

CO2 Budget Trading Program Tamela Trussell (CCWA, TLC Education)

Tamela Trussell
612 Belvedere St.
Carlisle, PA 17013
Tamela.trussell@gmail.com
Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association, CCWA
TLC Education (www.tlceducation.info)



Good afternoon. My name is Tamela Trussell and I am the founder of TLC Education, a Climate Reality Leader, Master Watershed Steward, committee member of Carlisle Climate Action Commission, and board member of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association, a non-profit organization of stewards of the 90-mile-long Conodoguinet Creek and larger watersheds of which it is a part, including the Chesapeake Bay. I support Pennsylvania's creation of regulations to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

My three children and I began taking care of the Conodoguinet creek with clean-ups to collect tons of trash along half-mile stretches. In doing so, I have become aware and shocked by the harmful, unseen pollutants that invade our watersheds. Fish are not safe for human consumption in half of the acres of public lakes (Cable, 2020). Thirty percent of the 85,000+ miles of streams in Pennsylvania are impaired. Over the past two year over 5,500 miles have been added to this status. (Cable, 2020) Greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) play a large role in the poor health of Pennsylvanians and our watersheds.

Currently, the electric power sector contributes one-third of Pennsylvania's GHG emissions. The entire power sector from extraction to consumption and disposal also contributes over one hundred known toxic chemicals and radiation into our watershed. These GHGs and other toxic chemicals bring about imbalances, hazards, and health concerns on human beings and natural systems.

The increasing GHG emissions have caused a 70 percent increase in the frequency of severe storms in the Northeast since 1958. In 2018 severe storms caused \$125.7 million in replaced

infrastructure. These large storms also cause extensive runoff from urban and agricultural areas into our waterways. This runoff ends up killing aquatic plants and animal life and is consumed by humans.

Erratic weather negatively impacts agriculture by losing precious topsoil that took millions of years to accumulate. This soil ends up polluting our creeks. The increase in temperatures, decreased dairy production and increased pests and disease damaging crops, orchards, and livestock. Projected crop loss could cost PA One hundred and fifty million per year. (Daria Karetinkov, 2008) One-third of nitrogen loads into the Bay come from air sources from another GHG, NOx. (Chesapeake Bay, 2010) Curbing atmospheric GHG will drastically help the waterways and bay. Employing agricultural, urban, and forest best management practices will prevent numerous pollutants from entering our waterway.

Linking to RGGI has the potential to balance the natural systems that we are a part of and have grossly brought out of balance. Unfortunately, the use of fossil fuels has put many contaminants into our environment such as excessive amounts of CO2, Methane, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitric Oxide, Ammonia, benzene, toluene, and hundreds of other toxic chemicals. These are dangerous to our environment and health.

Like many Pennsylvania citizens who have poor health, four out of five members of my family have eczema; my daughter suffers from asthma and my son has severe allergies. If we reach the projected decrease in GHG emission by joining RGGI, there will be more than 45,000 fewer asthma attacks and more than 1,000 fewer cases of childhood bronchitis.

Failing to curb GHG emissions is irresponsible and will hinder the legacy of our present and future life. If used mindfully, participation in RGGI is just one tool in the toolbox we can employ to bring balance back to the ecosystem equation we are a part of. For these many reasons, I urge the Environmental Quality Board to move quickly to implement RGGI in Pennsylvania.

Works Cited

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The increasing GHG emissions have caused a 70 percent increase in the frequency of severe storms in the Northeast since 1958. Server storms caused \$125.7 million in replaced infrastructure in 2018. These large storms also cause extensive runoff from urban and agricultural areas into our

r current forests and wetlands. By living on the legacy plant life in the form of fossil fuels we are hindering the legacy of our present and future life. If used mindfully, participation in RGGI is just one tool in the toolbox we can employ to bring balance back to the ecosystem equation we are a part of. For these many reasons, I urge the Environmental Quality Board to move quickly to implement RGGI in Pennsylvania.