

RGGI Equity Principles: The Commonwealth will strive to develop a power sector carbon-reduction program and investment strategy, through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that embodies the following equity principles:

- 1) Inclusively gathers public input using multiple methods of engaging the public, especially environmental justice communities and meaningfully considers that input in making decisions related to the design and implementation of the power sector carbon-reduction program and disseminates any final decisions that are made that affect such impacted communities in a timely manner.
- 2) Protect public health, safety and welfare, including mitigating any adverse impacts on human health, especially in environmental justice communities, and seek to ensure environmental and structural racism are not replicated in the engagement process.
- 3) Works equitably and with intentional consideration to distribute environmental and economic benefits of auction proceeds in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by air pollution.
 - a) Seeks to address legacy impacts related to emissions and pollution in vulnerable populations and among environmental justice communities.
 - b) Provides access to investment programs for all members of the community, especially low-income communities.

Summary of Key Recommendations around Equity Principles:

- 1) The public input paragraph should be the first listed principle because it is the most important to the public as it relates to how their input is received and considered by DEP.
- 2) Include additional language regarding the public input process to confirm the agency's intentionality of receiving input, stress multiple means of engagement and responsibility for reporting back on input.
- 3) Add reference to avoiding structural racism in program design.
- 4) Provide additional detail around RGGI investments to ensure investments benefit EJ communities rather than just stating particular populations and stating low-income communities specifically will access these investment programs.
- 5) Make a clear statement that RGGI funds will be invested equitably.