

# RGGI Strategic Funding Plan

## Example Initiative Summaries

1

### Clean Transportation | NJDEP & NJEDA

Initiative One seeks to accelerate transportation electrification in the State, focusing on programs and projects that will have a beneficial impact on communities disproportionately impacted by the effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

NJDEP funding could be dedicated to:

- Local government-operated shuttle buses, school buses, garbage trucks, and fleet vehicles;
- Local government-sponsored ride sharing;
- Locally sponsored electric vehicle Ride and Drive events; and,
- Centralized electric vehicle charging hubs in towns to support EV owners living in multi-unit dwellings as well as ride sharing

NJEDA could focus its funding on:

- Grants to private jitney companies operating in New Jersey's urban corridor;
- Grant/loan combinations to support deployment by private commercial companies of electric "last-mile" delivery vehicles;
- Funding the deployment by port operators of electric cargo handling equipment (e.g., straddle carriers, gantry cranes) in the Ports of Newark and Elizabeth; and,
- Funding for establishments that regularly use electric medium and medium/heavy duty trucks (e.g., warehouses) to install DC Fast Charging (DCFC) capacity.

2

### New Jersey Green Bank | NJEDA

Initiative Two seeks to increase the pace of clean energy investment through the creation of the New Jersey Green Bank. RGGI funding would be used by the NJEDA to capitalize a Green Bank to provide direct loans, or financial enhancements to support private lending. Lending would focus on the deployment of existing, tested technologies. Funding would be made available to New Jersey-based commercial and industrial companies, as well as institutions (e.g., non-profits).

NJEDA could focus its funding on:

- Provide loan guarantees to private lenders who extend credit to fund energy efficiency and power management measures by small to medium-sized businesses;
- Take funding positions in a capital stack, financing clean energy and/or energy storage project(s);
- Purchase, securitize and resell private loans, funding purchases of electric trucks on longer-than-customary truck financing terms; and,
- Provide administrative support to parties participating in Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) programs.

# 3

## Community Clean Energy Microgrid | NJBPU

Initiative Three seeks to reduce electricity consumption by low- and moderate-income (LMI) households through the development and implementation of a Community Clean Energy Microgrid (CCEM) program. The CCEM could be developed and implemented as a coordinated and comprehensive energy program for all LMI single family and multi-family building customers in a holistic neighborhood approach.

Integrated neighborhood clean energy program that includes:

- Working with a local government as a project sponsor
- 1 to 2 MW of community solar to provide solar electricity to 150 to 300 LMI families
- The local government as the anchor customer for up to 40%
- Coordinated energy efficiency upgrades for the neighbor
- Developed as a microgrid for critical load resiliency with energy storage batteries
- Consolidated billing
- EV charging and rideshare program
- Training program for microgrid operations and energy trading
- Development of a community bank for financing

# 4

## Net-Zero Energy Solutions for Waste Management | NJDEP

Initiative Four seeks to reduce emissions from waste disposal. Funding would be provided to facilities for net-zero energy use through the implementation of proven technologies and best practices in the areas of energy conservation, demand reduction and enhanced production.

NJDEP funding could be dedicated to:

- Maximize the use of source separated organic waste for energy production and encourage the use of biogas for electricity production or natural gas pipeline injections; and,
- Encourage local municipalities to partner with waste facilities to collect organic waste from larger generators for use in energy production.

# 5

## Beneficial Role of New Jersey Forests in the Carbon Cycle | NJDEP

Initiative Five seeks to promote, protect and maintain the beneficial role of New Jersey forests in the carbon cycle.

NJDEP funding could be dedicated to:

- Provide technical and financial assistance to local governments to implement urban and community forestry projects;
- Identify areas where natural carbon sequestration processes are working well and implement a strategy to maintain and enhance those benefits long term;
- Designate areas appropriate for forest restoration/reforestation through natural regeneration and the planting of trees;
- Steward and manage forests through ecological- and conservation-based forest management to promote, protect, and maintain the beneficial role of New Jersey's forests in the carbon cycle;
- Evaluate and foster forest conditions such as structure, density, fuel loads, and species composition to defend the existing forest carbon pool against catastrophic carbon release caused by forest pests, diseases, and wildfire;
- Keep forestland as forest to protect carbon pools from losses due to land conversion; and,
- Enhance the Forest Stewardship Program through grants and technical assistance providing for increased private woodland owners participation.

# 6

## Sequester "Blue Carbon" in Coastal Habitats | NJDEP

Initiative Six seeks to promote, protect and maintain the beneficial role of New Jersey tidal marshes in the carbon cycle.

NJDEP funding could be dedicated to:

- Enhance and restore tidal salt marshes;
- Protect and rebuild eroding salt marsh edge with living shorelines;
- Remove tidal restrictions to increase salt water flow into a tidal wetland;
- Preserve upland areas that are expected to become salt marshes as sea levels rise;
- Restore and protect seagrass habitat; and,
- Re-work closed solid waste landfills on tidal salt marshes to create new public access and water front parks with restored tidal salt marsh systems as a component.

Under this initiative, NJEDA could provide funding and in-kind assistance to strengthen cleantech innovation in the state through support for the innovation ecosystem (e.g., incubators, proof of concept centers, research databases, etc.), the funding of individual early-stage clean tech companies and entrepreneurs, and support for basic research.

Areas of focus could include technology innovation in renewable energy generation, including offshore wind, energy storage, energy efficiency and carbon capture and sequestration. The initiative could also align with the RGGI clean transportation priority by funding companies engaged in the development of innovative, mobility use-case, energy storage and electric drive train technologies.

NJEDA could focus its funding on:

- Matching grants, loans or equity capital to cleantech companies in New Jersey that obtain funding from outside investors;
- Business accelerator program to support company and technology scale-up;
- Creation of a proof of concept and prototyping center or incubator;
- Provide research and development grants to universities and corporations to support development or purchase critical testing equipment; and,
- Grant funding to help support pilot projects utilizing new technologies that have not yet reached the stage of full market acceptance and commercialization.

**Learn more at:**

**[WWW.NJ.GOV/RGGI/](http://WWW.NJ.GOV/RGGI/)**

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