

October 31, 2017

#### Advancing Energy Efficiency and Improving Air Quality

#### 2017 ACEEE - EE as a Resource – Phoenix, AZ

Nancy L. Seidman Senior Advisor The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)<sup>®</sup> Cambridge, Massachusetts United States +1 781 980 8006 nseidman@raponline.org raponline.org

# Multiple Benefits of Energy Efficiency



# Linking Air Quality and Energy Efficiency

- Why Environmental Regulators care about Energy
- Why Energy Efficiency is an important option for meeting air quality goals
- How can the Two be linked?

#### Comparison of Growth Areas and Declining Emissions



#### **Electric Sector Emissions**



Source: U.S. EPA National Emissions Inventory, 2016

#### **US Emissions Pollutants of Concern**



*Sources:* Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Oxides - U.S. EPA National Emissions Inventory, 2016; Mercury - U.S. EPA 2014; GHG - U.S. EPA 2017

#### Counties Designated "Nonattainment"

for Clean Air Act's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) \*



# **Nitrogen Oxide Impacts**



Source: flickr.com

- Acid Rain and Transported Pollution
- Visibility Impairment
- Water Body Eutrophication
- Ground level Ozone (Smog)
- Fine Particle Health Impacts

# 200,000

Source: Laura Bell, statistics from MIT

# Translating Air Quality and Energy Efficiency



#### The United States has the potential to cost-effectively reduce its electricity use by 741,000 GWh\*



\*from 2016–2035. Electric Power Research Institute, *State Level Electric Energy Efficiency Potential*, 2017. †2015 data; from U.S. Energy Information Administration, "Retail Sales of Electricity by State by Sector by Provider (EIA-861)," Detailed State Data, 2016. ‡Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, "What It Costs to Save Energy," 2017.

# What's 1,000 GWh?





Six 690 MW natural gas combined cycle power plants

Source: RAP Shenot, MassDEP Footprint permit

#### Air Quality Benefits of DOE's Potential Study - NO<sub>x</sub>



#### Air Quality Benefits of DOE's Potential Study – CO<sub>2</sub>





Source: EPA GHG calculator, MassDEP Footprint permit

# **Energy Efficiency Improves Air Quality**

- Complying with Public Health Standards
- Complying with Visibility Standards
- Developing Implementation Plans
- Demonstrating "permanent, quantifiable, surplus, enforceable" reductions



# **Energy Efficiency Improves Air Quality**

- Complying with Public Health Standards
- Complying with Visibility Standards
- Developing Implementation Plans
- Demonstrating "permanent, quantifiable, surplus, enforceable" reductions

## **Energy Efficiency Benefits Facilities**

- Saving Facilities Money during Permitting
- Training Permit Writers to consider Energy Efficiency
- Focusing Commercial and Industrial Energy Efficiency efforts, Tailored to a State's economy

## **Energy Efficiency's Value can be Modeled**

- Jointly Achieving State and Local Environmental and Energy goals
  - RAP's E-Merge Approach
  - Peer to Peer conversations
- Modeling to Demonstrate the Value of Energy Efficiency

# **Conclusion and a Recommendation**

- Significant Air Quality Benefits are available from Energy Efficiency – Greenhouse gas and Criteria pollutants
- Value of Energy Efficiency programs increases
- Air Quality Officials need Encouragement and Translations
- You can help!

#### Resources

- Using Energy Efficiency to Advance Air Quality Compliance
- Quantifying the Air Quality Impacts of Energy Efficiency Policies and Programs
- Avoided Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT)



## **About RAP**

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)<sup>®</sup> is an independent, non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to accelerating the transition to a clean, reliable, and efficient energy future.

#### Learn more about our work at raponline.org



Nancy L. Seidman Senior Advisor The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)<sup>®</sup> Cambridge, Massachusetts United States +1 781 980 8006 nseidman@raponline.org raponline.org