



Comments on TCI's Draft MOU — 2.28.19

Clean Water Action submits the following comments, incorporates by reference those from “New Jersey Advocates Comments in Support of the Transportation and Climate Initiative” (TCI) being submitted today that Clean Water Action co-signed, and supports those submitted by Dr. Nicky Sheats on behalf of the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance and Ironbound Community Corporation also submitted today.

As submitted in our Nov. 2019 comments, IPCC’s calling for a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030 and 11,258 scientists from 153 countries declaring “clearly and unequivocally that planet Earth is facing a climate emergency” and calling for “massive energy efficiency and conservation practices”, “quickly cutting emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, such as soot and methane, which could slow short-term warming”, and “a carbon free economy” demonstrates we cannot move, and we are not moving, fast enough!

TCI done right can also improve the lives of frontline communities who have borne much of the burden of our dirty, failing transportation systems. Investing all revenue in transit equity and emission reductions would ensure that the benefits of the program reaches all communities in New Jersey, particularly low-income, overburdened and environmental justice ones.

A strong cap consistent with a 45% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 is critical to this effort. If TCI is to succeed, it must unequivocally lead to significant emission reductions in environmental justice communities, while also ensuring that these communities receive the benefits of more transportation options and access to well-paying jobs that come with our state’s move to a clean transportation economy. To that end, quite simply:

- 1) TCI’s cap **MUST** be consistent with w/ IPCC’s target of a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- 2) Environmental justice communities **MUST** receive equal if not greater GHG (including short-lived climate pollutant) and co-pollutant emission reductions within the geographic scope of TCI.
- 3) Real community and EJ voices **MUST** have meaningful input at the decision-making table throughout the TCI process.
- 4) All TCI proceeds **MUST** be dedicated to the reduction of GHG (including short-lived climate pollutant) and co-pollutant emission reductions in all participating TCI jurisdictions -- no raids of funds, whether to a state’s general fund or treasury or any non-TCI program...

Clean Water Action has more than 150,000 members statewide in New Jersey and is the nation's largest grassroots group focused on water, energy and environmental health. Since our founding during the campaign to pass the landmark Clean Water Act in 1972, Clean Water Action has worked to win strong health and environmental protections by bringing issue expertise, solution-oriented thinking and people power to the table. We will protect clean water in the face of attacks from a polluter friendly Administration and Congress.