



**Connecticut Equity and Environmental Justice Advisory Council (CEEJAC)  
Energy & Technology Subcommittee Meeting Agenda and Notes**

**Meeting Recording:**

[https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/isDWg7flau5IBOk22M\\_W4rf3j-6n7KIH8envLjGpBT0t55NswXC7JTmXNpIC1d7L.DH-lZ7vIEZy7f\\_GT](https://ctdeep.zoom.us/rec/share/isDWg7flau5IBOk22M_W4rf3j-6n7KIH8envLjGpBT0t55NswXC7JTmXNpIC1d7L.DH-lZ7vIEZy7f_GT)

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**3:00-4:30 pm**

**Description**

Please join CEEJAC's Energy & Technology Subcommittee for a much-requested meeting about the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#). CT is one of eleven states who participate in this cooperative, market-based effort to reduce CO2 emissions in the power sector. You may have also heard of RGGI through the funding the program has provided for programs like [CHEAPR](#) and DEEP and [UConn CIRCA's Climate & Equity Grant Program](#). Please join us to hear from DEEP staff and Acadia Center about why a cap and invest program was developed, how CT is involved, and the impact in our state.

**Meeting Agenda**

<b>Welcome</b> <i>Jayson Velazquez, Chair of Energy &amp; Technology</i>	3:00 – 3:05 pm 5 mins
<b>RGGI Overview</b> <i>Paola Moncada Tamayo, Policy Analyst at Acadia Center</i>	3:05 – 3:25 pm 20 mins
<b>CT and RGGI</b> <i>Bruce Ho, Senior Policy Advisor at CT DEEP</i>	3:25 – 3:40 pm 15 mins
<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>	3:40 – 4:30 pm

**Meeting Notes**

Presentation from Paola Moncada Tamayo, Acadia Center

**I. Where did RGGI come from?**

- a. Early 2000s – allow states to respond to climate change in an environment lacking federal action
- b. Northeast Governor’s started this to have a market-based solution to cut power sector CO2
- c. Each state has independent regulations for their CO2 Budget Trading Program based on a RGGI Model Rule
- d. In 2009, the program launched in 10 states. In 2012, RGGI conducted their first program review and has had 3 program reviews since it’s inception.

**II. How does RGGI work?**

- a. States established a limit “cap” on which powerplants can emit CO2 – this cap is meant to decline over time
- b. Every quarter, RGGI holds auctions for power plants to purchase enough credits to cover their CO2 emissions
- c. RGGI states will invest their proceeds from auctions back into their communities
- d. At start, it was around \$2.00 price, and overtime, the allowance increases
- e. Program is meant to bring a downward trend in emissions in power sector

**III. Latest RGGI News**

- a. Every few years, states review model rule and decide what needs to be changed or how to change it
- b. RGGI Cap has gotten stronger because we have shown that we can reduce the CO2 allowances
  - i. This means all 10 states have timed the cap correctly – this is a big success

**IV. Current Proceeds Spending**

- a. States spend in various ways like energy efficiency, direct bill assistance, clean and renewable energy, GHG abatement, beneficial electrification
- b. 2024-2025 auctions will focus more on energy efficiencies
- c. 13% of energy efficiency budget in CT (2023) came from RGGI

**V. Impacts to EJ Communities**

- a. Since program has begun, there has been a 91% decline in electricity generated from coal and 80% increase in solar and wind generation
- b. GHG emission reduction and economic growth – but no specific study on how it has directly impacted EJ communities
- c. Acadia Center has been interested in: Have RGGI proceeds been invested in EJ? Have levels of key pollutants declined in EJ Communities?
- d. NY is the only state that has a law requiring a set percentage of proceeds to be allocated to “disadvantaged communities”
- e. 36% of total proceeds spending in 2023 is invested in EJ communities; NJ has above 90% in EJ communities
- f. In 2021, CT 9 of 16 power plants in CT are in proximity to high asthma census tracts
  - i. 11% of all census tracts in region considered high asthma

- g. In 2021, 14 of 16 power plants (88%) in CT are in proximity to EJ (EPA definition) census tracts
  - i. 41% of all census tracts in region are considered in an EJ Community

## **VI. Summary**

- a. 91% of smaller generating units are located in proximity to EJ Community or high asthma community
- b. Over 2/3 of plants do not have an active air quality monitoring site within a 3-mile radius

### Presentation from Bruce Ho, CT DEEP Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy

CT is one of 10 states participating in RGGI; we all have statutes and regulations to make sure that our programs are all similar to each other. But states differ on how we use proceeds from RGGI – states determine how best to achieve our needs and benefit our communities

In CT under statute, DEEP directs proceeds to energy efficiency programs, clean energy investments (CT Green Bank), CHEAPR, Admin costs, and to rate reduction relief for consumers

- In CT we have an annual threshold that can go into any of these programs; anything above that threshold gets returned to ratepayers through PURA and you'd see that through reduction in rates from your utility company
- In 2024, about \$35M was returned through that process
- CT has received over \$500M from RGGI proceeds – largest portion has gone to energy efficiency programs especially C&LM (implemented through utilities – 69.5%)
  - Those programs are also funded by other sources
- 23% goes to clean and renewable energy: Green Bank and CHEAPR program – this was about \$10M total (2024)
  - Half of program budget for CHEAPR (estimate)
- Lots of benefits to the state: every dollar returns more benefits to the state – consumer specifically. Supports a lot of jobs as well
- Energy Efficiency Board – they have recently launched an Equity Working Group to get more info on how well these programs are working
- EJ Specific Investments: CHEAPR Rebate + program – additional larger rebate for residents who meet criteria: living in EJC, participating in income-qualified program, or at certain income level
  - Green Bank – affordable multi-housing improvements, solar storage programs
  - DEEP Programs: EJ and CI Mapping Tools, [CIRCA Climate and Equity Grants](#), Community Resource Hubs

July 2025 – DEEP is going to update regulations to implement RGGI programmatic changes. Still working on this and no timeline on public process but hoping to kick off later this fall.

## Questions:

What are some of the levers of advocacy that Acadia Center is considering to make RGGI more equitable?

- Paola: it's a state-by-state approach. We connect with every state to see how we can advance EJ priorities. There is no set percentage of RGGI funds at the model rule level by RGGI.

For CT, my understanding is that the latest year that's available is 2023? Or do you have 2024 data for amount of funds from RGGI proceeds?

- Bruce: ratepayer relief threshold increases every year, so % that can go to programs increases every year. Up to a certain amount can go to efficiency and programs and anything above that can go to ratepayers for on bill reductions. We don't have a percentage of \$ that goes to EJ communities; the allocations across our categories are not invested to specific programs but are given to the entire program. So, it's hard to tease out what a RGGI dollar is actually going into. The efficiency programs don't have a carve-out for EJ or equity programs. The EEB Equity Board will be looking into equity considerations in utility programs. Green Bank has an explicit goal of 40% to distressed communities, and it looks like they are at that target.

Do any of those dollars go to Tribes?

- There is no specific set-aside to tribes; so only if they are participating in a program.

Comment: It would be important to get the percentage that goes to EJ communities as defined by the state.

The 35,000 people in CT employed to do Energy Efficiency work – how many are affiliated with a CAP agency or are from EJ Communities?

- Bruce: Green Bank's latest [Connecticut Clean Energy Industry Report](#) (2025) report has some data
  - p. 10 lists workforce by clean energy technology sector, including energy efficiency
  - p. 13 further breaks down CT energy efficiency jobs by sub-technologies
  - p. 20 has info on CT clean workforce demographics (this is across all clean energy sectors, not just efficiency)
  - p. 24 shows clean energy employment by county in CT
  - *Note, the data does not show how many energy efficiency workers in the state come from specific communities but gives a good overview on worker demographics.*
- Response: It would be helpful to know particularly when we talk about job creation – it'd be helpful to have a certain number or percentage.

When you were talking about the RGGI focused power plants? What is not considered in the data?

- Paola: RGGI regulations are for 25MW power plants, smaller ones are Peaker plants which are not covered. NY has considered them as voluntary.

How would you recommend folks engage in RGGI/C&LM?

- Bruce: definitely participate in rulemaking process for RGGI
- Paola: this program review went through extensive modeling – they are hoping for it to alleviate energy burden rather than make it worse.

Do we have a map of the fossil fuel power plants in CT?

- <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=CT>
- <https://rggi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/f64d40fa7a174240a23fbb9cf6021f0b>

How much electricity do we produce in CT? I think we are a net exporter of electricity. Is there data on how much we use vs how much we produce?

- Bruce: CT is a net exporter. Here are two sources with relevant data:
  - U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA's) state electricity profile for CT (2023 data): <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/state/Connecticut/>
    - Can calculate net exported electricity as net generation minus total retail sales and direct use
  - ISO New England generation and net energy load data by state (2000-2023 data): [gen\\_nel\\_iso\\_states.xlsx](#)
    - Can calculate net exported electricity as generation minus net energy for load
  - *Note that the numbers are slightly different between the two but in the same ballpark.*

#### Resources to Review:

- <https://acadiacenter.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Acadia-Center-RGGI-Funds-in-Action-20241113-FINAL-1.pdf>
- [https://acadiacenter.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AC\\_RGGI\\_2023\\_Layout\\_R6.pdf](https://acadiacenter.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/AC_RGGI_2023_Layout_R6.pdf)