

Fact-Sheet on Northeast/Mid-Atlantic States Low-Carbon Fuel Program

11 Northeastern and mid-Atlantic states namely, New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island signed a letter of intent on December 31, 2008 to develop a regional low-carbon standard to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. Low carbon fuel standards require reductions in the average greenhouse gas emissions per unit of energy. It can apply to fuel used for transportation, but also for home heating fuel.

This standard would apply to the entire region creating a larger market for cleaner fuels and the development of clean energy technologies. While California's low-carbon standard is limited to motor vehicles, the Northeast states' standard would cover "fuels for vehicles and other uses".

The letter also noted that a low-carbon fuel standard would be market-based, and would not pick favorites among the various sources of low-carbon energy available, such as electricity and advanced biofuels.

The 11 states will draft a joint Memorandum of Understanding on the new low-carbon fuel program and send it to be signed by their respective governors by the end of 2009.

The letter also said the states will collaborate with the nonprofit Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM), a group that represents regional air-quality agencies. NESCAUM is already conducting a study of how a regional low-carbon fuel standard would work.

The states also agreed to work with other states and the federal government, and to seek to influence the design of any federal low-carbon fuel standard or other related policy that is proposed.