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Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

ECOS Launches Climate & Energy Workgroup to Advance Environmental Progress, Emphasize Common Ground

Washington, DC – ECOS is launching a new Climate & Energy Workgroup to deliver timely recommendations and build capacity for bipartisan, durable solutions. The announcement comes as COP27 concludes in Egypt and ECOS members continue to increase their attention to mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation and resiliency to climate change here at home.

“State environmental agency leaders are committed to working together with all of our partners and co-regulators for the benefit of our communities and ecosystems,” said ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs with the South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control.

The comprehensive new focus of state environmental regulators is all the more important as opportunities and urgencies grow globally, nationally, and locally. COP27 highlighted efforts around the world among nations, communities, businesses, and citizens, as well as the need to do more to protect public health and grow clean energy economies. In the last year in the United States, unprecedented funding for environmental infrastructure and climate policy has been enacted through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

“It’s important for states to help shape how these historic funds and programs are implemented and enforced,” noted ECOS Vice President Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. “State environmental agencies are central to ensuring sound climate and energy policy and delivering results.”

ECOS will first form a Climate & Energy Steering Committee, co-chaired by ECOS Past President Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Katie Dykes, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. The committee will develop a work plan of priorities, including coordination with the federal government on implementation of the landmark IRA, identification of best practices and strategies for climate resilience, and promotion of regulatory and market-based innovations and streamlining efforts to reduce carbon pollution and boost equity and economic growth.

ECOS is the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders. For more information, visit www.ecos.org.