



Natural Resources Council of Maine  
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**Statement from Lisa Pohlmann**  
**Executive Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine**  
**Press Conference on RGGI-Funded Efficiency Projects at Major Maine Hospitals**  
**February 16, 2016**

Good morning. I'm Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. I'd like to thank the speakers and members of the press for coming today.

It is great to hear the progress that Maine's hospitals are making on energy efficiency. These projects are possible because Maine has invested in our people and businesses. Through energy efficiency, we are saving money and also helping our environment.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a cooperative market-based effort among nine Northeastern states to reduce carbon emissions from the biggest single source: our power plants. Maine has been using funds generated by the RGGI program for energy efficiency projects since 2009 and the results have been dramatic. We have attained over \$250 million in energy cost savings for businesses and homeowners. The funds have leveraged tens of millions of dollars in additional private investment in Maine's economy. This concerted effort has created hundreds of efficiency jobs, helped keep our businesses competitive, and kept more money in our wallets.

What better place to invest efficiency dollars than in these critically important health care institutions that are anchors in our communities? We applaud our hospitals for taking advantage of Efficiency Maine's programs, and we are proud of the fact that many of the projects were funded through RGGI.

Yet despite this undeniable success, there is legislation under consideration at the State House in Augusta right now that would cut RGGI funding for large energy users – like these hospitals – by 80 percent. This would cost Maine businesses and institutions more than \$100 million in increased energy bills.

The Natural Resources Council of Maine believes that we must maintain the current funding levels for energy efficiency funding through RGGI. The record of success is clear. The value to our communities and to the state is clear. The demand for such projects is clear.

Furthermore, RGGI is seen as a model for other states across the U.S., as they prepare to implement the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan. Because of RGGI, Maine can easily meet our carbon pollution reduction targets that are set in the Plan. NRCM fully supports the Clean Power Plan because it will bring all states along in addressing climate changing pollution as we have been doing in the Northeast for years.

Though a recent Supreme Court decision has delayed the implementation of the Clean Power Plan, we are confident that the courts will ultimately uphold the Plan.