

## DELAWARE

- RGGI Member
- RPS: 25% by 2025
- 0.25% of US carbon emissions
- 0.4% of US GDP

In 2014, Delaware's Cabinet Committee on Climate and Resiliency approved the recommendation of its Mitigation Workgroup for a statewide mitigation target of 30 percent greenhouse gas reduction from a 2008 baseline by 2030. The *Climate Framework for Delaware* (2014) is a summary of state agency recommendations for both climate mitigation and adaptation. The *Framework* identifies state agency actions to reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, increase resilience to climate impacts, and avoid and minimize flood risks that increase state liability and decrease public safety.

## FINANCE

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- *The Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility (DESEU)* – A non-profit organization that serves Delawareans by promoting the use of affordable, reliable and clean energy and energy efficiency initiatives. The SEU issued \$75M in bonds for energy efficiency in state owned buildings. In addition, the DESEU has plans to issue additional bonds (~\$40M) in 2018. It is important to note that these bonds are not guaranteed by the State of Delaware.
  - DESEU has multiple energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that cover the commercial, industrial, residential, and agricultural sectors with a combined spending of \$6.7M in 2016. These programs include: Home Performance with Energy Star, Revolving Loan Program, Solar Renewable Energy Credit Purchase Program, Pathways for Schools, Energy Efficiency Investment Fund, Community Energy Centers and Faith Efficiencies Partnership.
- *Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)* – A recently defeated state Senate bill. The Bill would have set up funding for energy efficiency from a lien on the property that would have been paid through billings for water, sewer or electrical charges, real property tax assessments, or other billings. Some version of this bill may be re-introduced this coming year.

- *Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)* – A market-based program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the power sector. Delaware is an active member.
- *Delaware Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)* – Requires 25% of the state’s electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 with a 3.5% carve out for solar energy. Solar PV in Delaware has grown from 2.3 megawatts (MW) at the end of 2008 to roughly 80 MW today.
- *Green Energy Fund* – Created by the Delaware state legislature in 1999, this fund provides grants and loans to incentivize the deployment of renewable energy. Grants are available for qualifying renewable energy systems, including solar photovoltaic (PV), solar water heating systems, small wind turbines, geothermal heat pumps, and fuel cells. The Green Energy Fund collects approximately \$3 million dollars each year. The program has awarded over \$55.7 million for renewable energy projects installed in Delaware since its inception. During calendar year 2016, payments totaling \$2.3 million dollars were issued to 485 projects. Leveraged funds for these projects amount to over \$16.4 million dollars.
- *Wind Generation* – Delaware’s Governor John Carney signed an executive order in August 2017 to create an Offshore Wind Working Group. By December 15, the working group will submit a report to the Governor that makes recommendations on short- and long-term strategies for developing wind power to serve Delaware, and plans to develop job opportunities in the offshore wind industry. The group also will draft any necessary legislation, including possible amendments to Delaware’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards Act.

- *California's Low Emission Fuel Standard (adopted by Delaware in 2010)* – The tailpipe emission standards include requirements for meeting greenhouse gas emissions from passenger cars and medium duty vehicles. If the Trump Administration rolls back the federal Clean Car Standard for Model Year 2022-2025 vehicles, Delaware will remain a Clean Car State.
- *Delaware's Clean Vehicle Rebate Program* – Provides financial incentives for residents and businesses to buy or lease new alternative fuel vehicles including electric, natural gas, and propane-powered vehicles. Rebates range from \$1,000 - \$3,500. It is aligned with Delaware's commitment to innovation in the transportation sector, reducing greenhouse gases, and improving Delaware's air quality. In addition, the Delaware Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Rebate Program provides rebates for Level 2 electric vehicle charging stations.
- *Delaware Workplace Charging Program* – Participants can receive rebates and technical guidance for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations. Delaware-based workplaces (with 15 or more employees) can apply for rebates for up to six charging stations.
- *Transportation and Climate Initiative* – A regional collaboration of 12 Northeast and Mid-Atlantic jurisdictions that seeks to develop the clean energy economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector. In addition, Delaware leads a robust partnership of stakeholders through its state chapter of the Clean Cities Coalition, a national effort to cut petroleum dependence throughout the United States.
- *The Delaware Transit Corporation* – Provides paratransit service throughout the state, has purchased 130 propane paratransit vehicles – approximately 45% of the total paratransit fleet. They have also ordered several electric buses to serve transit lines in each of Delaware's three counties. In addition, propane and electric buses have been added to public transit and school bus fleets. The Delaware Department of Education has purchased more than 50 propane-powered school buses. In addition, the state is adding electric vehicles to the state fleet. Three EVs are now housed at the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Department of Transportation has recently ordered several for their fleet.

- *Delaware's Energy Conservation and Efficiency Act (2009)* – Designates energy efficiency as a priority energy resource and created Energy Efficiency Resource Standards (EERS) requiring a reduction in energy use through energy efficiency and conservation measures.
- *Energy Efficiency Investment Fund (EEIF)* – Created in 2011 to help Delaware businesses make strategic investments in capital equipment and facility upgrades that will help decrease operating costs, reduce energy consumption, and improve environmental performance. In fiscal year 2017, EEIF granted \$2.4 million to Delaware businesses, local governments, and non-profits for energy efficiency upgrades. \$2.4 million in grants translated to \$19 million leveraged, which will become \$56.8 million in energy savings for our grantees over ten years.
- *Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC)* – Created by the Delaware General Assembly in 2014, the EEAC assists the state's electric and natural gas utilities with the development and deployment of energy efficiency programs that are cost-effective, reliable, and feasible for residential, low income, and commercial and industrial customers. The same bill greatly expanded the state's commitment to and investment in energy efficiency for all utility customers.
- *Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)* – Provides energy retrofits to low-income homes in Delaware, which are upgrades designed to both increase the health and safety of the home and decrease the monthly energy cost burden for the residents. Trained weatherization professionals provide a walkthrough audit followed by no-cost installation of common efficiency measures, such as weather-stripping, air sealing, LED lighting, and programmable thermostats. In 2016, the DNREC sub-grantee that implements the program served 232 low-income homes, generating energy savings of approximately 135,000 kWh and 5,700 MMBtu.

- *The Delaware Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program* – Offers competitive grants for tree planting, tree care, and tree management projects on publicly-owned lands.
- *Delaware Land Protection Act (1990)* – Since its passage, Delaware has protected 57,000 acres of land from development through the program. A report documenting its 26 years of implementation can be found here: <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/OpenSpaces/Documents/Delawares-Open-Space-Program-A-26-year-report-1990-June2016.pdf>
- *Agriculture* – Reducing fertilizer usage, using conservation tillage practices, and protecting agricultural lands all assist in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture. The Delaware Department of Agriculture is working with Delaware farmers to apply these types of practices in the field by promoting permanent land protection through the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Program, supporting nutrient management by encouraging up-to-date nutrient management plans and programs, and supporting healthy trees and forests through the Forest Stewardship and Urban and Community Forestry Programs. Many of these programs have co-benefits that include improved water quality and soil health.

- *Careful Stewardship of Delaware Coastline* – Through a variety of mechanisms, including the *Open Space* Program, Delaware’s Coastal Zone Act (which prohibited heavy industrial development in the coastal zone) and partnerships, a significant portion of Delaware’s ocean, bay, and river coastline is in permanent protection. Some estimates report that up to 90% of the coastline is in conservation. Half of the state’s 25 miles of ocean coastline is in public ownership. As compared to other states, the high level of conserved land in vulnerable coastal areas reduces its economic vulnerability to coastal storms and sea level rise.
- *Beach Preservation Act* – Directs the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to prevent and repair damages to shorelines, and it has a dedicated funding source derived from the state’s Accommodation Tax.
- *Executive Order 41 (2013, Gov. Jack Markell)* – Required state agencies to avoid building state assets in flood prone areas (including those areas subject to future sea level rise) and to incorporate green infrastructure into projects when feasible. Delaware published guidance in 2016 that outlines requirements and procedures for avoiding construction in flood-prone areas and/or building to a higher standard where it is not feasible to locate outside of a flood prone area. As part of this effort, the state also published a green infrastructure guidance document.