



# PRESS RELEASE

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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

## **On Eve of President's FY2018 Budget Framework Release, ECOS Analysis Shows Significance of Federal Funding to State Environmental Programs**

**Washington, DC** – State environmental agency budgets (EABs) have shown modest growth in the past few years, with states continuing to rely on federal funding from EPA. To make up the difference as federal government funding remains essentially flat - and effectively declines - states are increasingly reliant on non-federal resources to implement environmental protection programs. Released on the eve of the controversial President's Budget Framework, *ECOS' Green Report - Status of State Environmental Agency Budgets, FY2013-15* - shows that average federal funding to state environmental agencies experienced a small decline during that period. "This report shows how important those federal funds are to state EABs - a finding that is particularly relevant as cuts to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) budget - and as such state - EABs are possible. States need these federal funds to fully carry out their EABs' critical functions of advancing human health and protecting the environment," says ECOS Executive Director Alexandra Dunn.

States operate the majority of federally delegated and authorized programs and manage funds to implement environmental regulations. ECOS' report analyzed budget information from 46 state environmental agencies, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, finding state EABs increased 7% over three years, with the average state EAB being \$203M over three years.

The report looks at three primary funding sources - state EAB general fund support, federal government funding, and fees and other funding. The findings are over three years that:

- state EAB general fund support increased by \$335M (35%)
- federal government funding support to state EABs decreased by \$64M (3%)
- fee and other fund support – the largest major funding source for state EABs grew by \$403M (10%).

These figures exclude California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) dollars, as CalEPA has a significantly larger budget than other states and experienced major organizational and responsibility increases during the reporting period. More calculations and analysis are in the report.

According to ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Becky Keogh, Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), "ADEQ leadership and staff are working hard to boost environmental outcomes and program efficiency to maintain the lowest possible costs. As a

state that balances our budget annually, our budget remains essentially flat, with limited general funds available to meet existing program needs and address the increased level of regulatory requirements and mandates.”

Adds ECOS Vice President Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, “For a state that is large in land size but small in population, state general funds and fees and other funding are the bulk of the budget upon which we rely to deliver on our growing environmental protection needs.”

*ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners. For more information, visit [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org).*