



ECOS

2023 ECOS State Environmental Protection (STEP) Meeting

Climate & Water Nexus

June 26-27, 2023

Reservoir Center for Water Solutions

Washington, DC

 #ECOSTEP23

Amid the rise in extreme weather events, it is increasingly clear that climate change is water change. This interactive gathering will bring together thought leaders in state and federal government, academia, the NGO community, and the private sector to explore practical solutions not only to adaptation and resiliency, but also toward boosting efficiency and reducing the carbon and energy footprint of the water sector.

Notes:

- 1) A block of guest rooms is being held for meeting attendees on June 26 and 27 at the neighboring Thompson Washington DC (a Hyatt property).
Mention ECOS to receive the special group rate.
- 2) Dress code is business.
- 3) Reservoir Center meeting space is located on the second floor.
- 4) Registration will be capped at approximately 100 to promote collaborative problem solving.
- 5) All meetings are open to all attendees, including a limited number of press.

Monday, June 26

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Registration Desk Open <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i>
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Reception with Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres at the Reservoir Center Welcome , ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles Brief Remarks , Tom Croghan, Co-Owner, The Vineyards at Dodon, Davidsonville, Maryland, on climate, soil, and water, and wine industry leadership through the Porto Protocol

Tuesday, June 27

7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Registration Desk Open <i>If you did not attend the June 26 reception, please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i></p>
7:30 – 8:15 a.m.	<p>Breakfast</p>
8:15 – 8:30 a.m.	<p>Welcome & Agenda Preview, ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control Self-Introductions, ECOS Members</p>
8:30 – 9:25 a.m.	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: States Weather the Storm (or Drought) & Work to Head Off the Next One <i>Increasingly, state leaders find themselves on the front lines in addressing community needs related to natural disasters. Hear from ECOS members about state environmental agencies' wide-ranging approaches to adaptation and resiliency challenges involving flooding, storms, and drought, as well as their strategies for stemming the tide of disruption through greenhouse gas mitigation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology (moderator) ❖ ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ ECOS Infrastructure Workgroup Chair and Region 2 Executive Committee Representative Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Brian Rockensuess, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management ❖ Amanda Lefevre, Deputy Commissioner, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection

<p>9:25 – 10:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Thought Leaders Cover the Waterfront on Adaptation & Resiliency <i>Federal, state, and local governments, together with tech innovators and scientists, are rising to adaptation and resiliency challenges. Join the discussion on promising approaches, including green infrastructure, federal regulatory changes on permitting and water quality, flood mapping, and a unique scoring system to track resiliency progress.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Vice President and Land & Materials Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Zach Schafer, Senior Advisor for the Office of Water, U.S. EPA ❖ Colby Manwaring, Vice President, Innovyze at Autodesk ❖ Melissa Roberts, Founder & Executive Director, American Flood Coalition ❖ Katie May Laumann, Science Integrator, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.
<p>10:20 – 10:35 a.m.</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments</p>
<p>10:35 – 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Remarks on Climate Smart Agriculture by Ernie Shea, President, Solutions from the Land, followed by Q&A, introduced by ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina <i>Agricultural water management is essential to advancing sustainable development goals. In its call for a 21st century agricultural renaissance, Solutions from the Land is showcasing the potential for terrestrial water management to reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events, restore ecosystems, halt biodiversity loss, and combat environmental degradation and climate change while advancing food security and economic opportunity.</i></p>

10:45 – 11:35 a.m.	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Thought Leaders Innovate on GHG Reduction & Climate Adaptation in the Water Sector</p> <p><i>The dialogue comes full circle as experts showcase ways the water sector and others can promote innovative technologies, operational efficiency, and overall resilience to reduce both their greenhouse gas footprint and water and energy use, while saving money in the process. As the nation prioritizes climate mitigation, preparedness and resiliency, and public-private partnerships, agencies, utilities, and communities have embarked on efforts to increase the resilience of their facilities and fix leaks. They are also improving efficiency through a mix of water conservation, anaerobic digestion, and solar and other renewable technologies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Past President and Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Vicki Arroyo, Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy, U.S. EPA ❖ Renée Willette, Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Water Alliance ❖ Todd Swingle, Executive Director & CEO, Toho Water Authority ❖ Ron Burke, President & CEO, Alliance for Water Efficiency
11:35 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Full Group Discussion on Meeting Takeaways, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles</p>
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	<p>Fresh Air Break</p> <p><i>Attendees are invited to use this time for networking. Weather permitting, feel free to take a seat on a bench outside or a stroll to the Anacostia River.</i></p>
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	<p>Lunch with Keynote Remarks by ECOS Delaware Alum Collin O'Mara, President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation, on the value of blue carbon and green infrastructure in bridging climate and water needs, introduced by ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina</p>