PROMOTION OF POLLUTION PREVENTION AND SUSTAINABILITY

WHEREAS, the United States Congress, States and U.S. EPA have recognized that pollution prevention (P2) is an efficient and cost-effective environmental method to avoid, eliminate, or reduce waste and conserve resources; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress, through the 1990 Pollution Prevention Act, declared it to be the national policy of the United States that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible, and that source reduction is fundamentally different and more desirable than waste management and pollution control; and

WHEREAS, P2 also promotes improved environmental quality and environmental justice; empowers state and tribal programs; reduces the emission of greenhouse gases; supports the green economy; and has been deemed a key component of sustainable business, community, and organizational practices; and

WHEREAS, ECOS’ Cross-Media Committee focuses on innovative and cross-cutting approaches to environmental protection that emphasize preventing pollution; and

WHEREAS, for over 30 years the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable, founded by state P2 officials, has promoted the ethic and practice of prevention first.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES:

Requests U.S. EPA to seek appropriate federal funding for the State Pollution Prevention Grants;
Requests U.S. EPA to recognize the value of P2 as established by Congress and EPA policy in meeting environmental protection goals by incorporating sustainability and P2 into its policies, regulations, and actions with both regulated and non-regulated entities, and develop formal processes and mechanisms for ensuring that P2 opportunities are formally evaluated as part of those agency actions;

Requests U.S. EPA to meet with ECOS to collaborate on the development of approaches for incorporating P2 into EPA and state air, water and waste program policies, regulations and actions, and to work with states to promote P2 within all EPA and state programs;

Urges U.S. EPA, in partnership with ECOS and NPPR, to explore and recommend enhanced strategies to support P2 and to allow states the opportunity to provide input into P2 Hub products; and

Urges U.S. EPA to support collaboration among P2 professionals to advance the field and further the sharing of P2 best practices among States, U.S. EPA, and industry professionals.