



*PENNSYLVANIA RGGI STRATEGY
EJAB BOARD UPDATE*

MAY 20, 2021

AGENDA

- I. Project Scope & Timeline Review
- II. Stakeholder Engagement Update
- III. The Input We Are Gathering
- IV. Emerging Themes
- V. How to Help!
- VI. Questions

WHO WE ARE

A Chicago-based environment nonprofit, Delta Institute collaborates with communities throughout the Midwest and Pennsylvania to solve complex environmental challenges.

Our Areas of Work:

- Coal Community Transition
- Climate Action Planning
- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Land Stewardship & Regenerative Agriculture
- Green Infrastructure & Stormwater Management
- Waste Reuse & Reduction
- Green Buildings

RGGI STRATEGY ENGAGEMENT

Delta Institute is assisting PA DEP on connecting with stakeholder groups throughout the Commonwealth, to gather input on:

- Ongoing methods of engagement around the program's effectiveness
- Highest impact areas for investment of RGGI revenues
- **DEP's Key Priorities:**
 - Fairness to Workers
 - Environmental Justice
 - Renewable/Clean Energy
 - Commercial/Industrial sector
- **Targeted Outcome:** Guiding principles and policy recommendations for ongoing engagement and programmatic investments

PROJECT TIMELINE

- **Research Period:** January – March 2021
- **Engagement Period:** March – July 2021
 - *Interviews & Presentations:* March – June 2021
 - *Online Surveys:* May – July 2021
- **Draft Guiding Principles:** End of June 2021
- **Draft RGGI Strategy Document:** End of July 2021

GROUPS WE ARE ENGAGING

- Elected officials
- Related state agencies
- Utility providers
- Labor unions
- Industry groups
- Consumer advocates
- Energy efficiency program administrators and contractors
- Solar and wind energy representatives
- Regional planning commissions
- Economic development entities
- Municipal governments
- Workforce development boards
- Community development corporations
- Universities and trade schools
- Faith-Based Institutions
- Environmental Advisory Councils
- Environmental Organizations
- Philanthropies
- Engaged community groups
- Private consultants

ENGAGEMENT METHODS

- Individual Interviews
- Focus Groups
- Virtual Presentations/Discussions
- Online Surveys

ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

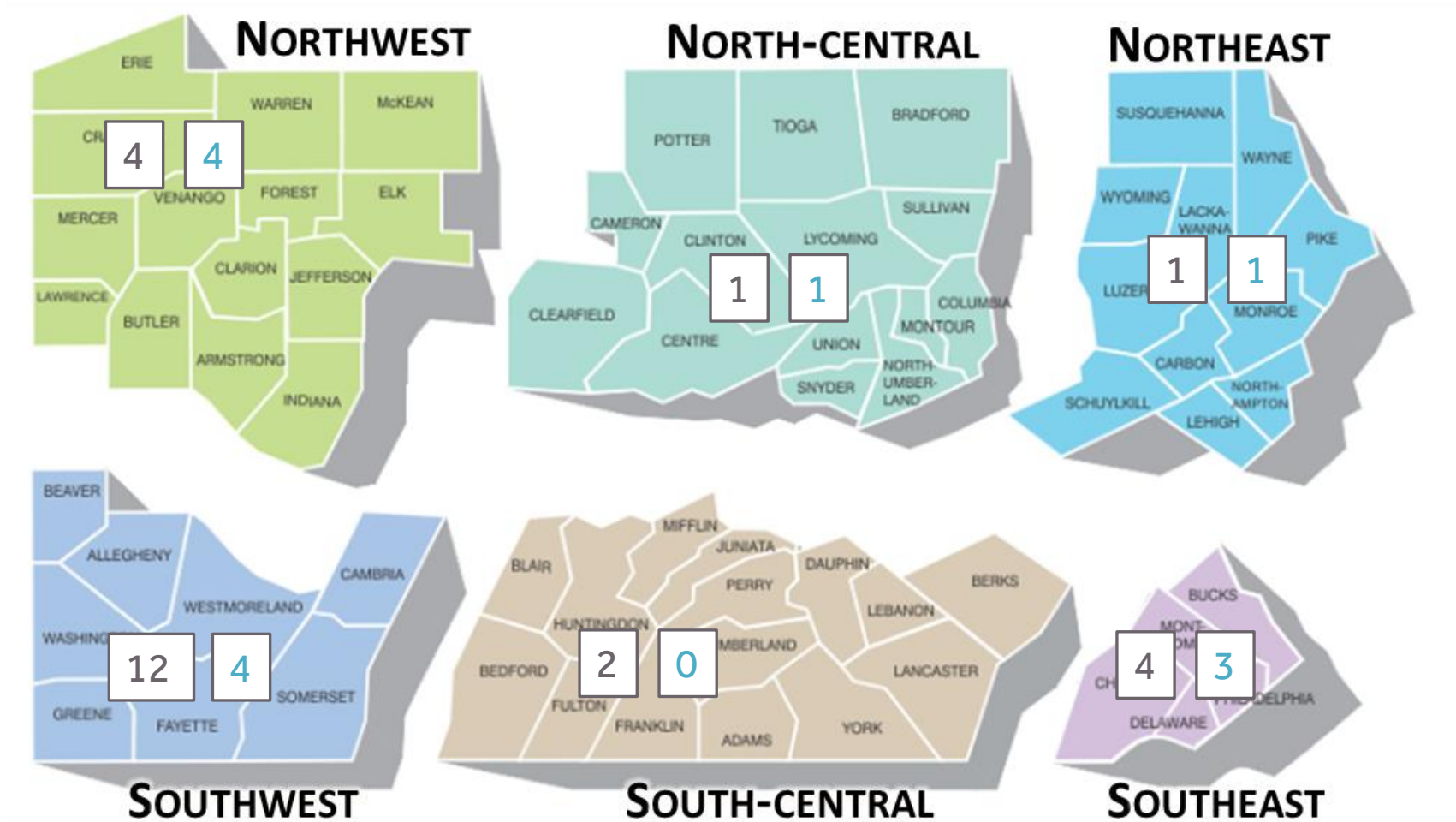
- **28 Individual Interviews held**
 - 2 Elected Officials
 - 5 EJAB Board Members
 - 3 State Agencies (Labor & Industry, DCED, Office of the Consumer Advocate)
 - 2 Regional Planning Organizations
 - 8 Non-Governmental Organizations (Environment, Labor, etc.)
 - 4 Workforce Development Boards
 - 3 Municipal/County Staff
 - 1 AQTAC Board Member

ENGAGEMENT PENDING

- **6 Individual Interviews scheduled**
 - 2 Elected Officials
 - 2 Labor representatives
 - 1 Renewable Energy Consultant
 - 1 Regional Planning Organization
- **Virtual Presentations**
 - 1 scheduled
 - 3 pending
 - 8 to be identified
- Many more to be scheduled!

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF DISCUSSIONS

*Interviewed *Scheduled/Pending



SURVEY DISTRIBUTION

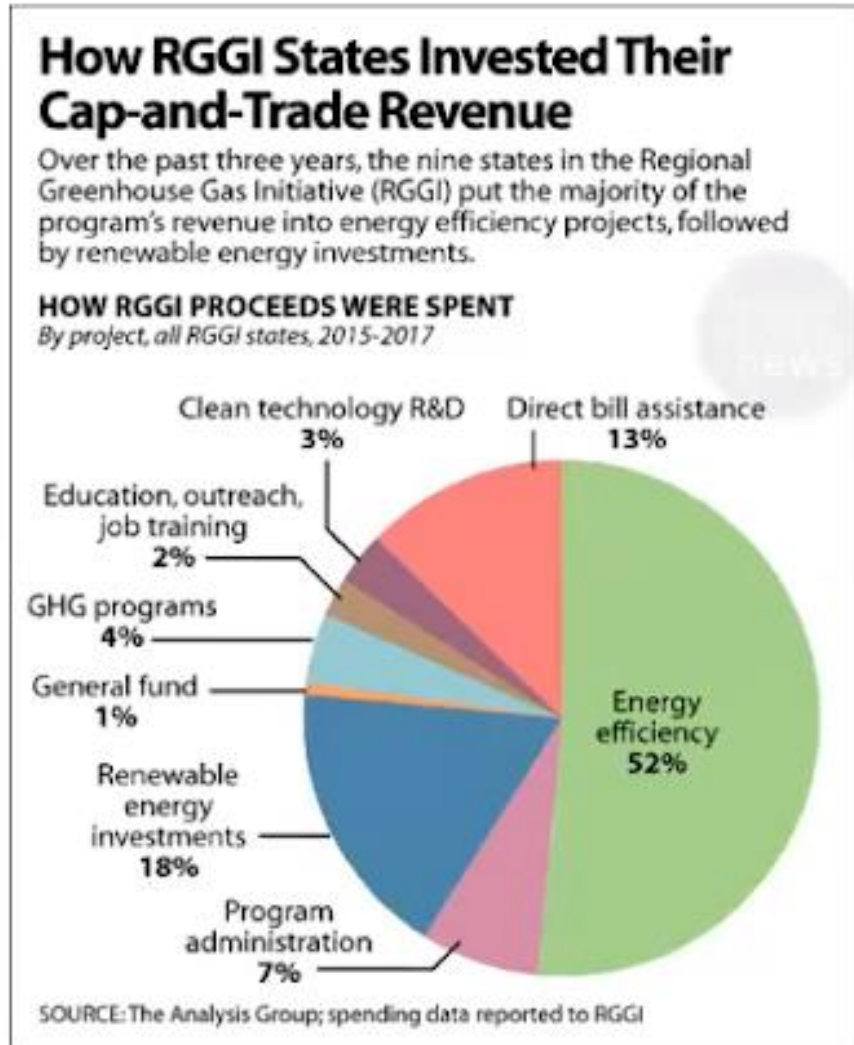
- **General Public Survey** (May 17 –July 15)
 - Distributed to a contact list of over 200 stakeholders, including list of existing DEP-identified organizations
 - Shared with previously interviewed groups, for distribution
 - As of May 19:
 - 9 respondents
 - Opened 40 times
- **Local Government Survey** (May 17 –July 15)
 - Shared with Pennsylvania Municipal League, Pennsylvania COG association, MPO's, etc.

WHAT WE ARE GATHERING?

- **Existing conditions locally and regionally**, related to environment, environmental justice, economy, labor, energy, infrastructure
- **Stances, questions, and level of familiarity** with RGGI
- Recommendations for **ongoing engagement structures**
- Priority **local projects and program areas** by organization
- Opportunity projects and programs for **investing programmatic revenues**
- **Key stakeholders** to connect with

RGGI SPENDING ACROSS OTHER STATES

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy programming represents 70% of RGGI revenue investments in other states
- Direct bill assistance is 3rd largest expenditure area
- Unclear how economic/workforce development, or EJ programs factor in these states



POTENTIAL INVESTMENT AREAS

CLEAR INVESTMENT AREAS UNDER CURRENT RGGI RULE

- Renewable energy (solar, wind, geothermal, etc.)
- Energy efficiency/weatherization
- Electric vehicles and clean public transportation
- Forestry programs
- Air quality monitoring, data collection, and analysis

POTENTIAL INVESTMENT AREAS

INVESTMENT AREAS THAT MAY REQUIRE A RULE CHANGE

- Direct bill assistance
- Displaced worker assistance
- Water infrastructure
- Open space/conservation land/trails
- Workforce development
- Local government assistance
- Economic diversification and development
- Brownfield redevelopment
- University programming

EMERGING THEMES

- All potential investment categories represent opportunities for improving environment and economy in EJ areas
- Multi-faceted projects could provide a means of investing in a wider range of programs
 - **Example:** *Energy efficiency contractor training in EJ area*
 - **Example:** *Building solar arrays on brownfields in an EJ area*
- Investments should be calibrated to various needs across PA
- RGGI funds could assist EJ communities with securing federal grants, by serving as a matching source
- To date, engagement with fossil fuel communities is revealing that maintaining (and growing) wage and benefit levels is more valued than preserving a particular sector

EMERGING THEMES

- There is an infinite amount of infrastructure projects to be invested in, that can drive climate resiliency and economy
- Performance monitoring and data collection will be critical for demonstrating impact
- Regulation and enforcement are just as critical for achieving targeted outcomes as investing programmatic revenues
- Transition efforts will likely require a coordinated effort between government, industry, and labor
- Ongoing engagement will be essential for building and maintaining trust
- Investing human and institutional capacity is critical for achieving and sustaining impact

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH US

- Reach out for a discussion!
- Host a community presentation
- Complete and distribute the project surveys!
 - General Public - bit.ly/RGGI_survey_public
 - Local Government - bit.ly/RGGI_survey_local_gov

GROUP DISCUSSION

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