



*PENNSYLVANIA RGGI STRATEGY  
AQTAC MEETING UPDATE*

*June 10, 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, Great Lakes and beyond 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, environmental and justice issues
- 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

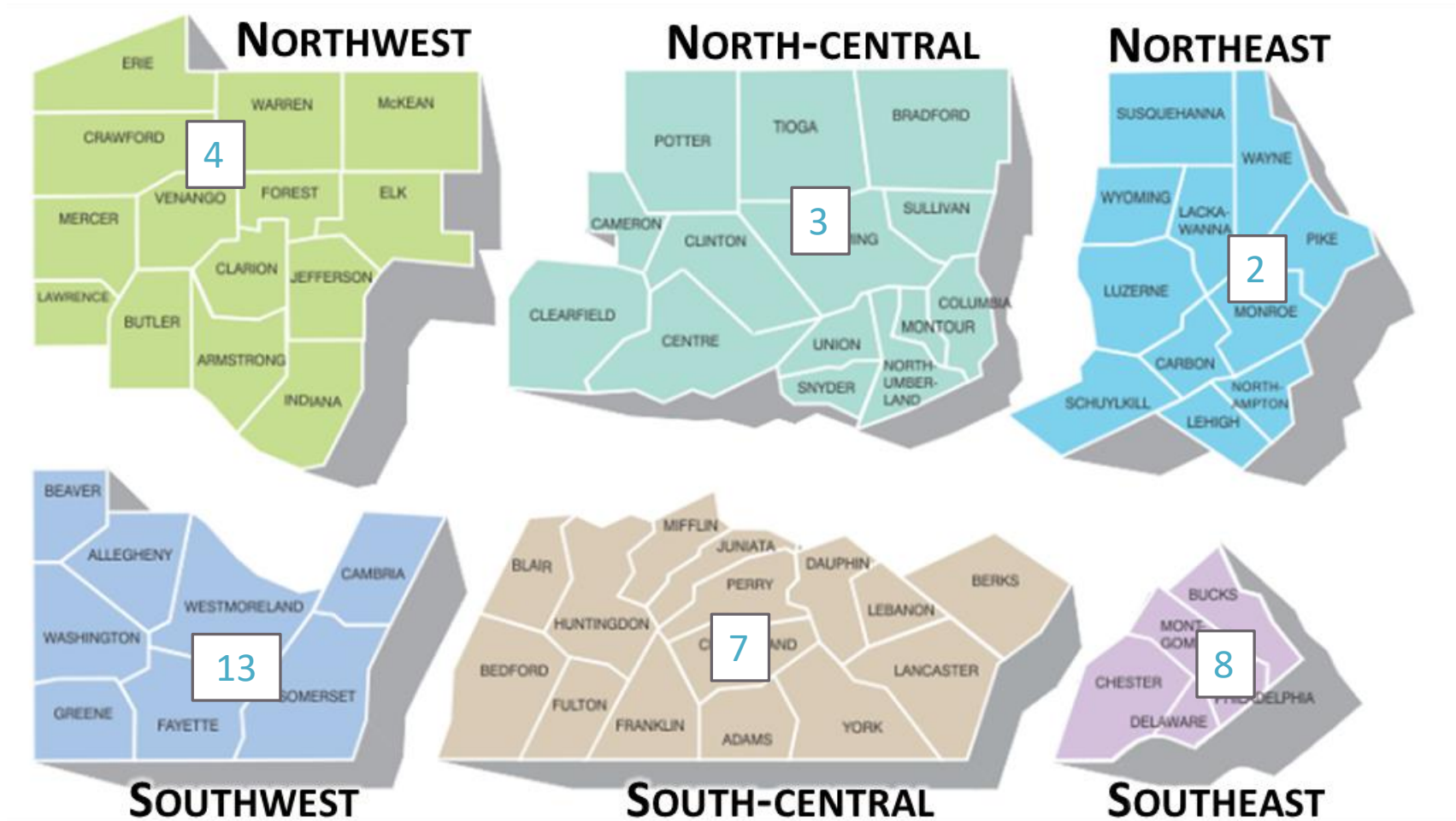
# ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

## 38 Individual Interviews and Community Discussions held

- 2 Elected Officials
- 5 EJAB Board Members
- 3 Labor Union Representatives
- 5 Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- 1 State Agency
- 1 Community Group
- Organizations
- 5 Workforce Development Boards
- 2 Consulting Firms
- 1 Trade Association
- 6 Municipal/County Agency Staff
- 1 Advisory Council



# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF INTERVIEWS TO DATE



# *SURVEY DISTRIBUTION*

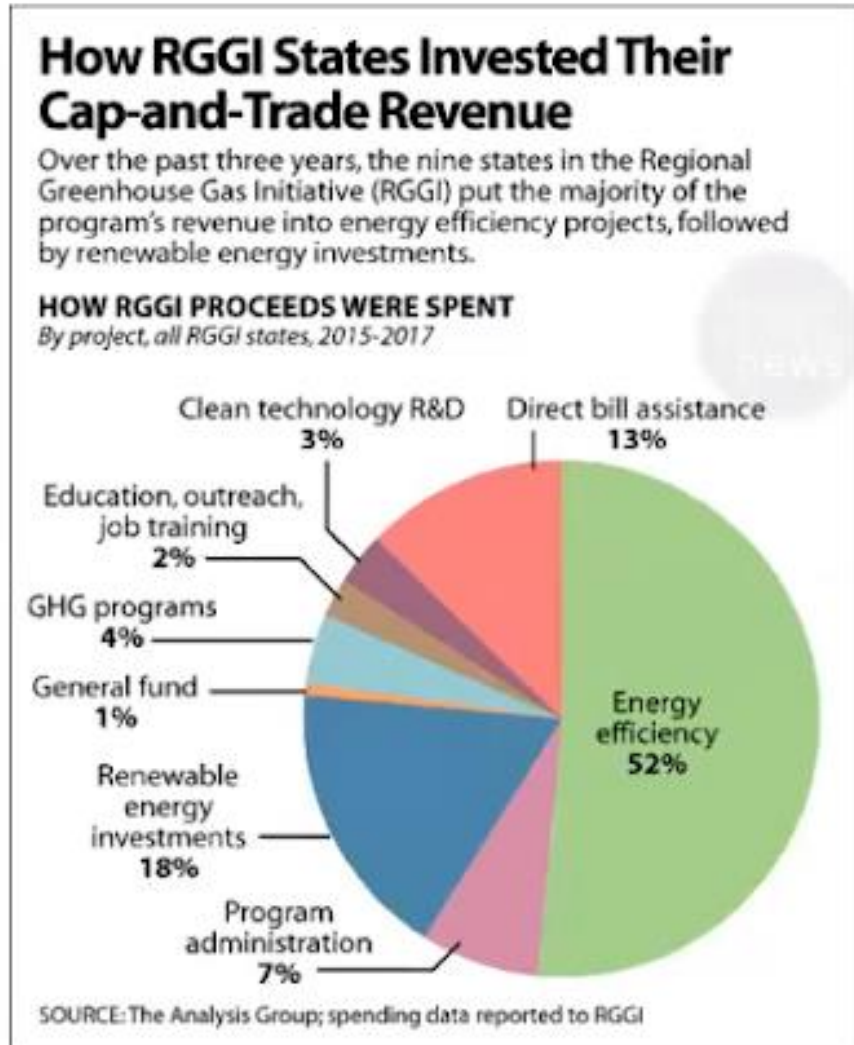
- **General Public Survey** (May 17 –July 15)
  - Distributed to an extensive list of stakeholders, including list of existing DEP-identified organizations
  - Shared with previously interviewed groups, for distribution
  - As of June 10:
    - 41 respondents
    - Opened 200+ times
- **Local Government Survey** (May 17 –July 15)
  - Shared with Pennsylvania Municipal League, Pennsylvania COG association, MPO's, etc.

# WHAT ARE WE 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

## OTHER INVESTMENT AREAS

- 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

Rule changes may be required to allow for investment in these areas.

# EMERGING THEMES

- All potential investment categories represent opportunities for improving environment and economy in EJ areas
- Investments should be calibrated to various needs across PA
- The range of investments can be expanded by funding multi-faceted projects such as:
  - **Example:** *Energy efficiency contractor training in an EJ area*
  - **Example:** *Building solar arrays on brownfields in an EJ area*
- 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 ever-increasing amount of infrastructure projects to be invested in that can drive climate resiliency and economy
- Investing human and institutional capacity is critical for achieving and sustaining impact
- Transition efforts will likely require a coordinated effort between government, industry, and labor
- 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
- Ongoing engagement will be essential for building and maintaining trust



# HOW TO ENGAGE WITH US

- Reach out to participate in an interview session or focus group discussion!
- Host a community presentation
- Complete and distribute the project surveys!
  - General Public - [bit.ly/RGGI\\_survey\\_public](https://bit.ly/RGGI_survey_public)
  - Local Government - [bit.ly/RGGI\\_survey\\_local\\_gov](https://bit.ly/RGGI_survey_local_gov)
- Assist in distributing recommendations when they are complete

# *GROUP DISCUSSION*

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