

FACT SHEET



virginia interfaith
power & light

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RGGI is the Law of the Commonwealth, Keep Virginia in RGGI

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SUPPORT

[Item 366 #1h](#) Del. Herring
[Item 4-5.12#1s](#) Sen. Surovell

The Problem

Virginia passed legislation to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) in 2020. Legislation to do so passed both chambers of the General Assembly and was signed into law by then Governor Northam, as required by law.

Governor Youngkin has attempted to remove Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative without changing the law at the General Assembly.

Additionally, the required allocation of funding generated from RGGI auctions have not been properly allocated and disbursed. Virginia law requires that most of the funding generated from the RGGI auctions go to support community flood preparedness efforts and energy efficiency programs. This is a dedicated funding stream created for these programs passed by the legislative branch and signed into law by the executive branch. Yet, these funds have not been properly allocated to these programs in recent years, which must be rectified.

Finally, the Virginia Air Board illegally attempted to remove Virginia from RGGI via 9VAC5-140, Regulation for Emissions Trading Programs published in the Virginia Register on July 31, 2023.

Policy Solution

Virginia must repeal the provision 9VAC5-140, Regulation for Emissions Trading Programs published in the Virginia Register on July 31, 2023.

Virginia must reconfirm it's commitment to RGGI including participation in emissions auctions, ensure that all staff in the Executive Branch and beyond do not work to undermine Virginia's legal participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

Virginia must ensure that revenues received from participating in RGGI are properly allocated to primarily coastal resiliency and energy efficiency programs as required by law.

Who Benefits

Energy Efficiency

Provides significant funding for energy efficiency projects throughout the Commonwealth, which reduces energy consumption, saves families money on their electric bills, improves indoor air quality and health, and lowers carbon emissions. To date over \$400 million have been deployed on energy efficiency projects across the Commonwealth.

Community Flood Preparedness

Provides hundreds of millions of dollars every year for community flood preparedness projects in every region of the Commonwealth. Almost \$400 million dollars have been deployed on community flood preparedness projects across the Commonwealth.

Virginia Interfaith Power & Light collaborates, as people of faith, to grow healthy communities and advance climate justice through education, advocacy, and worship.