

**2022 ECOS Spring Meeting Agenda**

***Engaging for Action***

April 4-6 Asheville, North Carolina | Omni Grove Park Inn

Items Shaded in Green are Closed Sessions

* #ECOSSpring22

As ECOS President Ben Grumbles has observed, deep engagement by states with regulatory partners, stakeholders, and citizens can propel ECOS toward durable bipartisan solutions. Indeed, ECOS members increasingly recognize the value of connecting with those most affected by our rules and programs, and of learning from one another. From community halls to national meetings to the world stage, we are collaborating to achieve our public health and environment missions. This gathering will showcase how states can strategically engage to tackle pressing environmental challenges such as environmental justice, emerging contaminants, and climate change. We’ll also highlight creative and groundbreaking work with new partners to make the most of recent federal infrastructure funding, as well as innovative financing options that can accelerate investment in green infrastructure and climate-driven, nature-based solutions.

*Notes:*

*1) Except where highlighted in green, all sessions are open to all registrants.*

*2) Please adhere to the COVID guidelines outlined on the 2022 Spring Meeting page*

*of the ECOS website.*

*3) Dress is business casual.*

**Sunday, April 3**

**New Member Orientation**

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| 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. | **Registration Desk Open & CLEAR App Support**  *New Member Orientation attendees are asked to stop by the registration desk before 5 p.m. to present their CLEAR Health Pass/QR Code on their mobile device in order to receive their name badge. Other meeting attendees are also encouraged to pick up their name badges at this time. Once your name badge is picked up today or tomorrow, no further verification of your CLEAR credentials will be necessary during the meeting.* | Sammons Registration |
| 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | **New ECOS Member Orientation** (open to ECOS members and staff and invited guests)  ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment  ECOS Vice President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control  ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  ECOS Past President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection | Laurel FGHJ |
|  | *Evening open for networking and individually arranged meetings* |  |

**Monday, April 4**

**EJ, Water, & Environmental Infrastructure**

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| 8:00 a.m. | **Registration Desk Open & CLEAR App Support**  *Attendees who have not yet received name badges should be ready to present their CLEAR Health Pass/QR Code on their mobile devices when entering the registration area in order to receive their name badge. Once your name badge is picked up, no further verification of your CLEAR credentials will be necessary during the meeting.* | Sammons Registration |
| 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | **Continental Breakfast** | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |
| 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. | **Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus (O&GC): Working Together toward Responsible Produced Water Reuse**  *This session will explore the latest activities around the nation to ensure sound reuse of oil and gas produced water. Featured initiatives will include work of states and broad-based state consortiums, research by the Environmental Defense Fund on developing protective regulatory programs for land application, and new reuse efforts of oil and gas companies****.***   * ECOS O&GC Co-Chair and Cross-Media Committee Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator) * ECOS O&GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) * ECOS Air Committee Chair and Region 6 Executive Committee Representative Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality * Nichole Saunders, Senior Attorney, Environmental Defense Fund * Ryan Hall, Director, Technical Services, NGL Energy Partners * Vrajesh Mehta, Water Technology Development Lead, Oxy Oil & Gas | Laurel FGHJ |
| 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. | **Breakout Option #2: ECOS Digital Business Workgroup (DBWG)** (open to states and U.S. EPA)  ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Director, Enterprise Information Office, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator)  ECOS DBWG Vice Chair Neil Chakrabarty, Chief Information Officer, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator)  *Hoover Room is located in the Vanderbilt Wing. From the Sammons Wing, take the guest room elevator near Heritage Ballroom down to the spa level, follow the spa tunnel to the Vanderbilt Wing, take a guest room elevator to the 8th floor, and immediately enter Hoover Room.* | Hoover HJ (see walking instructions in session description) |
| 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. | **Break** |  |
| 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. | **Opening Plenary Session: Back to Engaging Face-to-Face**   * **Welcome**,ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment * **Self-Introductions**, ECOS Members * **Host State Welcome**, Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality * **Agenda Preview & Presentation of ECOS Founders Award**, Ben Grumbles | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 10:45 – 11:35 a.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Collaborating across Media Associations to Tackle 2022 Priorities**  *State environmental associations provide a national network for the exchange of information and ideas and serve as an essential resource for agencies carrying out day-to-day implementation of delegated and authorized programs. Hear from state leaders of the water, waste, and air organizations on upcoming priorities and how ECOS might engage to support efforts with our federal partners.*   * ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (moderator) * Association of Clean Water Administrators Past President Tom Stiles, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health & Environment * Association of State Drinking Water Administrators Past President Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Section Chief, Public Water Supply, Kansas Department of Health & Environment * Association of State & Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials President Tim Ratsep, Director, Division of Waste & Hazardous Substances, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control * National Association of Clean Air Agencies Co-President Frank Kohlasch, Climate Director, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency * Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies Vice President Mike Abraczinskas, Director, Division of Air Quality, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 11:35 – 11:55 a.m. | **Break with Refreshments** | Sammons Registration |
| 11:55 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. | **Keynote Remarks followed by Q&A: Venu Ghanta, Vice President, Federal Regulatory Affairs, Duke Energy: Public-Private Partnerships to Promote Environmental Justice**, moderated by ECOS Vice President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Deepening Engagement with Disadvantaged Communities**  *Community engagement and outreach are essential to advancing environmental justice initiatives. This roundtable discussion will highlight innovative ways in which states and the private sector are fostering community engagement, as well as some of their challenges and lessons learned along the way.*   * ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Chuck Carr-Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) * Shaun McGrath, Director of Environmental Health & Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment * Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection * Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Partner, Baker Botts | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 1:05 – 2:15 p.m. | **Lunch with Keynote Addresses by Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (including Video Remarks by The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor, North Carolina)** and **The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. EPA**, followed by Q&A moderated by ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |
| 2:20 – 3:10 p.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Readying for a Flood of Water Infrastructure Dollars**  *As states prepare to receive and deploy billions in federal infrastructure dollars under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this roundtable will delve into anticipated opportunities and strategies to overcome expected challenges. U.S. EPA will weigh in on its activities to coordinate with and support states, including new technical assistance efforts.*   * ECOS Compliance Committee Chair Scott Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) * ECOS Federal Facilities Forum Chair Greg Lovato, Environmental Protection Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection * James Tierney, Deputy Commissioner of Water Resources, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation * Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water * Kyle Graham, Senior Program Manager, Ecosystem Investment Partners | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 3:15 – 4:05 p.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Forging Public-Private Infrastructure Solutions**  *Recent months have seen game-changing federal investments in foundational infrastructure programs. Despite this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, there is a continuing need for government and private sector partnerships to bring to the table targeted conservation financing and private sector restoration. Speakers will offer insights on ways to yield green infrastructure and climate-driven, nature-based solutions.*   * ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (moderator) * Kendall DeLyser, Director, Climate Science, American Forests * Timothy Male, Executive Director, Environmental Policy Innovation Center * Doug Lashley, President & CEO, GreenVest, LLC * Tim Mooradd, Senior Manager, Hannon Armstrong | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 4:05 – 4:15 p.m. | **Update on Nutrients Policy**, Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water, introduced by Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 4:15 – 4:20 p.m. | **Announcements & Wrap-up**, ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | **ECOS Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup** (open to states and U.S. EPA)  ECOS EJ Workgroup Co-Chair Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. | **Dinner Reception with Cash Bar & Musical Entertainment by the Asheville-Based Saylor Brothers** | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |

**Tuesday, April 5**

**PFAS, Air, & Agency Management**

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| 8:00 a.m. | **Registration Desk Open** | Sammons Registration |
| 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | **Continental Breakfast** | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |
| 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. | **Breakout: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting** (open to ERIS members, states, and invited guests), led by ERIS President David Paylor | Laurel FGHJ |
| 9:45 – 10:00 a.m. | **Break** | Sammons Registration |
| 10:00 a.m. | **Call to Order,** ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 10:00 – 10:15 a.m. | **Keynote Presentation followed by Q&A: Sue Gander, Director, Electric School Bus (ESB) Initiative, World Resources Institute: Momentum toward an All-Electric U.S. School Bus Fleet in 2030 and Why ESBs Should be a Part of Your Emissions Strategy**, introduced by ECOS Past President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 10:15 – 11:05 a.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Working Together to Get to Net Zero**  *States and major U.S. companies alike are setting their sights on full carbon neutrality through a mix of greenhouse gas reductions and offsets and an array of pioneering partnerships. This roundtable will explore net-zero approaches from leveraging renewables to digitizing the electric grid to plugging leaks.*   * ECOS Past President Patrick McDonnell, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) * Brian Rockensuess, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management * Emily Fisher, General Counsel, Edison Electric Institute * Steve Wilhite, President, Energy & Sustainability Services, Schneider Electric * Daniel Lapato, Managing Director, State Affairs & Public Policy, American Gas Association | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 11:05 – 11:35 a.m. | **Break with Refreshments** | Sammons Registration |
| 11:35 – 12:25 p.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Partnering toward PFAS Progress**  *Successful implementation of U.S. EPA's Strategic Roadmap on PFAS will hinge on effective state and federal coordination. This dialogue will address key considerations for near- and long-term PFAS priorities, including source reduction, enforceable standards, and the application of resources and regulations.*   * Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Environmental Services Division, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (moderator) * Todd Rettig, Deputy Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency * ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair and Oil & Gas Caucus Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department * Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water, and Co-Chair, U.S. EPA Council on PFAS | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 12:30 – 1:40 p.m. | **Lunch with Keynote Address by Lisa Raleigh, Executive Director, RiverLink**, introduced by ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment  *Asheville-based RiverLink has engaged in a number of innovative efforts to promote the environmental and economic vitality of the French Broad River and its watershed.* | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |
| 1:45 – 2:45 p.m. | **Open Problem-Solving Session: Recruiting & Retaining Top Talent**, moderated by ECOS Region 5 Executive Committee Representative Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy (invited)  *In today's tight labor market, state environmental agencies increasingly find themselves with unfilled vacancies as staff find outside opportunities or leave the workforce altogether. How can states continue to attract and retain top talent? ECOS members and our other attendees are encouraged to share their tried and tested approaches so that other states and organizations might benefit!* | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. | **Break with Refreshments** | Sammons Registration |
| 3:15 – 4:05 p.m. | **Roundtable & Open Discussion: Engaging on the World Stage**  *As the war in Ukraine has shown us, international crises know no borders, and countries must work hand-in-hand to protect the global population. In fact, the Ukraine conflict has the potential to speed the transition toward cleaner sources of energy and spark new agreements on chemical and nuclear safety. This roundtable will highlight international environmental efforts that may influence and inspire states, including the United Nations' recent COP26 climate negotiations, the European Union's activities under its Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, & Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation in relation to U.S. efforts under the Toxic Substances Control Act, state and federal technical assistance around the world, and new technology solutions.*   * Sharlett Mena, Assistant to Director, Washington State Department of Ecology (moderator) * Randy Chapman, Environmental Manager, Northern Regional Office Petroleum Program, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and Co-Chair, Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council Board of Advisors * Jane Nishida, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of International & Tribal Affairs * Karyn Schmidt, Senior Director, Regulatory & Technical Affairs, and International Team Leader, American Chemistry Council * Eyal Harel, CEO and Co-Founder, BlueGreen Water Technologies | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 4:05 – 4:15 p.m. | **Final Reflections, Announcements, & Wrap-up**, ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
|  | *Evening open for networking and individually arranged meetings* |  |

**Wednesday, April 6**

**States-Only Business**

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| 7:30 a.m. | **Registration Desk Open** | Sammons Registration |
| 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. | **Continental Breakfast** | Skyline Mountain View Terrace |
| 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. | **States-Only Voting on Resolutions & 2024 ECOS Spring Meeting Host State & Discussion of the State-Federal Partnership & Discussion of Federal Budget Testimony & Outreach** (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 11:00 – 11:15 a.m. | **Break with Refreshments** | Sammons Registration |
| 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. | **ECOS Executive Committee Meeting** (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Ben Grumbles, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment | Heritage Ballroom ABC |
| 12:00 – 12:15 p.m. | **Box Lunch Pickup** (open to Executive Committee Meeting participants) | Heritage Ballroom ABC |