



**2020 ECOS Virtual Fall Meeting Draft Agenda
Onward! for Environmental Protection
September 22-23, 2020
#ECOSFall20**

Note: To promote full audience participation during work hours in all U.S. time zones, ECOS will conduct separate webinars on other days for states-only business, as well as workgroup, subcommittee, caucus, and board sessions.

Tuesday, September 22	
Pandemic Innovations & Lessons, Funding, Water, & Disaster Response	
12:30 – 12:50 p.m.	<p>Welcome & Introductions</p> <p>Welcome, ECOS President Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy</p> <p>Roll Call & Self-Introductions, ECOS members</p> <p>Agenda Preview, ECOS Executive Director Don Welsh</p>
12:50 – 1:15 p.m.	<p>Member Presentations: Pandemic-Related Innovations in <i>Agency Management</i></p> <p><i>Amid unprecedented challenges arising from COVID-19, states are managing to fulfill their environmental protection missions and keep employees engaged and workflows on track. Rather than showcase all types of innovation as we have done at past Fall Meetings, this year we'll hear from ECOS members on effective new ways of doing business during a national public health emergency. We'll forgo voting and awards this fall because all member agencies deserve recognition for surviving and thriving during this extraordinary time!</i></p>

1:15 – 1:35 p.m.	<p>Keynote Presentation: Sustainability Lessons from COVID-19, ECOS Connecticut Alumnus Daniel Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law & Policy, Yale University, and Editor of <i>A Better Planet: 40 Big Ideas for a Sustainable Future</i>, introduced by ECOS Waste Committee Chair Darsi Foss of Wisconsin</p>
1:35 – 2:15 p.m.	<p>Roundtable: Toward Funding Solutions on Water Quality, Land Preservation, & Staffing – A Virginia Model for Cooperative Advocacy</p> <p><i>With state budgets taking a hit from the pandemic, environmental agency leaders might look to other states for sustainable solutions. Fifteen years ago, Virginia trailed all other states in spending on the environment. The situation inspired corporations and environmental groups to come together to form a pioneering nonprofit that has successfully advocated for increased environmental authorizations in the Virginia General Assembly.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Alumni Association Co-Founder Dennis Treacy, Senior Counsel, ReedSmith (moderator) ❖ Peggy Sanner, Virginia Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation ❖ Matt Wells, Senior Regional Manager, State Government Relations, WestRock ❖ Ginny Boland, Administrative Director, VIRGINIAforever, and Vice President of Advocacy, McGuireWoods Consulting
2:15 – 2:20 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
2:20 – 2:45 p.m.	<p>State-U.S. EPA Dialogue: Bringing the Most Current Data as We Celebrate the CWA at 50</p> <p><i>Over the past five decades, states and U.S. EPA have made significant strides in improving the nation’s water quality. EPA’s “Breakthrough” metric to measure this progress relies on timely state submission of, and EPA action on, Clean Water Act 303(d) impaired waters lists. While EPA’s Lean Management System, digital reporting, and previous efforts have helped, states and EPA have a unique opportunity in the coming 18 months to make further process improvements yielding up-to-date information so states can report comprehensively on the nation’s water quality in 2022.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Jess Byrne, Acting Director/Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator, U.S. EPA ❖ John Goodin, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, & Watersheds, U.S. EPA Office of Water
2:45 – 2:55 p.m.	<p>Presentation of ECOS President’s Award by ECOS President Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy, followed by Presentation of ECOS Special Recognition Award by ECOS Planning Committee Chair Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control</p>

2:55 – 3:25 p.m.	<p>Open Discussion & Live Polling: Best Practices in Disaster Preparation & Recovery, led by Janet Coit, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management</p> <p><i>COVID-19 isn't the only crisis on the minds of environmental regulators. As state commissioners, we learn more each day about the health and environmental impacts of natural disasters on our communities, as well as the opportunities for our agencies to support and improve upon disaster response efforts. This session will allow us to share best practices.</i></p>
3:25 – 3:30 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
3:30 – 4:10 p.m.	<p>Roundtable: Toward Stormwater Solutions – Smart Ponds & Strategic Partnerships</p> <p><i>In another example of public-private partnership that might serve as a model in tough budgetary times, state, NGO, and industry partners have come together to deploy smart ponds to manage stormwater, ultimately benefiting the Chesapeake Bay. Participants will address how the program can be replicated to address the challenges of nonpoint source runoff, and will explore the potential for similar partnerships between other states and their respective transportation agencies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (moderator) ❖ ECOS Oversight Workgroup Chair Catherine McCabe, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Cosmo Servidio, Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 3 ❖ Mark Bryer, Director, Chesapeake Bay Program, The Nature Conservancy ❖ Toni McCrory, Director, Environmental, Safety, & Health Compliance, Walmart ❖ Matt Rea, Strategic Partnership Manager, Opti
4:10 – 4:30 p.m.	<p>Presentation: It Isn't Just Flint: Fixing Drinking Water Everywhere, <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Seth M. Siegel, author of <i>Troubled Water: What's Wrong with What We Drink</i>, introduced by ECOS Air Committee Chair Sheila Holman, Assistant Secretary for Environment, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality</p>
4:30 – 4:35 p.m.	<p>Wrap-up & Announcements, ECOS President Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy</p>

Wednesday, September 23 Pandemic Innovations, Air, E-Enterprise, & Plastics	
12:30 – 12:35 p.m.	Call to Order & Announcement of 2020-21 Officers, & Recognition of 2019-20 Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Call to Order & Announcement of 2020-21 Officers, ECOS President Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy ❖ Recognition of 2019-20 Officers, ECOS Executive Director Don Welsh
12:35 – 12:55 p.m.	Member Presentations: Pandemic-Related Innovations in <i>Environmental Programs Part I</i> <i>Yesterday's kickoff featured new ways of managing state agencies in the midst of COVID. Today we pick up with innovations in the area of environmental programs.</i>
12:55 – 1:40 p.m.	Roundtable: Toward a Clean Energy Future – An All of the Above Approach <i>The COVID-19 crisis has driven home the need for energy strategies that serve to guard public health and the environment in a cost-effective manner. Amid calls for a "green recovery" emphasizing renewable energy and energy infrastructure, players in the energy market are finding creative ways to meet energy demand while addressing pollution concerns.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection ❖ Bob Perciasepe, President, Center for Climate & Energy Solutions ❖ Naty Figueroa, Low Carbon Trading Commercial Commodity Manager, bp Energy Company ❖ Venu Ghanta, Vice President, Federal Regulatory Affairs & Environmental Policy, Duke Energy
1:40 - 1:45 p.m.	Break
1:45 – 2:05 p.m.	Presentation: Clean Energy Transition – The Value of 'Spreading Our Chips,' Dr. Karl Hausker, Senior Fellow, World Resources Institute, introduced by Dr. Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

2:05 – 2:30 p.m.	<p>State-U.S. EPA Dialogue & Live Polling: E-Enterprise Community Science – Approaches and Opportunities</p> <p><i>States may encourage data from community scientists to monitor for potential problems, expand understanding, or meet research needs. State agencies might support this work through grants, technical assistance, and access to state laboratories. To promote sound use of community-generated data, the E-Enterprise Leadership Council has hosted discussions on state and tribal case studies and identifying promising practices in partnerships and data management. Tune in to hear more and share how your agency has approached this matter.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Vice President Patrick McDonnell, Co-Chair, E-Enterprise for the Environment Leadership Council, and Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Jay Benforado, Chief Innovation Officer, U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development
2:30 – 2:40 p.m.	<p>Member Presentations: Pandemic-Related Innovations in <i>Environmental Programs</i> Part II</p>
2:40 – 2:50 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
2:50 – 3:10 p.m.	<p>Preview & Discussion of Award-Winning Documentary <i>Microplastic Madness</i>, Documentary Co-Directors Debby Lee Cohen, Executive Director/Founder, and Atsuko Quirk, Media Director, Cafeteria Culture</p> <p><i>On September 19-26, registrants will have a chance to screen an inspirational documentary on microplastics in waterways that your agency, company, or organization might use to enhance your educational outreach. Microplastic Madness follows the students of PS15 in Red Hook, Brooklyn, as they learn about and advocate for a plastic-free future. Come with your questions for the Directors of the documentary!</i></p>
3:10 – 3:55 p.m.	<p>State-U.S. EPA Dialogue: Toward Plastics Reduction, Recycling, & Reuse</p> <p><i>Given the growing waste streams associated with COVID-19, recycling and other forms of waste diversion have taken on new importance. The management of plastic waste presents various challenges to stewards of the environment, particularly in the realms of recycling, landfill diversion, and pollution of waterways and oceans. This dialogue will highlight several successful approaches employed by state and territorial environmental agencies and other stakeholders.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ASTSWMO President Conchita Taitano, Air & Land Programs Division Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (moderator) ❖ Wendy Worley, Recycling & Materials Management Section Chief, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Kim Cochran, Branch Chief, Resource Conservation & Sustainability Division, U.S. EPA Office of Resource Conservation & Recovery

3:55 – 4:25 p.m.	<p>Open Discussion & Live Polling: Strategies for Keeping Our Agency Workforce Strong, led by ECOS Waste Committee Chair Darsi Foss, Environmental Management Division Administrator, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</p> <p><i>Some state environmental agencies have been forced to furlough valuable staff due to funding shortfalls, while others report high rates of staff turnover. With smart human resource practices, agencies can go on building institutional knowledge. This open discussion will explore approaches to retain talented employees, attract staff with new, in-demand skills, and promote knowledge transfer.</i></p>
4:25 – 4:30 p.m.	<p>Wrap-up & Announcements, ECOS President Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy</p>