#### Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

# **Progress on Market Linkages**

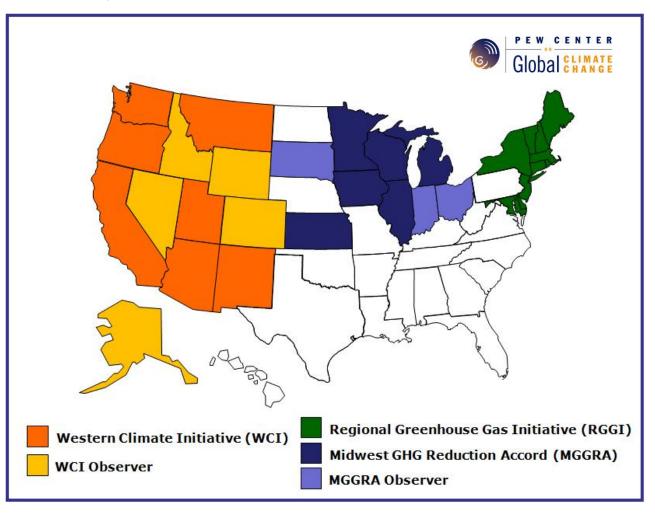
Justin Johnson, 11<sup>th</sup> Annual GHG Emission Trading Workshop, Paris, France Oct 3-4, 2011

## RGGI In Brief

PROGRAM OVERVIEW	
Sector:	Electric generation facilities (25 MW or higher)
<u>Cap</u> :	188M tons of CO <sub>2</sub> per year (2009-2014); will decrease 2.5% per year (2015-2018)
<u>Compliance</u> :	Facilities must possess one allowance / each ton of CO <sub>2</sub> emitted within a three-year compliance period
Allocation:	Close to 100% auction; Proceeds invested in consumer benefit
Banking:	Unused allowances can be banked for future
Offsets:	Facilities can use offsets to cover 3.3% of emissions; 5 project categories; independently verified

# U.S. States are Leading the Way

23 states are working to implement regional cap-and-trade systems for GHGs: RGGI, WCI, MGGRA



#### **RGGI Offsets**

### Currently, applications accepted in 5 categories:

- 1. Landfill methane capture and destruction
- 2. Sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) in the electric power sector
- 3. Carbon sequestration due to afforestation
- 4. End-use energy efficiency in the building sector
- 5. Avoided methane emissions from agricultural manure management

### Prescriptive, Category-Specific Requirements:

- ✓ Real
- ✓ Additional
- ✓ Verifiable
- ✓ Enforceable
- ✓ Permanent

### Linking

- Technical Challenges
- When will it happen?
- Status of the discussion?
- Procedural Hurdles?
- Lessons Learned
- Why Link at all?

### **Linking Conversations**

- Started with "Three Regions" now a broader conversation looking at:
  - 1. Coordinate efforts to design, promote, and implement effective and efficient policies
  - 2. Advocate for appropriate roles for state, provincial, and federal governments
  - 3. Achieve meaningful emissions reductions
  - Demonstrate the economic and job creation benefits of polices

#### **Shared Activities**

 Evaluate and communicate the benefits of moving to a low-carbon economy

 Drive energy efficiency and emissions reduction in the electricity and industrial sectors

Develop high quality offsets

Explore linking of existing programs

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