources that sequester carbon play a critical role in meeting the State's 2050 goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gases below 2006 levels.



New Jersey received \$194M in proceeds in 2023. RGGI investments represent \$20M in 2023 and \$73M cumulatively. New Jersey was an early participant in RGGI before withdrawing in 2012, and then resuming participation in 2020. First control period (2008-2012) proceeds investments total \$43.6 million, which are reflected in the cumulative investments chart.



New Jersey received \$195,432,470 in proceeds in 2023. RGGI investments represent \$20,083,012 in 2023 and \$30,050,218 cumulatively since NJ rejoined RGGI in 2020.

Program Highlight: Implementation of the NJDEP Medium-and-Heavy Duty Diesel Vehicle Electrification Grant Program

Located in Passaic County, the Paterson Fire Department is one of the first awardees to receive its new electric vehicle. This grant, in the amount of \$261,034, enabled the Paterson Fire Department to replace 1 gasoline utility truck with an electric utility truck. The new vehicle is estimated to avoid a total of 531 metric tons of CO₂ emissions, 2,400 pounds of NOx emissions, and avoid the use of 12,555 MMBtu of energy over the course of a fifteen-year vehicle lifetime.

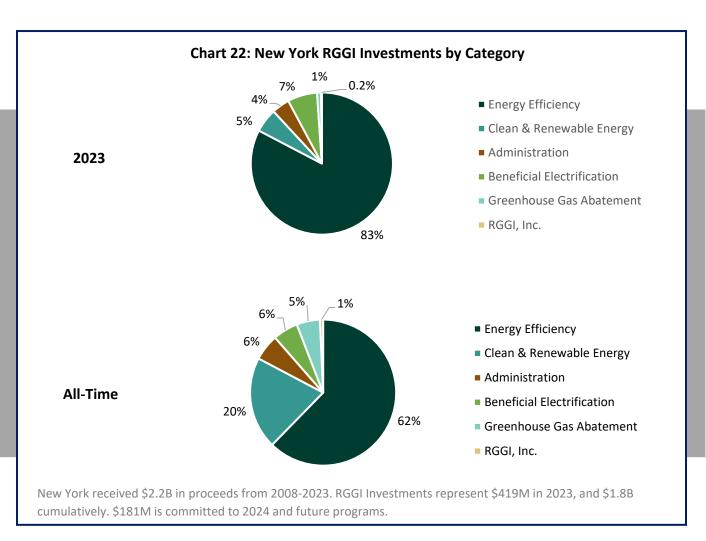
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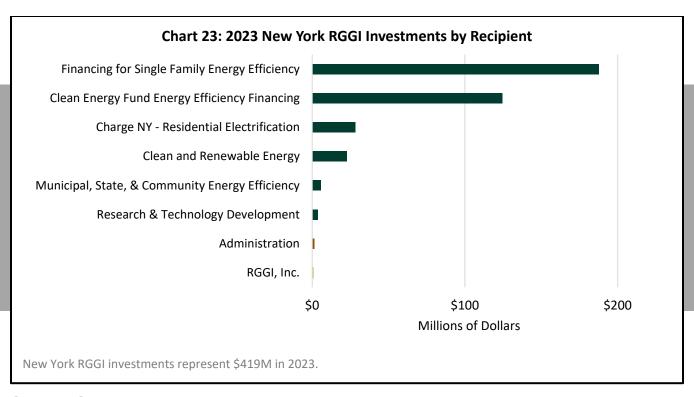
• NJDEP WorkClean: Diesel Modernization Program

New York

New York's robust record of climate action includes helping to establish RGGI as North America's first market-based program to reduce carbon emissions. The state affirmed its role as a climate leader with enactment of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act), one of the most aggressive climate policies of any major economy. The state has already reduced electricity emissions by 51% since 2005 from sources covered by the RGGI program. Further reductions in electricity sector emissions will allow for needed shifts to electrify buildings and transportation. RGGI, alongside state policies such as the Clean Energy Standard, focused on renewable generation deployment, and the ten-year, \$5 billion Clean Energy Fund, focused on buildings decarbonization, will continue to serve as a critical tool to reduce state-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% from 1990 levels by 2030 and realize a zero-carbon electricity sector by 2040.

Proceeds generated through RGGI auctions allow New York to pursue opportunities for clean energy, energy efficiency, and carbon reduction that other state activities are not currently designed to reach. The demand for RGGI-supported programs underscores New Yorkers' desire for clean energy opportunities.





Success Story: EmPower+

In July 2023, EmPower+ launched which now provides one program umbrella to serve all moderate and low-income households. Previously these two groups were offered distinct programs; now combined under a singular name, the refreshed program streamlines and simplifies how NYSERDA interfaces with customers in the market. Along with EmPower+, the NY Home Energy Portal (NYHEP) was launched providing an updated portal for contractor management of program projects. The launch of EmPower+ and NYHEP is expected to provide a more streamlined approach for contractors and customers, while providing flexibility for the program to make modifications much easier and effectively. Through year-end 2023 EmPower+ has used RGGI funds to serve over 22,000 customers, saving over 5,500 MWh of electricity and over 611,000 MMBtu from various fuels. EmPower+ now also leverages federal funding from the Inflation Reduction Act, expanding the energy efficiency incentives available to New Yorkers. For more information on Empower+ please visit the NYSERDA website.

Program Highlight: Clean Energy Workforce Development

In December 2023, Governor Kathy Hochul announced a new initiative to expand the capacity of labor organizations to offer training as a pathway to clean energy careers. RGGI funds support the just transition of fossil fuel workers and provide pathways for new entrants from disadvantaged communities to the clean energy workforce. This funding also supports pre-apprenticeship programs that provide direct-entry into union apprenticeship programs, union training for apprentices and journey workers to support the transition to clean energy jobs, including developing training curriculum and purchasing training equipment. For more information on the Clean Energy Workforce Development program, please visit the NYSERDA website.

Resources

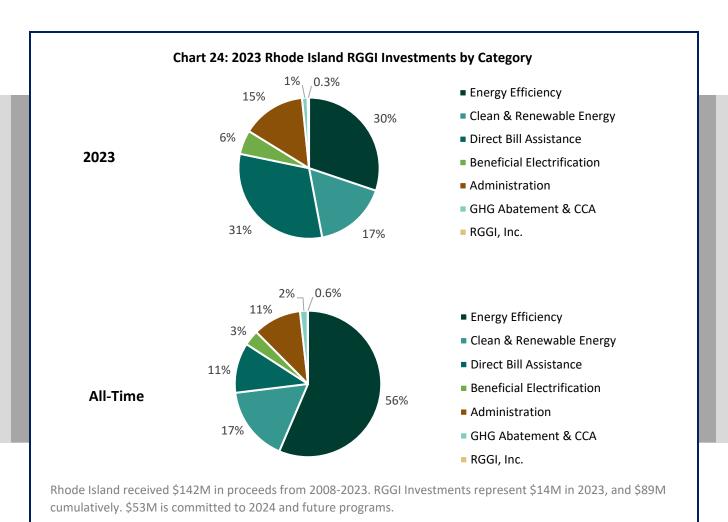
- Empower +
- Clean Energy Workforce Development

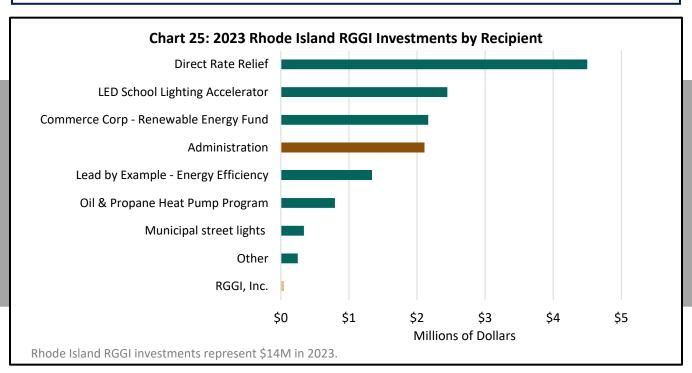
Rhode Island

Rhode Island RGGI auction proceeds are allocated by the state's Office of Energy Resources (OER) to drive investment in, and expansion of renewable energy resources and cost-effective energy efficiency, as well as provide direct rate relief to low-income customers. RGGI auction proceeds are accelerating cleaner, more sustainable energy solutions across public and private sector institutions and in Ocean State communities. These investments are being made in a manner consistent with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Act, Rhode Island's State Energy Plan, the 2021 Act on Climate, and broader state energy and environmental policy goals.

In 2023, Rhode Island RGGI proceeds were allocated to support several important clean energy programs, including:

- Providing enhanced financial incentives to support Rhode Island municipalities with the conversion of local streetlights to high-efficiency LED technologies;
- Continued support for the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Energy-Savings
 Trees program, which distributes trees to homeowners that can be strategically planted on their property
 and result in saving energy and lower utility bills;
- Advancement of the State Clean Energy Lead by Example program, which is supporting the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at state government properties;
- Continued support for a Farm Energy Program that links local farms to energy efficiency and solar PV
 opportunities;
- Support for the Zero Energy for the Ocean State (ZEOS) program through collaboration with Rhode Island Housing and National Grid. This program is designed to help provide energy savings to low and moderate income (LMI) customers in Rhode Island;
- Support renewable development on brownfields through Rhode Island Commerce Corporation's Renewable Energy Fund;
- Furthering solar PV adoption by Rhode Island homeowners and small businesses through continued support of the state's Renewable Energy Fund;
- Support for the launch of an Affordable Solar Access Pathways Program for direct incentives for solar customers with a low and moderate income focus;
- Continued support for the installation and operation of air-source heat pumps; and
- Continued support for low-income utility customers enrolled in the A-60 rate class for electric bill credits.





Program Highlight: Lead by Example

In 2023, the Lead by Example program, run out of Rl's Office of Energy Resources (OER), announced the completion of an LED Lighting upgrade at the Elenor Slater Hospital facility on the Zambarano campus in Burrillville, Rl. This project, done in coordination with ongoing renovations at the facility and with the support of Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance and C&K Electric Company, replaced aging and inefficient lighting throughout the interior of the hospital building with high-efficiency LED lights with integrated controls.

These upgrades will improve the visibility and environment for both patients and staff and will result in energy savings of 235,000 kWh/year and annual cost savings of over \$43,000/year. This project was funded by OER using RGGI auction proceeds and supported by an energy efficiency incentive from Pascoag Utility District.

This lighting project was the second phase of systematic lighting upgrades at the Zambarano facility, following a first phase of lighting upgrades to all of the exterior lighting on campus as well as the interior of the steam plant, which was completed through the Lead by Example program in 2023. With these projects completed, significant improvements have been realized campus-wide and these ongoing investments will help the State in its progress to reduce energy usage and emissions in pursuit of our Act on Climate goals.

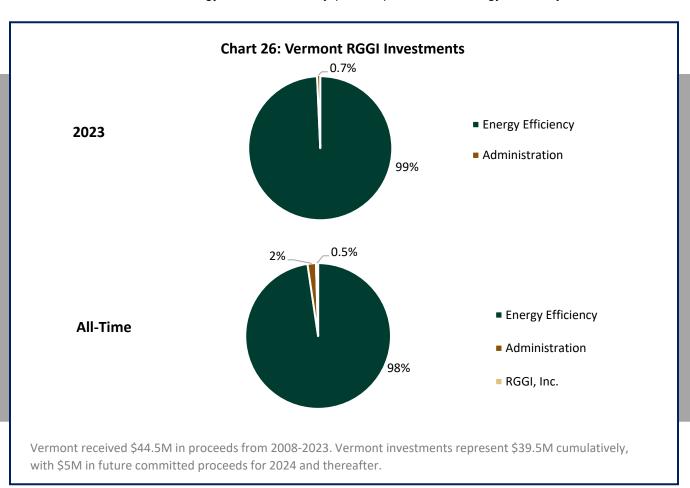


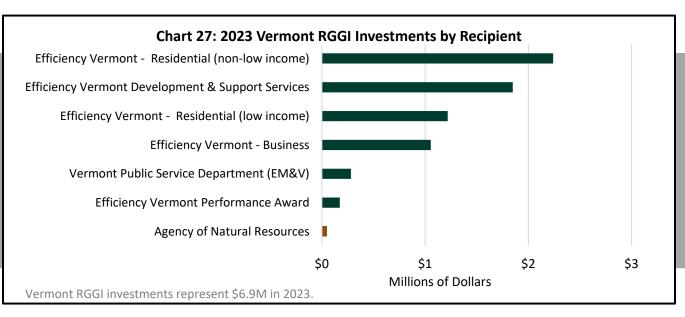
IMAGES OF THE OLD (LEFT) AND UPGRADED (RIGHT) LIGHTING AT THE ELENOR SLATER HOSPITAL

Vermont

Vermont invests the majority of its CO2 allowance proceeds in programs managed by Efficiency Vermont. RGGI funds allow Efficiency Vermont to expand its electrical energy efficiency programs to include thermal energy and process fuels efficiency programs. Efficiency Vermont's participation in the regional grid's forward capacity market also provides funds for this program expansion. Vermont's thermal energy and process fuels efficiency programs funded by RGGI through 2023 are estimated to result in lifetime energy savings of 6,895,996 MMBtu. These programs are estimated to avoid the emission of 397,895 short tons of CO2, and to save participants \$152,006,344 million on their energy bills over the lifetime of those investments. Vermont's RGGI-funded programs have served approximately 17,552 households and 963 businesses. Programs currently supported by CO2 allowance proceeds include the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® service for residential customers (residential buildings with 1-4 units), the Building Performance service providing incentives for efficiency services to small business customers (including multi-family rental properties of 5 or more units), the Home Energy Loan for residential customers, low-income energy efficiency services through 3E Thermal project management, custom residential and commercial thermal efficiency projects, off-grid residential new construction, technologies including woodstoves and heat pumps, retail do-it-yourself (DIY) and weatherization kits, and development and support services.

Efficiency Vermont, the nation's first ratepayer-funded energy efficiency utility, is overseen by the Vermont Public Utility Commission, and implemented by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC). Efficiency Vermont's programs have a proven track record of saving energy and money for commercial, industrial, and residential consumers. These and other energy efficiency programs helped to rank Vermont fourth in the nation, according to the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) 2025 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard.





Program Highlight: Home Performance with ENERGY STAR ® and the Home Energy Loan

The Efficiency Vermont Home Performance with ENERGY STAR service is an incentive-based program for Vermont residences with 1-4 units, to lower utility bills and increase home comfort and safety by installing insulation, air sealing, and health and safety components. Vermont households can access comprehensive thermal efficiency retrofits, incentives to offset project costs, and low-to-no interest rate financing. Customers hire a participating Efficiency Excellence Network, Building Performance Institute-certified contractor. In 2023, this allowed customers to receive incentives up to \$4,000, which requires the contractor to meet Vermont residential building energy codes and standards, health and safety and program requirements, and provides quality assurance for projects.

The Efficiency Vermont Home Performance with ENERGY STAR service officially launched in 2005. In 2008, when the Vermont Legislature set a statewide goal to weatherize 80,000 homes by the year 2020, the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR service was galvanized. The legislation sought to harness energy efficiency as a driver of savings for consumers and economic development in Vermont. Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is one of the primary programs contributing to these goals.

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is a national collaborative program between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that includes a network of 32 utility and nonprofit sponsors, and 1,300 home performance contractors. Although local programs differ, they follow the same basic structure to ensure a comprehensive, whole-house approach to energy efficiency and maximize long-term savings for homeowners. The key components of the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program approach are outlined by U.S. DOE and implemented in Vermont by Efficiency Vermont.

The RGGI funded portion of the Efficiency Vermont Home Energy Loan program provides residential customers low-to-no interest rate financing for Home Performance with ENERGY STAR projects and other thermal efficiency projects, including woodstoves (pellet and cord wood,) and central pellet heating systems with income-based interest-rate buydowns and loan loss reserve support for participating lenders.

Success Story: Home Performance weatherization breathes new life into a nearly two-century old home

In 2023, Efficiency Vermont completed 662 Home Performance with ENERGY STAR projects. The rebate program offers air sealing and insulation as part of comprehensive weatherization of a home—and includes important health and safety measures related to indoor air quality and ventilation. Home Performance projects brought increased

comfort and energy savings to more than 687 housing units, nearly half of which were in the homes of low- or moderate-income customers.

One of those 2023 Home Performance customers was Christopher Serkin, who had lived in his 1840s-era home in Marlboro for more than 20 years but was still plagued by moisture, drafts, and odors from his dirt floor, low-ceilinged cellar. "It was a horrible, horrible place to work," Christopher said, recalling plumbers and electricians who "refused" to work in the dank and smelly basement over the years.

A friend recommended Christopher reach out to Farnum Insulators to finally fix the issues in his basement. Christopher paid for an energy audit that included a blower door test, infrared imaging, and safety tests of combustion appliances. The contractor identified "low-hanging fruit" to improve the home, like sealing cracks and adding insulation, and addressing an old stairway to an attic that was acting like "a chimney sucking heat out of the house." After discussing the project and being concerned about the high cost, Christopher said the contractor offered some helpful advice: "Look, Efficiency Vermont has some terrific incentives, and we think it would make a difference in your house," he recalled the contractor saying.

Christopher turned to Efficiency Vermont's customer support, who talked him through the weatherization incentives available through the RGGI-funded Home Performance program. Christopher said the cost savings through the program made the difference. "Thanks to Efficiency Vermont, it looked to be something we could swing financially," he said. The incentives "made a big difference for us to do as much as we did."

The work involved extensive air sealing around the home's foundation, and adding insulation throughout the basement. The contractor also built an insulated and weather-stripped bulkhead door for the basement. An old vapor barrier covering the cellar's dirt floor was removed, and a new 20-mil fiber-reinforced and fire-retardant vapor barrier was installed and sealed with spray foam. The contractor also added a fire protective coating to the vapor barrier for added safety. In the attic, additional air sealing was performed and blown cellulose insulation was added, along with an insulated dam and an insulated cover for the attic stair.

For Christopher, the results were almost too good to believe. "It made an enormous difference almost immediately," he told Efficiency Vermont. "The house just feels better." The repairs also addressed the odor, removing the "dank smell of moisture that just always made it feel wet," he said. "Within a matter of a month or so, it just felt better. It felt dryer, it didn't smell, it felt together and less drafty. It improved the whole situation based on how the house felt."

Once the work was done, Christopher was "astonished how little red tape there was" and the rebate was "really straightforward." The whole process worked "like it should." Comparing the weatherized home to the energy audit's baseline, the "numbers were dramatic and [we saw a] significant improvement" in the air exchange rate. "We felt it right away. We knew even without looking at the numbers." The work "certainly saves us money on heating. And makes it an easier, nicer place to be in ways we really appreciate," he added.

Beyond the comfort, savings, and improved quality of life, Christopher says the Home Performance project is helping future occupants of his nearly two-century-old home. "This has made a tremendous difference in the lifespan of this house, even though it's already been around for a long time. I think getting the moisture out is going to make a big difference for that house to be there for another 100 years."



EQUIPMENT USED FOR RESTORING AND WEATHERIZING MR. SERKIN'S BASEMENT

Resources:

- Efficiency Vermont Rebates
- Efficiency Vermont Services
- Efficiency Vermont News

¹² The heat pumps were funded by Efficiency Vermont but not with RGGI funds.

Glossary and Methodology

Program Categories

Administration

Funds directed to administrative overhead expense associated with all RGGI-funded programs, including outsourced and in-house overhead expenses.

Beneficial Electrification

Programs designed to reduce fossil fuel consumption by implementing or facilitating fuel-switching to replace direct fossil fuel use with electric power. Examples include incentives for electric vehicles and home appliances, and installation of electric vehicle infrastructure. Program costs include evaluation and measurement.

Clean and Renewable Energy

Programs directed at accelerating the deployment of renewable or other non-carbon emitting energy technologies. Program costs include evaluation and measurement. Examples include incentives for residential solar panels, financing commercial renewable energy projects through green banking, research and development of new energy technologies.

Direct Bill Assistance

Programs providing energy bill payment assistance, including direct bill assistance to low-income ratepayers. Program costs include evaluation and measurement.

Energy Efficiency

Programs designed to improve energy efficiency by reducing overall energy use without degrading functionality. This includes programs directed at assisting low-income families and small businesses. Program costs include evaluation and measurement. Examples: home energy audit programs, home and building weatherization, energy efficient appliance or industrial equipment rebate programs, compact fluorescent light bulb programs, and energy efficiency workforce training programs.

Greenhouse Gas Abatement & Climate Change Adaptation

Programs promoting the research and development of advanced energy technologies, the reduction of vehicle miles traveled, the reduction of emissions in the power generation sector, tree-planting projects designed to increase carbon sequestration, other initiatives to reduce greenhouse gases, and climate adaptation and community preparedness initiatives. Some projects can support multiple functions, such as natural area restoration that also serves flood mitigation planning purposes. Program costs include evaluation and measurement.

RGGI. Inc.

Funds provided to RGGI, Inc. to support and implement state CO₂ Budget Trading programs.

General Terms

RGGI Investments

RGGI Investments are the proceeds generated by RGGI CO₂ allowance auctions that have been invested by the RGGI states in the energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy, GHG abatement and climate change adaptation, and direct bill assistance programs discussed in this report.

Future Committed

Future committed funds are the proceeds generated by RGGI CO₂ allowance auctions that have not yet been invested by the RGGI states. Future committed proceeds represent funds that could be invested by the state in 2024 and beyond.

Current Period

The twelve-month period covered by this report, which may be either the fiscal year or calendar year 2023, as defined by each state.

Benefits and Statistics

Annual (2023)

A measure of one year's worth of benefits from all measures installed in 2023. Note that actual realized benefits in the year 2023 may differ slightly from the 2023 annual benefits, since measures may be installed at different times during the year.

Lifetime (2023)

The full benefits of measures installed in 2023, including benefits to be realized in the future. The lifespan of installed measures varies by type of measure and by program, and is calculated and provided by program administrators. For example, an industrial boiler would likely be estimated to provide benefits over a longer lifespan than an LED lightbulb. Measure lifespans used in this report typically range between 5-25 years.

Lifetime (All-Time)

The total estimated lifetime benefits of all measures installed since the inception of the RGGI program. This includes the full lifetime benefits of measures installed in previous years, in addition to the lifetime benefits of 2023 measures.

Funds Invested

Total dollar amount of RGGI proceeds invested in a program or category over a given period. For programs that are partially funded by RGGI, only the amount provided by RGGI funds is included.

Participating Households: Programs

Number of households that have directly received assistance as a result of each program (e.g. number of homes weatherized, number of households receiving home energy audits, etc.). Households participating in more than one program may be counted under each program they have participated in (e.g. a completed home energy audit constitutes a participating household even if the household may elect to further participate in programs to install recommended measures). For multi-family dwellings, each unit within the multi-family home may be considered to be a household. For retail programs such as lightbulb distribution, households may be extrapolated from the number of items distributed.

Participating Households: Direct Bill Assistance

Number of households receiving direct bill assistance or energy bill rebates funded through RGGI proceeds. Bill assistance programs vary by state; in some cases rebates may be returned to all customers, while in other cases they may be targeted to low-income customers or to specific customer types.

Participating Businesses: Programs

Number of "end-user" businesses who have directly received assistance as a result of the program (e.g. number of businesses whose offices were weatherized, number of businesses receiving grant assistance to install energy efficiency measures, etc., via a grant, loan, or rebate). Businesses participating in more than one program will be counted under each program they have participated in (e.g. a completed audit constitutes a Participating Business even if the business may elect to further participate in programs to install recommended measures).

Participating Businesses: Direct Bill Assistance

Number of businesses receiving direct bill assistance or energy bill rebates funded through RGGI proceeds.

Increased Employment

Total estimated direct job-years created as a result of RGGI funds invested. Estimates were created by applying job factors from the <u>2021 NYSERDA Clean Energy Industry Report</u> (CEIR) to analogous programs receiving RGGI investments. For programs receiving RGGI investments which related to multiple CEIR job categories, a composite job factor was used which averaged the CEIR job factors for relevant categories. This is a change in methodology compared to previous versions of this report, which estimated direct, indirect, and induced job-years using reasonable job factors based on literature review.

MWh Avoided

Estimated total MWh projected to be avoided as a result of RGGI funds invested, calculated using program-specific savings as defined by each state.

MMBtu Avoided

Estimated total MMBtu projected to be avoided as a result of RGGI funds invested, calculated using programspecific savings as defined by each state.

Energy Bill Savings

Estimated gross amount saved as a result of RGGI funds invested (initial investment in installed measures is not deducted). Calculated using program-specific savings, as defined by each state. Estimates of lifetime energy bill savings are given in current year dollars as of the start of the savings, and in most cases are not discounted into the future. Where discounts are applied, they are noted on state-specific pages.

CO₂ Emissions Avoided

Estimated total number of short tons of CO_2 avoided as a result of funds invested, calculated using a program-specific formula as defined by each state.

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