Enhancing Pennsylvania’s Communities with Investments from RGGI

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• 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%
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
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.
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
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
• 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
• Assisting Agriculture Communities
• Transforming Transportation to Connect Communities
• Enhancing Pennsylvania’s Forests and Tree Canopies
• Addressing Orphan and Abandoned Wells
• 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
• 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
• 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.
• **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 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
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
Comprehensive Industrial and Commercial Energy Assessments

Investing in small to mid-sized manufacturers

- Energy audits to identify and develop deep retrofitting 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
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.
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