



#### The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative:

The nation's first carbon cap and trade program



# The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

- Regional effort among 10 states to cap and reduce carbon emissions: CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT
- Focus on power sector
- Region wide and state specific caps
- Allocation of allowances done by auction rather than free distribution



### Reduction Requirements

- Start in 2009
- Stabilize emissions at current levels through 2014
- then reduce by 10% by 2019
  (~16% below BAU for the region)
- Three year compliance periods
- Banking allowed



## **Auction of Allowances**

- Began when states signed the MOU that committed to a minimum 25% public benefit allocation
- New York and most other RGGI states have proposed ~100% auction
- Purpose:
  - restore value of program to the public
  - promote goals of program



#### **Auction Design Goals**

- Provide allowances to those who need them
- Prevent collusion
- Prevent hoarding
- Minimize volatility
- <u>Not</u> maximize revenues
- Monitoring market participants



# Design Elements for Regional Allowance Auctions (Cont'd)

- Reserve price
  - Minimum and current market
- Unsold allowances
- Notice of Auction
  - "heads up" at least 45 days in advance
  - Participation requirements defined
- Monitoring
- Auction Results



## Design Elements for Regional Allowance Auctions

- Uniform regional auctions on September 25<sup>th</sup> and December 17<sup>th</sup>
- Structure and Format
  - Quarterly, single round uniform price
- Sale Schedule
  - 2009 vintage spread over the 2 pre-compliance and 4 auctions in 2009,
  - up to 5% of 2012 vintage will be auctioned in 2009
- Participation
  - Open to all who become qualified
  - Financial security needed to make one eligible
  - Purchase limits



# RGGI went "Live" July 24th

- Pre-compliance auctions this fall
  - Qualified bidders have been trained on the system
  - Financial security is being posted
- First auction has 12.5 million tons from ME,
  VT, MA, RI, CT and MD
- Futures trading on secondary market began in earnest this summer



#### RGGI Auction 1

- Auction clearing price was \$3.07/allowance
- The \$38.575 million will be distributed among CT (4.21m); ME (2.68m); MD (16.37m); MA (13.34m); RI (1.35m); VT (0.62m)
- 59 bidders from the energy, financial and environmental sectors participated
- Demand for allowances totaled 4x available supply or 51,761,000
- Compliance entities and affiliates purchased most of the allowances



#### RGGI Auction 2

- Auction 2 to be held on December 17th, 2008
- All 10 participating states to offer allowances for sale
- About 90 applicants wishing to participate in Auction 2.



## More RGGI Information

http://www.rggi.org

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