

RGGI



RGGI Inc

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI, Inc.) is a non-profit corporation created to support development and implementation of the ten participating states' CO₂ Budget Trading Programs.

RGGI, Inc. will provide technical and support services for key elements of the states' CO₂ Budget Trading programs, including:

- Development and maintenance of a system to report data from emissions sources subject to RGGI, and to track CO₂ allowances
- Implementation of a platform to auction CO₂ allowances
- Monitoring the market related to the auction and trading of CO₂ allowances
- Providing technical assistance to the participating states in reviewing applications for emissions offset projects
- Providing technical assistance to the participating states to evaluate proposed changes to the states' RGGI programs

About RGGI

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative effort by ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to limit greenhouse gas emissions. RGGI is the first mandatory, market-based CO₂ emissions reduction program in the United States.

The states of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont are signatory states to the RGGI agreement. These ten states will cap CO₂ emissions from the power sector, and then require a 10 percent reduction in these emissions by 2018.

RGGI is composed of individual CO₂ Budget Trading Programs in each of the ten participating states. These ten programs are implemented through state regulations, based on a RGGI Model Rule, and are linked through CO₂ allowance reciprocity. Regulated power plants will be able to use a CO₂ allowance issued by any of the ten participating states to demonstrate compliance with the state program governing their facility. Taken together, the ten individual state programs will function as a single regional compliance market for carbon emissions.



How Cap-and-Trade Works

To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, the RGGI participating states are using a market-based cap-and-trade approach that includes:

- Establishing a multi-state CO₂ emissions budget (cap) that will decrease gradually until it is 10 percent lower than at the start
- Requiring electric power generator to hold allowances covering their emissions of CO₂
- Providing a market-based emissions auction and trading system where electric power generators can buy, sell and trade CO₂ emissions allowances
- Using the proceeds of allowance auctions to support low-carbon-intensity solutions, including energy efficiency and clean renewable energy, such as solar and wind power
- Employing offsets (greenhouse gas emissions reduction or sequestration projects at sources beyond the electricity sector) to help companies meet their compliance obligations

RGGI's phased approach means that reductions in the CO₂ cap will initially be modest, providing predictable market signals and regulatory certainty. Electricity generators will be able to plan for and invest in lower-carbon alternatives and avoid dramatic electricity price impacts.



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Mission Statement

New Jersey SHARES, Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized to provide assistance to individuals and families living in New Jersey who are in need of temporary help in paying their energy bills.

Program Information

New Jersey SHARES, Inc. (NJS) is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization designed to help New Jersey households that have fallen behind on their energy bills due to a temporary financial crisis. A financial crisis can happen to anyone, regardless of age, income, or family situation. A crisis is often due to unforeseen circumstances, such as job loss or illness. NJS provides relief to people who are not eligible for other types of assistance. Our program typically serves working poor, middle and fixed income households since there are solutions available for the lowest income households as a result of Federal and State energy assistance programs. NJS has enjoyed tremendous success since its inception in 1998. During this time we have assisted more than 152,000 households in crisis with energy assistance grants in excess of \$52,500,000.

NJS partners with 190 human service agencies and legislative offices with 239 intake sites statewide to provide critically needed energy assistance to families that are not eligible for other programs. Throughout the state, our partners address a broad spectrum of client needs. Providing case management services, they assist households with counseling, nutrition, housing, employment, as well as energy issues. Working together with our partner agencies we provide a holistic solution to the household's temporary or ongoing needs. NJS provides assistance to households that do not qualify for government funded low-income assistance programs. An individual or household can receive a one-time grant of up to \$700 for heating and \$300 for electricity (or \$700 for an all-electric home). We partner with the Fuel Merchants Association of NJ and the NJ Propane Gas Association to provide a one-time grant for deliverable fuels of up to \$700. We have also reached an agreement with the Vineland Municipal Electric Utility to provide assistance to their customers. NJS grants are paid directly to the energy provider. NJS grants are frequently combined with other assistance grants available from our partner agencies (e.g. mortgage or rent payments) to provide a comprehensive solution for families in need.

In addition to the NJS energy assistance program, we administer a water assistance program for United Water Company customers in NJ and eight additional states. NJS also partners with Verizon NJ to provide a unique, comprehensive and compassionate solution for Verizon low-income customers eligible for Communications Lifeline or the Link Up America program. NJS provides community outreach and enrollment services as well as providing direct services utilizing our Client Service Center staff.

NJS Programs

- Energy Assistance – Partnering with all of the regulated energy providers and the Fuel Merchants Association of NJ and the NJ Propane Gas Association
- Water Bill Payment Assistance – Providing assistance to United Water Company customers in NJ and eight other states
- Communications Lifeline – Partnership with Verizon NJ to provide program outreach, information and referral (Statewide network of agencies, presentations and NJS Client Services Call Center)
- Staff and administer the NJ Department of Community Affairs LIHEAP/USF/Weatherization Call Center