




**2023 ECOS Spring Meeting**  
**Draft Agenda**  
***Building Bipartisan Solutions***  
**March 27-30, Arlington (Crystal City), Virginia**  
**Arlington Renaissance Capital View Hotel**  
 **#ECOSpring23**

*As ECOS members converge on the nation's capital for timely discussions with federal agencies and Congress, we bring unique insight and innovative ideas that can propel the nation toward durable bipartisan solutions. This gathering will spotlight successful approaches to pressing matters including PFAS and biosolids, sustainable materials management, resilience and blue-green infrastructure, water data quality, climate and energy, and environmental justice.*

*Notes:*

- 1) Except where highlighted in green, all sessions are open to all registrants, including press.*
- 2) Dress is business casual on March 27 and business on March 28-30.*
- 3) All meeting space is located on the second floor.*

**Monday, March 27**

3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Registration Desk Open</b> <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i>	Registration Booth
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.	<b>New Member Orientation</b>	Studio C
5:15 – 6:15 p.m.	<b>Informal Happy Hour for State Attendees</b>	Studio C & Foyer

**Tuesday, March 28**

**PFAS, Materials Management, Resilience, & Water**

8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration Desk Open</b> <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i>	Registration Booth
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	Salons 1-3

<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil &amp; Gas Caucus (O&amp;GC) on Model Methane Efforts</b></p> <p><i>U.S. EPA recently proposed a supplemental rule that would significantly expand reductions of methane emissions and other air pollution from both new and existing oil and gas operations. Against that backdrop, states, NGOs, and industry will discuss voluntary initiatives and novel approaches that might serve as models.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS O&amp;GC Co-Chair David Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS O&amp;GC Co-Chair and Cross-Media Committee Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ Maureen Lackner, Manager, Economics &amp; Policy, Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>❖ TBD, Oxy Low Carbon Ventures</li> <li>❖ TBD, NGL Energy</li> <li>❖ Donna Vorhees, Director of Energy Research, Health Effects Institute Energy</li> </ul>	<p>Studio B</p>
<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Breakout Option #2: ECOS Digital Business Workgroup (DBWG) (open to states and U.S. EPA)</b></p> <p><i>This session will address strategic priorities identified by state Chief Information Officers as well as the use of improved data to better inform decisions and policies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Acting Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS DBWG Vice Chair Neil Chakrabarty, Chief Information Officer, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator)</li> </ul>	<p>Studio C</p>
<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Breakout Option #3: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting (open to ERIS members, states, and invited guests)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ERIS President and Compliance Committee Chair Scott Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> </ul>	<p>Studio A</p>

9:50 – 10:20 a.m.	<p><b>Opening Plenary Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Welcome</b>, ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control</li> <li>❖ <b>Self-Introductions</b>, ECOS Members {10}</li> <li>❖ <b>Agenda Preview</b>, Myra Reece {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Executive Director's Report on ECOS Priorities &amp; Activities</b>, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>ECOS Member Trivia Icebreaker</b>, Ben Grumbles {10}</li> </ul>	Salon 4
10:20 – 11:10 a.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Best Practices on PFAS &amp; Biosolids</b></p> <p><i>PFAS in biosolids has emerged as a top regulatory challenge for many states. This roundtable will explore steps taken by state environmental agencies and their co-regulatory partners to coordinate on the complex issue, promote increased research, and communicate effectively about the associated risks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control (invited moderator)</li> <li>❖ TBD, U.S. EPA</li> <li>❖ TBD, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture</li> <li>❖ TBD, North East Biosolids &amp; Residuals Association</li> </ul>	Salon 4
11:10 – 11:25 a.m.	<p><b>Break with Refreshments</b></p>	Foyer
11:25 a.m. – 12:05 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Lifecycle Management of PFAS</b></p> <p><i>States are grappling with a host of considerations for PFAS end-of-life management to prevent contaminated media from reentering the environment. This roundtable will highlight industry efforts to reduce PFAS in products and best manage eventual destruction or disposal.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ERIS Board Member Aaron Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, &amp; Energy (invited)</li> <li>❖ Stephen Harper, Consultant, Sustainable PFAS Action Network (SPAN)</li> <li>❖ Michael Crisenbery, Vice President, Environmental Compliance, Clean Harbors</li> </ul>	Salon 4

	❖ Joe Benco, Director, Engineering, Republic Services	
12:05 – 12:55 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Sustainable Materials Management of Clean Energy Technology</b></p> <p><i>As new sources of renewable energy are improved and adopted more broadly, the first generation of some of these technologies is nearing its end of life and entering waste streams. This discussion will spotlight creative solutions for sustainably managing used solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicle batteries.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (invited moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (invited)</li> <li>❖ Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (invited)</li> <li>❖ Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Land &amp; Emergency Management (invited)</li> <li>❖ Lauren Sher, Senior Director for Decarbonization, Florida Power &amp; Light</li> </ul>	Salon 4
1:00 – 2:10 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&amp;A: The Honorable Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. EPA (invited),</b> on state-federal partnership opportunities for 2023, by ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control</p>	Salons 1-3
2:10 – 2:35 p.m.	<p><b>Remarks followed by Q&amp;A: John Thompson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environment, Bureau of Oceans &amp; International Environmental &amp; Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State,</b> on the role for states on climate and in United Nations negotiations to end plastic pollution, introduced by ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management</p>	Salon 4

2:35 – 3:35 p.m.	<p><b>Open Problem-Solving Session: Strategies for Promoting Resilience and Blue-Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p><i>Ambitious climate targets, coupled with a rise in extreme weather events, will require a collective path forward that incorporates both natural and technological approaches to meeting zero-emissions goals. Learn how government leaders can leverage this moment of historic investment to thoughtfully implement solutions that will decarbonize and equitably transition all sectors of the economy. In this interactive session, state environmental agencies will share their greatest challenges, priorities, and solutions for realizing a more resilient future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Air Committee Chair and Region 6 Executive Committee Representative Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Mark Rupp, Adaptation Program Director, Georgetown Climate Center (invited discussion leader)</li> </ul>	Salon 4
3:35 – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>	Foyer
4:00 – 4:55 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Water Quality Data Enhancements to Drive Protection</b></p> <p><i>States are making strides in the analysis of their water data so that they can better address issues ranging from harmful algal blooms to drinking water quality. Some ECOS member agencies are using data analytics to improve data governance and transparency, identify sources of pollution, and assess how regulatory changes might affect water quality. At the same time, states are working with U.S. EPA through E-Enterprise to modernize the centrally hosted Safe Drinking Water Information System.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ TBD, State (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Shawn Hamilton, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (invited)</li> <li>❖ Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water, and Federal Co-Chair, U.S. EPA SDWIS Modernization Board</li> <li>❖ Julie Espy, Senior Industry Consultant, SAS</li> <li>❖ Christopher Crockett, Vice President &amp; Chief Environmental, Safety, &amp; Sustainability Officer,</li> </ul>	Salon 4

	Essential Utilities, Inc.	
4:55 – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Remarks followed by Q&amp;A: Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Water</b> , on 2023 partnership opportunities with states in the area of water, introduced by ECOS Water Committee Chair Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology	Salon 4
5:15 – 5:20 p.m.	<b>Announcements &amp; Wrap-Up</b> , ECOS President Myra Reece	Salon 4
5:30 – 7:15 p.m.	<b>Dinner Reception</b>	Studio C & Foyer

### Wednesday, March 29

### Federal Agencies & Congress, Water, Climate & Energy & EJ

8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>	Registration Booth
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>	Salons 1-3
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup</b> (open to states and U.S. EPA) <i>This session will explore upcoming priorities for the ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup, as well as the latest developments surrounding air programs and the Inflation Reduction Act and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair, Past President, &amp; Region 8 Executive Committee Representative Todd Parfitt (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (invited co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ Jennifer Macedonia, Associate Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Air &amp; Radiation (invited)</li> <li>❖ Jahi Wise, Acting Director for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, U.S. EPA (invited)</li> </ul>	Studio B
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #2: State &amp; U.S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE) Federal Facilities Discussion</b> (open to states and U.S. DOE) <i>This session will center on state priorities in the cleanup of the nuclear weapons complex.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Federal Facilities Forum State Chair Greg Lovato, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (invited moderator)</li> </ul>	Studio C

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #3: ECOS-U.S. EPA Partnership &amp; Performance (P&amp;P) Workgroup on Best Practices for Performance Partnership Grants</b> (open to states and U.S. EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ P&amp;P Workgroup State Co-Chair Elaine Boyd, Senior Advisor, Tennessee Department of Environment &amp; Conservation (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ P&amp;P Workgroup State Co-Chair Lloyd Kirk, Director, Office of Business &amp; Regulatory Affairs, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator)</li> </ul>	Studio A
9:35 – 10:35 a.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Connecting the Federal Agency Dots with ECOS Alumni</b></p> <p><i>Many former ECOS members have moved on to top environmental protection leadership roles at federal agencies. This gathering in the nation's capital affords us the chance to reconnect with some of our valued alumni to hear firsthand their new perspectives, as well as their insight on promising collaboration opportunities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Rhode Island Alum Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator, National Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, U.S. Department of Commerce</li> <li>❖ ECOS Colorado Alum John Putnam, General Counsel, U.S. Department of Transportation</li> <li>❖ ECOS Montana Alum Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (invited)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Arizona Alum Stephen Owens, Chairman, U.S. Chemical Safety &amp; Hazard Investigation Board (invited)</li> </ul>	Salon 4
10:35 – 11:00 a.m.	<p><b>Remarks followed by Q&amp;A: Michael Connor, U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (invited)</b>, on western water, Waters of the United States, and water and climate, introduced by ECOS Water Committee Chair Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology</p>	Salon 4
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<p><b>Break with Refreshments &amp; Unscheduled Office Hours with Federal Partners at Designated Table</b></p>	Foyer

<p>11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</p>	<p><b>Remarks followed by Q&amp;A: Kristi Smith, Attorney, Smith Environmental Law, for Edison Electric Institute,</b> on "not missing the bus" on including electric school buses in State Implementation Plans, introduced by ECOS Vice President and Chuck Carr Brown, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, and State Co-Chair, E-Enterprise for the Environment</p>	<p>Salon 4</p>
<p>11:45 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Clean Energy Permit Process Improvements to Propel Us to Net Zero</b> <i>A clean energy economy will depend on extensive permitting of new or modified infrastructure for energy generation, transmission, and storage. Without more efficient permitting processes, governments risk missing timelines for transitioning to net zero emissions. States will need to play a critical role with federal partners in deploying innovative and equitable improvements to permitting processes. Toward this end, ECOS is working to share best practices among state agencies to accelerate the clean energy transition while not losing sight of the need for community engagement and partnership.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair, Past President, &amp; Region 8 Executive Committee Representative Todd Parfitt (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (invited)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology</li> <li>❖ James Connaughton, President &amp; CEO, Nautilus Data Technologies, Advisor, ClearPath, and former Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality</li> <li>❖ Katie McGinty, Vice President &amp; Chief Sustainability &amp; External Relations Officer, Johnson Controls, and former Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality (invited)</li> </ul>	<p>Salon 4</p>
<p>12:45 p.m. – 1:55 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&amp;A: The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Minority Leader, Senate Committee on Environment &amp; Public Works,</b> on Bipartisan Possibilities for the 118th Congress, introduced by ECOS member TBD</p>	<p>Salons 1-3</p>



2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Partnerships to Protect Public Health &amp; Advance Equity</b></p> <p><i>Public health protection and equity are at the forefront of environmental agency efforts. As state environmental and health agencies and our federal partners explore ways to address cumulative impacts in overburdened communities, they share insight on engaging with communities and industry to address public health concerns through an EJ lens.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Infrastructure Workgroup Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Trisha Oeth, Director of Environmental Health &amp; Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment</li> <li>❖ Chris Frey, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Research &amp; Development</li> <li>❖ TBD, Association of State &amp; Territorial Health Officials (invited)</li> <li>❖ Tequila Smith, Chief Sustainability Officer, Covanta</li> </ul>	Salon 4
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Wrap-up &amp; Adjourn</b>, ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control</p>	
3:15– 3:30 p.m.	<p><b>Break with Refreshments</b></p>	Foyer
3:30 – 4:45 p.m.	<p><b>ECOS Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup</b> (open to states and U.S. EPA)</p> <p><i>This discussion will center on upcoming priorities for the ECOS Environmental Justice Workgroup, including a deep dive with EPA around cumulative impacts, EJ analyses, and more.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS EJ Workgroup Co-Chair Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS EJ Workgroup Co-Chair Jim Macy, Director, Nebraska Department of Environment &amp; Energy (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ TBD, U.S. EPA</li> </ul>	Salon 4

**Thursday, March 30**  
**States-Only Business**

7:30 – 8:00 a.m.	<b>Moment of Zen</b> , led by Vinyasa yoga instructor Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>Please bring a mat and/or towel.</i>	Studio B
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>	Salons 1-3
8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>	Registration Booth
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	<b>States-Only Session on Resolutions</b> (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control	Salon 4
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>	Foyer
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	<b>ECOS Executive Committee Meeting</b> (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control	Salon 4
10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<b>ECOS Member Visits with Congressional Members and Staff</b>	Capitol Hill