

Tax carbon

I'm sorry Kansas trails the region and nation on economic indicators, but I'm impressed that The Eagle published the information that your state government didn't put online ([Aug. 27 Eagle Editorial](#)).

Here's my region's latest economic news: During 2012-14, our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative led our region to net an extra \$1.3 billion, and cut \$1.2 billion from money we pay out for fossil fuels. Utility prices dropped, saving consumers \$460 million, and our emissions declined 15 percent.

RGGI wasn't intended as an economic development program, but since 2009 it has created 30,000 regional jobs. Meanwhile, our electricity service has remained reliable.

Economic studies suggest that carbon taxes could do even better than our cap-and-trade initiative.

Citizens' Climate Lobby commissioned Regional Economic Models to prepare economic studies of the impact of a national carbon fee on every region of our country. It found that in 10 years [your region](#) could cut emissions, develop 200,000 new jobs, and add \$8 billion to your regional gross product.

A revenue-neutral carbon fee, rebated to households, could mean your region won't trail on economic indicators.

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