

# MYTH VS. FACT

## RGGI and Pennsylvania

**MYTH:**  
Joining RGGI will  
cause job losses

### FACT:

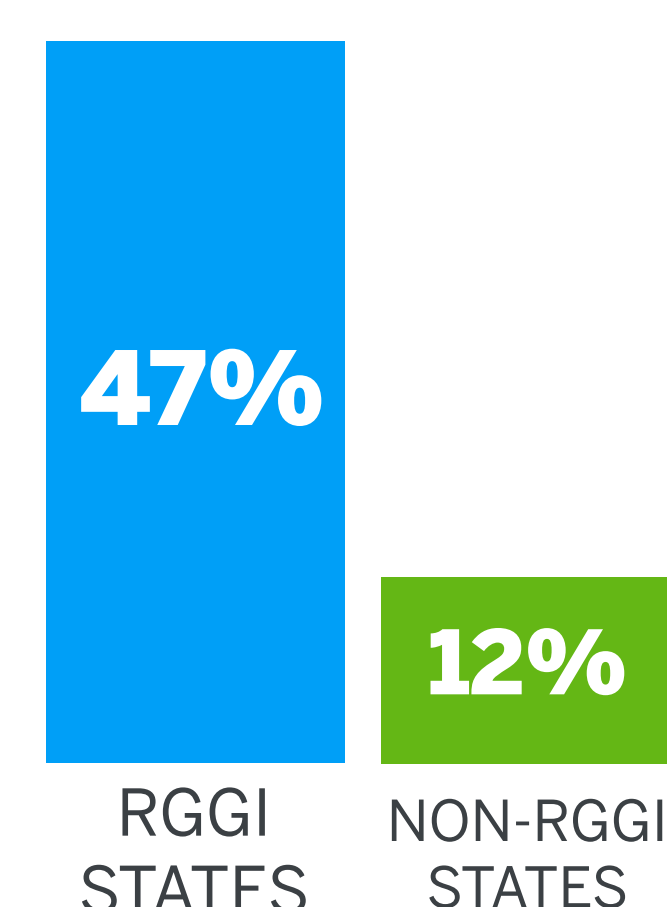
Joining RGGI will help prevent job losses in the nuclear, solar, wind and hydropower industries as well as numerous service and technical industries that support these critical industries. For example, the owners of the Beaver Valley nuclear plant cancelled plans to retire the plant because of Pennsylvania's intent to join RGGI for 2022.<sup>1</sup> The Beaver Valley decision saved thousands of direct and indirect in-state jobs. The nuclear energy industry alone accounts for 15,000 jobs in Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

**MYTH:**  
RGGI will make PA  
less competitive to  
energy companies,  
forcing them to leave  
the Commonwealth

### FACT:

RGGI has a track record of making states more competitive. The overall GDP in current RGGI states has grown by 47%, outpacing growth in the rest of the country by 31% over the last decade.<sup>3</sup> When it comes to energy generation, RGGI is imperative for the solar, wind, nuclear, and hydropower industries to stay and grow in PA, and gas continues to grow in DEP projections. In fact, some gas companies support RGGI, including companies like Shell and BP. For example, Susan Dio, the Chairman and President of BP America, published a letter in support of RGGI in PennLive.<sup>4</sup>

### GDP GROWTH

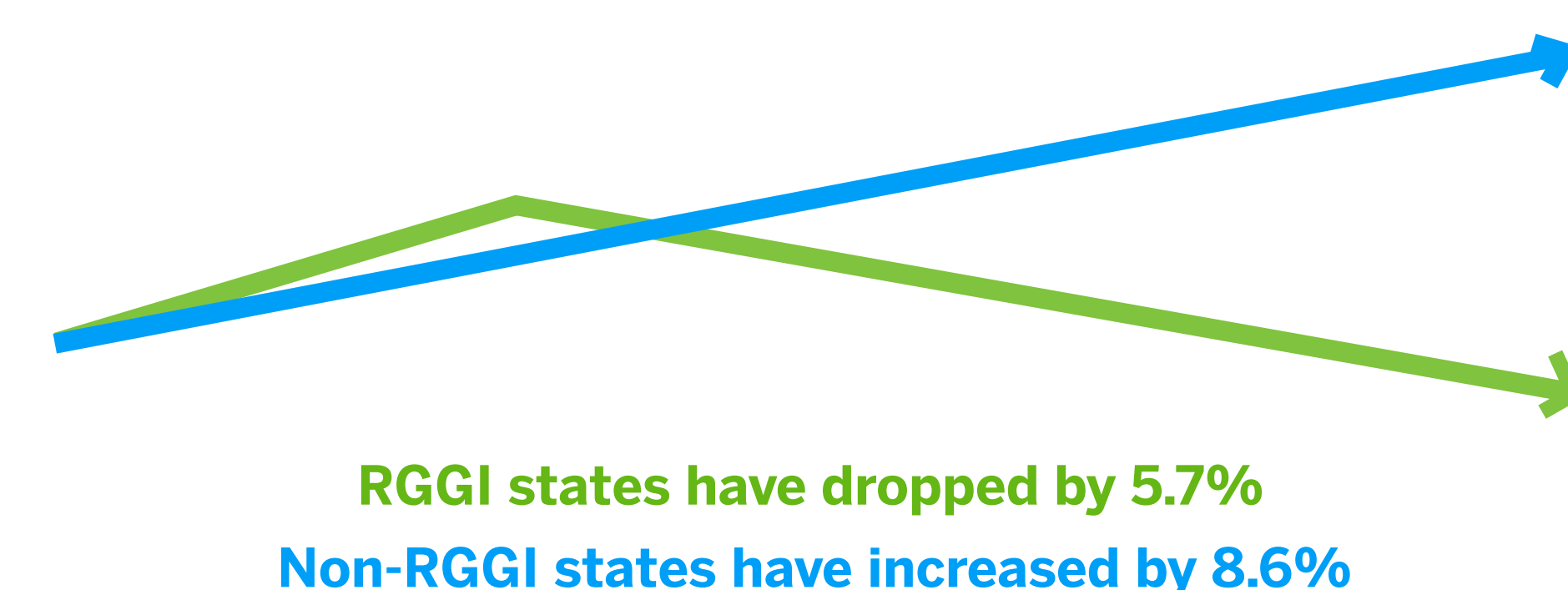


**MYTH:**  
RGGI will increase  
electricity costs

### FACT:

RGGI provides a mechanism to reinvest money paid by polluters into programs that reduce household bills while improving the environment. As Acadia Group shows, overall consumer electricity prices in current RGGI states have dropped by 5.7% in the last decade, while overall costs in Non-RGGI states have increased by 8.6%.<sup>3</sup>

### CONSUMER ELECTRICITY COSTS



**MYTH:**  
RGGI has no impact  
on pollution

### FACT:

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants within RGGI states have fallen by 47%, outpacing the rest of the country by 90%, and RGGI-driven reductions in co-pollutant emissions, such as those that cause smog, have resulted in over \$5.7 billion in health and productivity benefits since 2008.<sup>3</sup> While Pennsylvania air quality is improving, many of our cities still received an "F" grade from the American Lung Association on air quality.<sup>5</sup> We have a long way to go, and RGGI will help us get there.

**MYTH:**  
RGGI will kill the  
coal industry

### FACT:

Natural gas has been replacing coal generation for at least a decade, due to its much lower costs. However, funds raised by participating in RGGI can be reinvested in training programs, jobs, and direct grants that support transitioning workers to a clean energy future and transitioning communities to healthier and more stable funding sources.

**MYTH:**  
RGGI is an  
illegal tax

### FACT:

RGGI isn't even a tax - it simply begins to make polluters pay a portion of the costs they impose on Pennsylvania's communities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.powermag.com/pennsylvania-move-to-join-rggi-may-save-nuclear-plant/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cleanjobsforpennsylvania.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Acadia Center 2019 RGGI Report: <https://acadiacenter.org/document/the-regional-greenhouse-gas-initiative-ten-years-in-review/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2020/02/pa-can-transform-americas-energy-landscape-again-opinion.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.stateoftheair.org/city-rankings/states/pennsylvania/>