



# REGI STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN DEVELOPMENT **PUBLIC WEBINAR | CARBON SEQUESTRATION**

April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 10:00AM – 11:30AM



# WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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Webinar Moderator, **Helaine Barr**

Bureau Chief, Bureau of Climate Change and Clean Energy, NJDEP

# WEBINAR GROUND RULES

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- Online participants are muted. During the Open Public Comment Session, we will discuss how to express your questions/comments/concerns
- This meeting is being recorded, by attending this meeting, you consent to being recorded
- A recording of this webinar will be available on our website
- Our panelists will try to address as many questions as possible at the end of the presentation
- Please be courteous of other participants and allow time for meaningful discussion



# MEETING AGENDA

10:00 *Welcome*

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**Webinar Moderator, Helaine Barr**, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Climate Change & Clean Energy, NJDEP

*Teams Webinar Poll*

10:05 **Host Agency Welcome - NJDEP**

**John Cecil**, Assistant Commissioner, State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites, NJDEP

10:10 **Introduction to the RGGI Strategic Funding Plan**

**Bob Kettig**, Assistant Director, Climate Change, Clean Energy and Sustainability Element, NJDEP

**Lauren Siclare**, Forester - Carbon and Climate, NJDEP

*Teams Webinar Poll*

**Joshua Moody**, Research Scientist, DEP - Blue Carbon Initiative Overview

*Teams Webinar Poll*

10:40 **Facilitated Public Comment Session**

Online participants can enter comments into the chat or raise their hand to be added to the queue

11:25 **Next Steps & Closing Remarks**

11:30 *Adjourn*

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# POLL



# HAVE A SAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Provide feedback on your priorities for reducing greenhouse gases  
**and fight climate change in New Jersey!**

**SCAN THIS  
QR CODE**



\* Comment period closes on April 21<sup>st</sup> \*

# HOST AGENCY WELCOME

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Host Agency | **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection**

**John Cecil**, Assistant Commissioner, State Parks, Forests and Historic Sites, NJDEP

# INTRODUCTION TO THE RGGI STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN

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**Bob Kettig**, Assistant Director, Climate Change, Clean Energy, & Sustainability, NJDEP

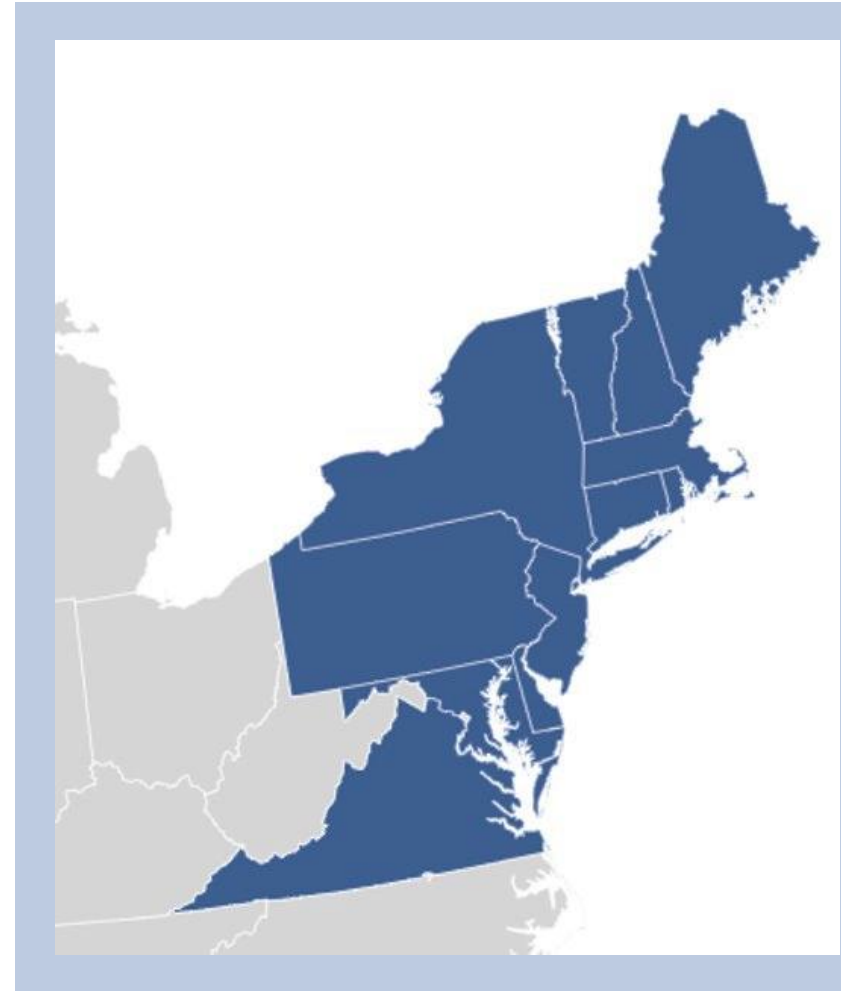


# WHAT IS RGGI?

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The **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** (RGGI) is a market-based program designed to cap and reduce carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel power plants at or above 25 MW capacity

- 12 states including New Jersey
- Through statutes or regulations based on the RGGI Model Rule, each state has established individual CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Programs based upon its own statutory or regulatory authority



# HOW RGGI WORKS

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1



**SETS A DECLINING LIMIT  
ON CARBON POLLUTION  
FROM POWER PLANTS**

2



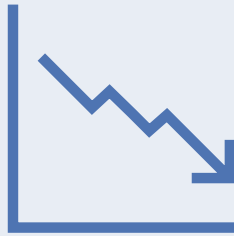
**PUTS A PRICE ON CARBON**

3



**INVESTS IN COMMUNITIES**

# KEY TENETS OF RGGI

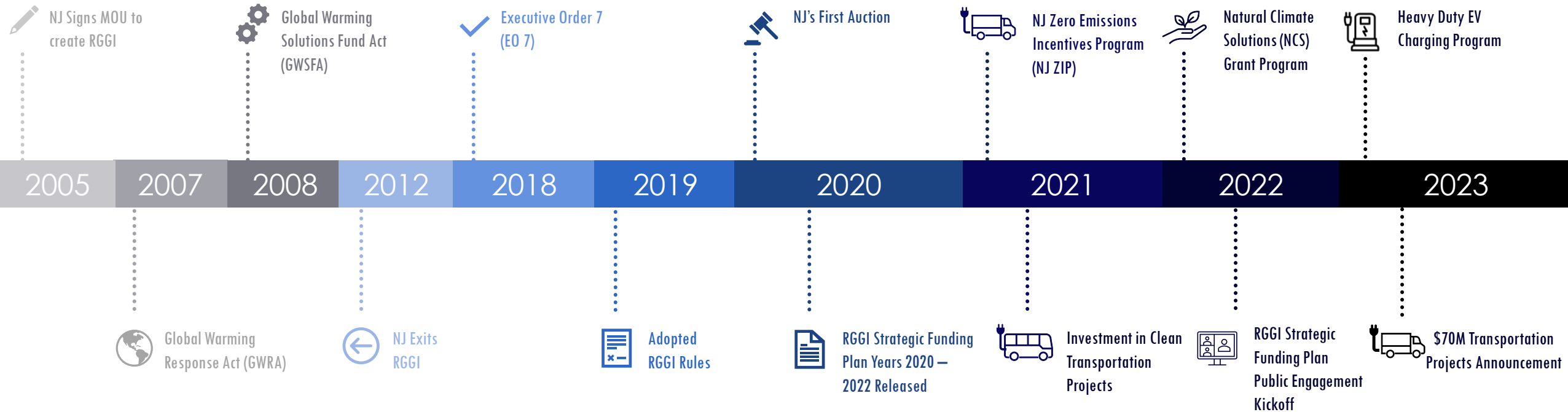


Declining Cap and allowance price send signals to the electricity market. Cost of compliance is less for lower emitting sources



States auction proceeds to achieve GHG reductions and reduce demand for electricity.

# NEW JERSEY AND RGGI TIMELINE



# RGGI PROCEEDS DISTRIBUTION

- Global Warming Solutions Fund Act (GWSFA) passed in 2008
- Enabled NJ to participate in the CO<sub>2</sub> emission trading program
- Established specific state agency funding lanes to allocate RGGI proceeds
  - Set clear boundaries that require Agencies to spend RGGI funds within specific program areas

	EDA	BPU	DEP	
PROGRAM AREAS	Commercial, Institutional & Industrial Entities	Low Income & Moderate Income Residential Sector	Local Governments	Forest Tidal Marshes
FUNDING ALLOCATION	60%	20%	10%	10%
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	<p><b>PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End-use energy efficiency projects.</li> <li>• New, 'state of the art', efficient electric generation facilities.</li> <li>• Combined heat and power production and other high efficiency electric generation facilities.</li> <li>• Innovative carbon emissions abatement technologies.</li> <li>• Development of qualified offshore wind projects.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAMS TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce electricity demand.</li> <li>• Reduce costs to electricity customers.</li> <li>• Support state electric vehicle goals.</li> </ul> <p>With a focus on urban areas, and includes efforts to address heat island effect and reduce impacts on ratepayers attributable to the implementation of Global Warming Response Act.</p>	<p><b>PROGRAMS TO:</b></p> <p>Plan, develop and implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions including, but not limited to assistance to conduct and implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Renewable energy.</li> <li>• Distributed energy programs.</li> <li>• Land use planning (where results are a measurable reduction of greenhouse gas emissions or energy demand).</li> </ul>	<p><b>PROGRAMS TO:</b></p> <p>Enhance the stewardship and restoration of State's forests and tidal marshes that provide opportunity to sequester or reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p>

# WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN?

*The Strategic Funding Plan identifies how New Jersey will invest its share of the RGGI auction proceeds. It defines key initiatives that each agency sponsors.*



It is jointly developed at least once every three years by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, NJ Economic Development Authority, and NJ Board of Public Utilities.



Identifies initiatives that will be funded by RGGI auction proceeds.



Ranks the importance of each objective for each initiative.



Summarizes project and program spending and results achieved during the prior strategic funding plan period.



Requires 4 public meetings prior to the release of the plan.



## INITIATIVE

An **initiative** is a funding strategy predicted to advanced one or more of the objectives identified in the rule, which the agencies have identified as critical

# STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN OBJECTIVES

**1** Net reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions or net sequestration of carbon.

**2** Significant reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions or energy demand and/or significant contribution to the achievement of the state's 2050 Global Warming Response Act limit (relative to cost).

**3** Reduce energy use.

**4** Be directly responsive to the recommendations submitted by the Department to the Legislature pursuant to the Global Warming Response Act.

**5** Provide co-benefits to the state.

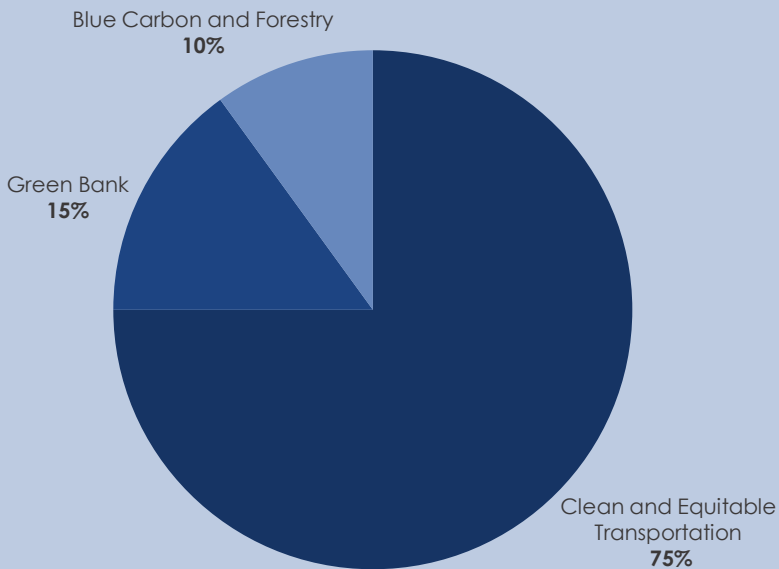
**6** Be directly responsive to the negative effects on human health and the environment in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

Global  
Warming  
Solutions  
Fund Act

EO #7

# NJ'S RGGI STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN: YEARS 2020- 2022

Percentage of Funding by Initiative



The first RGGI Strategic Funding Plan was launched in April of 2020

Four initiatives were identified:

**Initiative 1**      Catalyze Clean, Equitable Transportation

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**Initiative 2**      Promote Blue Carbon in Coastal Habitats

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**Initiative 3**      Enhance Forests and Urban Forests

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**Initiative 4**      Create a New Jersey Green Bank



# RGGI INVESTMENTS FROM 2020-2022 STRATEGIC FUNDING PLAN

\$372,064,000+

New Jersey Total Proceeds; \$260+ million dedicated

153

Projects selected

497

Electric Vehicles Incentivized

16,982

Trees to be planted

56

Acres of Forests to be Restored

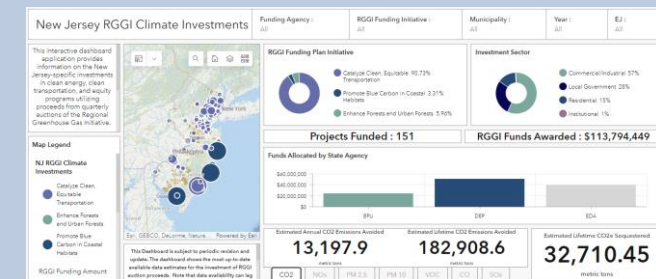
155

Acres of Wetlands to be Restored

208,775

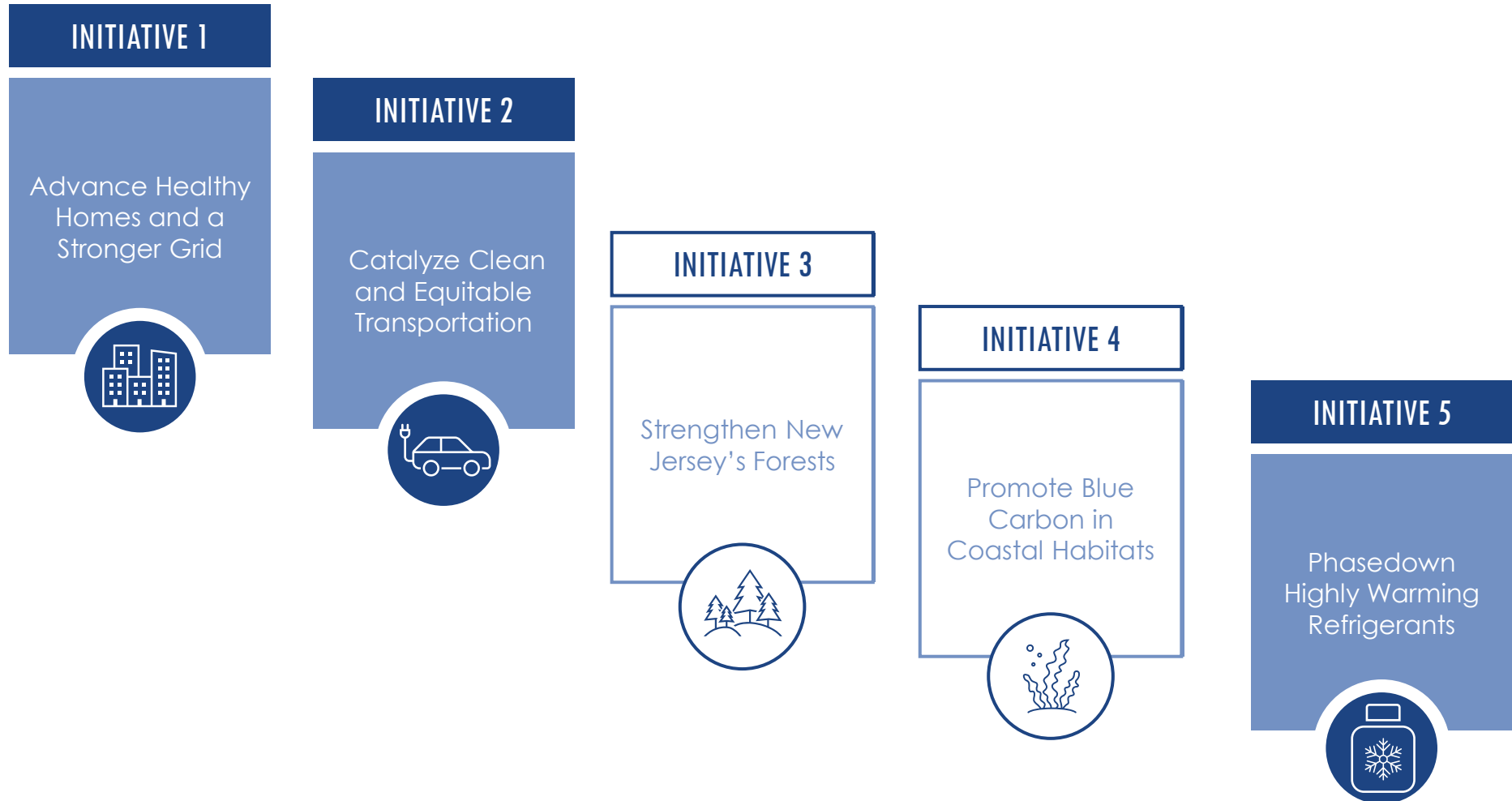
Estimated lifetime CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions avoided in metric tons

## RGGI Climate Investments Dashboard



[www.nj.gov/rggi](http://www.nj.gov/rggi)

# POTENTIAL FUNDING INITIATIVES



# Initiative Three: Strengthen New Jersey's Forests

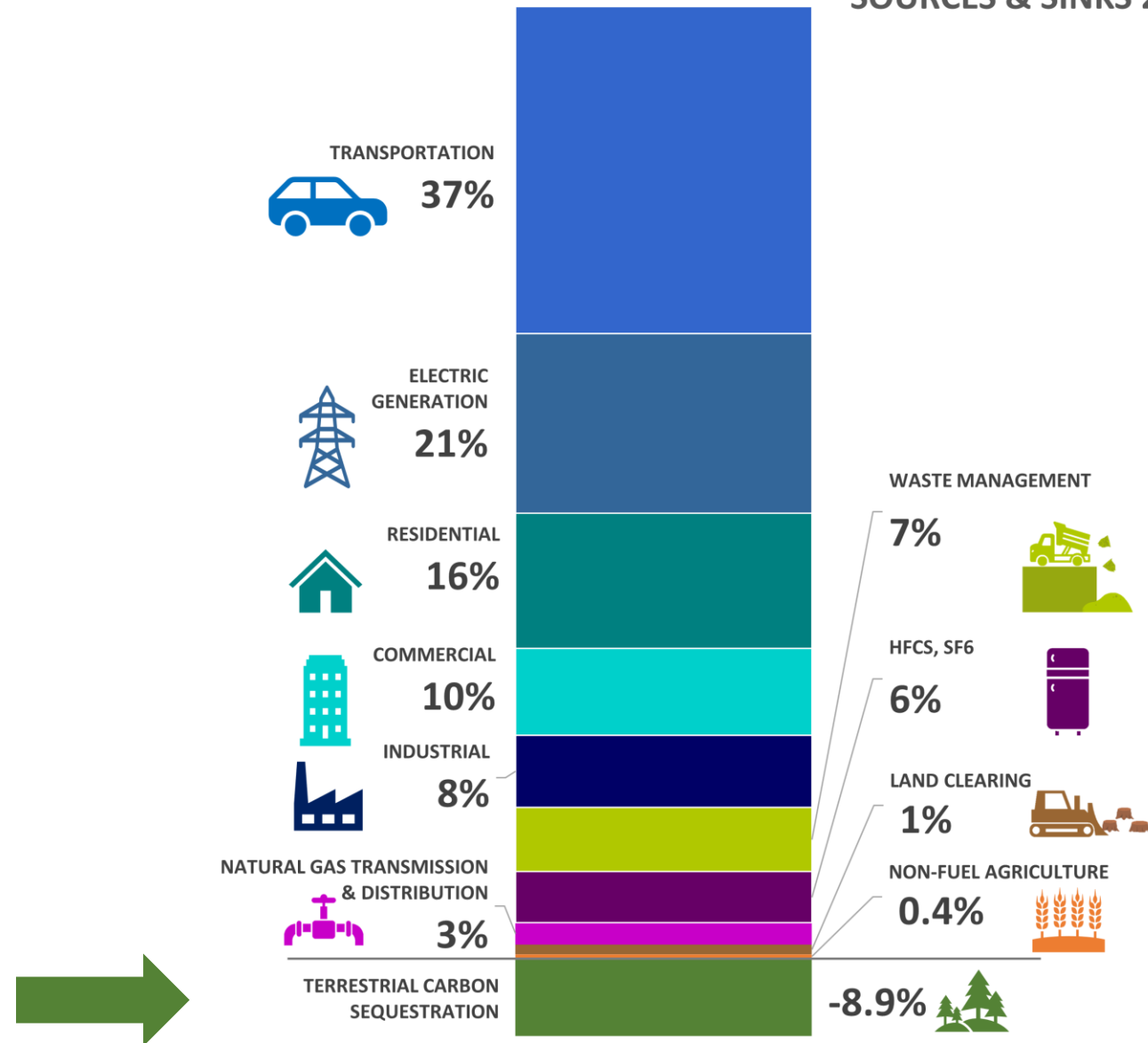
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**Lauren Siclare**, Forester - Carbon and Climate, NJDEP

# WHAT ROLE DOES CARBON SEQUESTRATION PLAY IN THE EMISSIONS INVENTORY

## NJ GREENHOUSE GAS SOURCES & SINKS 2020



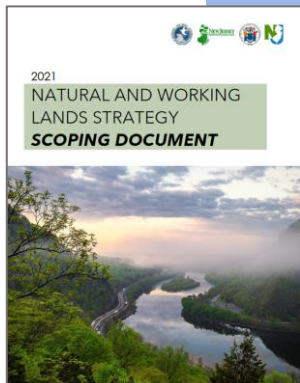
# BACKGROUND ON CARBON SEQUESTRATION EFFORTS TO DATE

## PLANNING

- 80x50 Report
- Forest Action Plan
- Wetland Program Plan
- Natural Working Lands Strategy

## FUNDING

- Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program
- Green and Blue Acres
- Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program



# INITIATIVE THREE: STRENGTHEN NEW JERSEY'S FORESTS

**NJDEP funding could be dedicated to projects and programs that:**




- Fund on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's carbon sinks, such as forests, and urban trees via the Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program ;
- Support urban and community forestry in overburdened communities;
- Promote the stewardship, conservation, and management of privately held forests; and
- Improve the reforestation and management of forests on public property.

# STRENGTHEN NEW JERSEY'S FORESTS *PRIORITY RANKINGS*

## INITIATIVE 3: STRENGTHEN NEW JERSEY'S FORESTS

### *Priority Rankings*

#### Objectives

1. A net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or a net sequestration of carbon; 
2. Significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of impacts on ratepayers, and a significant contribution to the achievement of the State's 2050 Global Warming Response Act limit, relative to the cost of the project or program;
3. Reduction in energy use;
4. Be directly responsive to the recommendations submitted by the Department to the Legislature pursuant to the Global Warming Response Act; 
5. Provide co-benefits; and 
6. Be directly responsive to the negative effects on human health and the environment in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

#### Agency Sponsorship



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# POLL





# Initiative Four: Promote Blue Carbon in Coastal Habitats

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**Joshua Moody**, Research Scientist, Division of Science and Research,  
NJDEP



# INITIATIVE FOUR: PROMOTE BLUE CARBON IN COASTAL HABITATS

**NJDEP funding could be dedicated to projects and programs that:**

- Fund on-the-ground implementation of projects that create, restore, and enhance New Jersey's carbon sinks, such as salt marshes and seagrass beds via the Natural Climate Solutions Grant Program;
- Fund wetland and forest restoration in areas where NJDEP has bought out homes damaged or destroyed in major flood events, leveraging funds from Blue Acres program, Federal NOAA grants, and other blue carbon grant funding sources;
- Encourage coastal habitat conservation and restoration;
- Protect undeveloped upland areas (land lying higher than where tidal flooding occurs) that will become salt marshes as sea level rises; and
- Inventory and prioritize tidal wetlands and marsh migration areas for land conservation through purchase and/or easement.

# PROMOTE BLUE CARBON IN COASTAL HABITATS

## *PRIORITY RANKINGS*

## INITIATIVE 4: PROMOTE BLUE CARBON IN COASTAL HABITATS

### *Priority Rankings*

#### Objectives

1. A net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or a net sequestration of carbon;
2. Significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of impacts on ratepayers, and a significant contribution to the achievement of the State's 2050 Global Warming Response Act limit, relative to the cost of the project or program;
3. Reduction in energy use;
4. Be directly responsive to the recommendations submitted by the Department to the Legislature pursuant to the Global Warming Response Act;
5. Provide co-benefits; and
6. Be directly responsive to the negative effects on human health and the environment in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the effects of environmental degradation and climate change.

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#### Agency Sponsorship



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# POLL



# FACILITATED PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION



Chat



People



Raise



React

# HAVE MORE COMMENTS?

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Provide feedback on your priorities for reducing  
greenhouse gases  
**and fight climate change in New Jersey!**

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QR CODE**



\* Comment period closes on April 21<sup>st</sup> \*

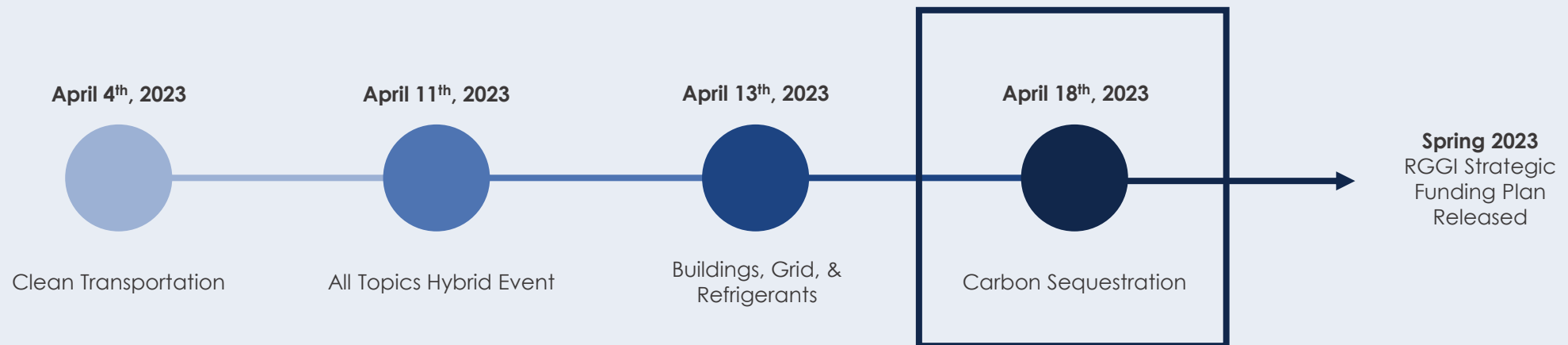
# NEXT STEPS

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Contact Us | [njrggi@dep.nj.gov](mailto:njrggi@dep.nj.gov)

For more information on RGGI engagement | [nj.gov/rggi/engage](https://nj.gov/rggi/engage)

## Public Webinars Timeline





— THANK YOU —