

Colleges and universities in New York State offer prime opportunities to spur innovations in clean energy and overall progress in several GHG agenda items your plan identifies.

Under the heading of Industrial Innovation these RGGI funds should be available to match college and university participation in regional, national, and international competitions relevant to energy efficiency and conservation generally, as well as technologies designed to address the build up and effects of GHG.

Student-led teams that build, finance, and demonstrate new technologies and devices are highly effective education and outreach media. These products are often marketable and the experience with technology can and does influence student career choices by leading to jobs in these industries. These teams collaborate with firms to test and demonstrate their devices and public acceptance and demand is often improved as a result.

Very few educational institutions in the State are able to participate in these "challenges" or competitions because of the cost. Costs of transportation to and from the competition site alone often prevent a team from competing. These teams must raise funds and often sell their products, but institutional commitment is almost always required. If RGGI funds were offered as a match to institutional support more New York students would have these opportunities and more New Yorkers would be exposed to their work. The Clean Energy Business Development category should be expanded to accommodate \$3 million per year to match institutional support for competitions in areas relevant to RGGI. There are relevant challenges and competitions in the areas of transportation, buildings, agriculture, manufacturing, and housing that employ and advance renewable and nonrenewable energy.

NYS should offer to support any student team in these areas that are sanctioned by their college or university if the competition is legitimate. NYS could display winners of these competitions at the State Fair in order to increase visibility and knowledge of the products and competitions. A culture of innovation and teamwork could be created at institutions in the State around Clean Energy Business Development. Firms in this industry would benefit from these interactions and these employment prospects. Some firms from outside the State may consider moving here to benefit in these ways.

Thank you for considering this addition to your plan and good luck with this RGGI Plan and programs. Thank you also for the public meeting held on May 9.

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