



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Policy Office

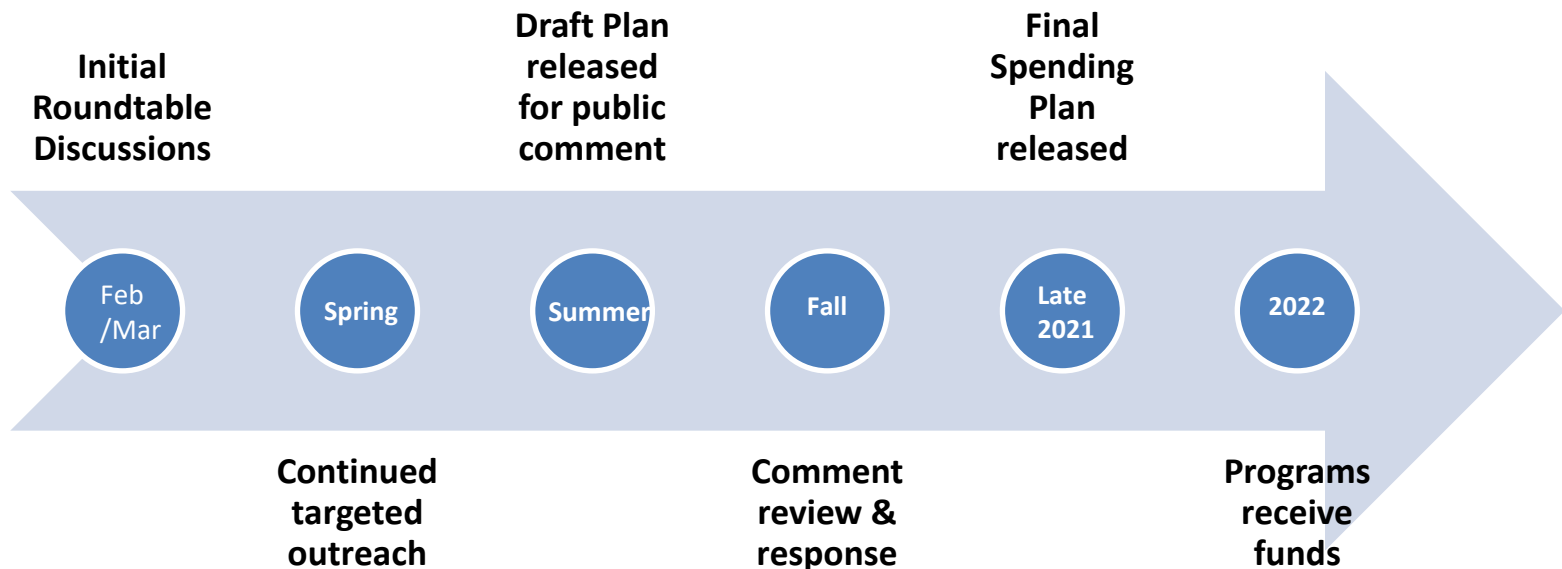
# Enhancing Pennsylvania's Communities with Investments from RGGI

Jessica Shirley

June 22, 2021

# Enhancing Communities Investment Plan

- Drafting a 5-year Investment Plan
- Will be opened for public comment later this summer



# Governor Wolf's Framework

## **Fairness for Workers and Communities: 50%**

- Energy Communities Trust Fund – 37.5% (one-third dedicated to EJ Communities)
- Environmental Justice Trust Fund – 12.5%

## **Greenhouse Gas Abatement, Energy Efficiency, Clean and Renewable Energy: 25%** (one-third dedicated to EJ Communities)

## **Commercial and Industrial Sector Improvements: 20%** (one-third dedicated to EJ Communities)

## **Administration: 5%**

# Fairness for Workers and Communities

## Energy Communities Trust Fund – 37.5%

- One-third dedicated to EJ Communities
- Overseen by the Energy Communities Trust Fund Board
  - Members of the Executive Branch
  - Members of the Legislative Branch
  - Representatives of the Labor Communities
- Requires Legislative authorization

# Fairness for Workers and Communities

## Energy Communities Trust Fund

- Opportunities for investment would include:
  - Workforce development and worker training
  - Supplemental unemployment compensation for displaced energy workers
  - Funding to school districts or municipalities for lost tax revenue
  - Economic development projects
  - Environmental cleanup projects
- Delta Institute is currently conducting outreach to inform this effort.

# Fairness for Workers and Communities

## Environmental Justice Trust Fund – 12.5%

- Overseen by the Environmental Justice Trust Fund Board
  - Members of the Executive Branch
  - Members of the Legislative Branch
  - Representatives of Environmental Justice Communities, nominated by the Environmental Justice Advisory Board
- Requires Legislative Authorization

# Fairness for Workers and Communities

## Environmental Justice Trust Fund – 12.5%

- Opportunities for investment would include:
  - Environmental Cleanup projects
  - Recreation
  - Economic development projects
  - Transportation projects
  - Environmental education
  - Environmental health
  - Electricity bill assistance to low-income residential customers
  - Workforce development and worker training
  - Other projects that support EJ Communities

# GHG Abatement, EE, and CE/RE

- This is where the majority of other RGGI states invest their funds.
- These programs do not need legislative authorization.
- All funds deposited into the Clean Air Fund and dispersed for projects that improve air quality and eliminate pollution.
- At least one-third of all investments made in EJ Communities.
- Engaged stakeholders from various sectors in “virtual roundtables” to discuss greenhouse gas abatement, energy efficiency, clean and renewable energy investments.



# Greenhouse Gas Abatement

---

# GHG Abatement Programs

- **Assisting Agriculture Communities**
- **Transforming Transportation to Connect Communities**
- **Enhancing Pennsylvania's Forests and Tree Canopies**
- **Addressing Orphan and Abandoned Wells**

# GHG Abatement Programs

- **Assisting Agriculture Communities**
  - Providing research opportunities for Climate Smart Agricultural Practices and Climate Impacts on Ag Operations
  - Promoting Demo Projects that Sequester Carbon
  - Expanding REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection Program)
  - Preserving Farmland

# GHG Abatement Programs

- **Transforming Transportation to Connect Communities**
  - Pedestrian, Bicycle and Transit Access Projects
    - Sidewalk improvements, safe and accessible transit stops, bike lanes and parking
  - Zero Emission Vehicles
    - Charging Infrastructure, Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Rebates
  - Low-Income Public Transit Fare Assistance

# GHG Abatement Programs

- **Enhancing Pennsylvania's Forests and Tree Canopies**
  - Woodland Stewardship Program/Forest Conservation
    - Protection and expansion of forest cover, and expansion of technical and financial assistance offered to private forest landowners.
  - TreeVitalize
    - Increase the urban tree canopy to reduce heat island effects and the care, maintenance, and management of community tree assets.
  - Forest Buffers
    - Sequester carbon and filter sediments and pollutants from farm fields, residential lawns, and roadways.

# GHG Abatement Programs

- **Addressing Orphaned and Abandoned Wells**
  - New Rebate Program for Plugging Orphaned or Abandoned Wells
  - Grants for Filling Data Gaps
    - Well plugging prioritization and conversion of analog data to digital platforms
  - Provide additional funds to current orphan and abandoned well plugging efforts

# Energy Efficiency

---

# Energy Efficiency Programs

- **Providing Energy Efficiency Opportunities for Agriculture**
- **Residential Energy Efficiency Gap Funding**
  - Every resident does not currently have access to Act 129 Programs
  - Would create a third-party oversight administrator to act as a clearinghouse for Residential EE opportunities
  - Programs could include audits, measures that don't currently qualify due to length of payback period, etc.
- **Renewing a Modern KeystoneHELP Whole House Retrofit Program**



# Energy Efficiency Programs

- **Providing Education and Outreach for New Age EE**
  - Would target consumers, home improvement firms and new home builders
- **Building Energy Code Performance Academy and Accelerator**
  - Would train and develop codes inspectors to ensure code compliant construction
- **Developing a Pre-Weatherization Program for Low-Income Residents**
  - Many homes cannot be weatherized because they need repairs
  - Increase income threshold for eligibility and allow for fuel switching
- **Weatherizing Community Centers**
  - Community centers, schools, warming and cooling shelters

# Energy Efficiency Programs

- **Energy Efficiency Workforce Training**

- Support for pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs
- Supplement wages for local hires
- Unions could be engaged for training and placing workers into trade careers such as electricians, plumbers, and carpenters

# Clean and Renewable Energy

---

# Clean and Renewable Energy Programs

- **Encouraging solar installations on low-to-moderate income homes**
- **Creating a Solar for Schools Program**
  - Low or no interest loans
- **Assisting Local Government Procurement of RE and EE**
  - Low or no-interest loans for local government to make use of unproductive tracts of land
- **Creating Workforce Development Opportunities for EJ Communities**
  - Partnerships with local high schools, colleges and universities
- **Enhancing RE Opportunities for Multifamily Housing**
  - Modeled after current PHFA/WAP multi-family EE Program
- **Providing Investments in R&D and Innovation**

# Commercial and Industrial

---

# Commercial and Industrial

- 20% of RGGI funds dedicated to this sector
- At least one-third allocated within EJ Communities
- Industrial and Commercial: fuels used to heat and cool buildings, operate equipment, and make products.
- Examples of Industrial operations: manufacturing, food processing, mining, construction, heavy industry and cement production.
- Activities to consider
  - energy efficiency
  - process electrification
  - fuel switching
  - combined heat and power
  - other

# Commercial and Industrial

- **Comprehensive Industrial and Commercial Energy Assessments**
- **Investing in small to mid-sized manufacturers**
  - Energy audits to identify and develop deep retrofiting opportunities that save money and reduce resources
  - Projects with a high return on cost per MMBtu saved or reduced would be considered for grant program
- **Decarbonizing Commercial and Industrial Fleets**
- **Creation of a Commercial and Industrial-focused Green Bank**
  - Use of Waste Heat through Waste-to-Energy and/or Distributed Co-generation
  - Material Substitutions
  - Electrification of processes
  - Carbon Capture and Use Technologies
- **Carbon Capture and Sequestration**
  - Land use planning, site preparation, impact mitigation and natural resource management

# Wrap Up

## The RGGI Investment Plan:

- Focuses on enhancing Pennsylvania’s communities and improving air quality.
- Provides assistance to those workers caught in the energy transition.
- Dedicates a minimum of 40% of investments to Environmental Justice Communities.
- Provides dedicated funding to address pollution in the sector with the highest GHG emissions.





**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Policy Office

**Jessica Shirley**  
**Policy Director**