



**2023 ECOS Fall Meeting**  
**Draft Agenda**  
***ECOS at 30: Bigger, Better, Boulder***  
**August 27-30**  
**St. Julien Hotel & Spa**  
**Boulder, Colorado**  
 **#ECOSFall23**

*As ECOS has expanded in size and scope, so too has the strength of our partnerships.  
 This 30th Anniversary Fall Meeting offers states a chance to take stock  
 of progress made and priorities ahead.*

- 1) *Except where highlighted in green, all sessions are open to all registrants, including press.*
- 2) *Meeting rooms are on the main level. The Conference Pavilion is located just outside the exit doors near Fandango Room at the end of the Ballroom Pre-Function space.*
- 3) *Dress is business casual.*

**Sunday, August 27**

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	<b>Informal Happy Hour</b> (open to all attendees)	Flatiron Rooftop at Avanti 1401 Pearl Street, Boulder
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**Monday, August 28**

**Anniversary, Air, Agency Management, & Emergency Response**

7:30 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, including by attendees and their guests at the anniversary reception.</i>	Ballroom Pre-Function
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Breakfast</b>	Conference Pavilion

8:15 – 9:15 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil &amp; Gas Caucus (O&amp;GC) – Orphan Well Plugging, Prevention, &amp; Mapping</b></p> <p><i>As states begin to leverage new sources of federal funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, they are thinking creatively about ways to accelerate progress, mitigate future challenges, measure results, and tell their stories. For instance, Colorado is evaluating well plugging effectiveness and financial assurance approaches, while other states are using geospatial technologies to support orphan well plugging. This session will help oil and gas states and other states learn from each other as we spend unprecedented federal funds to reduce emissions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS O&amp;GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS O&amp;GC Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ Julie Murphy, Director, Colorado Energy &amp; Carbon Management Commission</li> <li>❖ Kim Mendoza-Cooke, Director, U.S. Onshore Policy &amp; External Affairs, Oxy</li> <li>❖ Sunny Fleming, Industry Lead, Environment &amp; Conservation, Esri</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
8:15 – 9:15 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #2: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting</b> (open to ERIS members, states, and invitees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ERIS President &amp; Compliance Committee Chair Scott Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> </ul>	Fandango Room
9:15 – 9:25 a.m.	<p><b>Important U.S. EPA Announcement</b> (open to states, state associations, and U.S. EPA)</p>	Xanadu Ballroom
9:25 – 10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Opening Plenary Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Call to Order &amp; ECOS 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>Host State Welcome</b>, Trisha Oeth, Director of Environmental Health &amp; Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment, including <b>Video Welcome</b> by The Honorable Jared Polis, Governor, State of Colorado {7}</li> <li>❖ <b>Agenda Preview</b>, Myra Reece {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Executive Director's Remarks on ECOS Anniversary</b>, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Presentation of ECOS President's and Founders Awards</b>, Myra Reece {8}</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: ECOS at 30 – A Decade-by-Decade Retrospective with Former Presidents</b></p> <p><i>This panel of former ECOS Presidents will spotlight the successes of the organization during its first 30 years, memorable experiences along the way, and opportunities for the future.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Illinois Alum Mary Gade, ECOS Co-Founder &amp; President (1996-97)</li> <li>❖ Virginia Alum David Paylor, ECOS President (2007-08)</li> <li>❖ Colorado Alum Martha Rudolph, ECOS President (2015-16)</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
10:50 – 11:10 a.m.	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>	Redgarden Lawn (Ballroom Pre-Function weather backup)
11:10 – 11:40 a.m.	<p><b>"Eras Tour" Dialogue &amp; Open Discussion: The Honorable Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator and E-Enterprise for the Environmental Leadership Council (EELC) Federal Co-Chair, U.S. EPA, on 30 Years of State-Federal Partnership</b>, moderated by ECOS Vice President and EELC State Co-Chair Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality</p>	Xanadu Ballroom
11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Tales from the Trenches – Tips for Strengthening Risk &amp; Crisis Communication</b></p> <p><i>Speakers will reflect on communication and coordination lessons learned from the East Palestine train derailment and share best practices regarding public communication of ongoing complex topics such as PFAS.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Brian Rockensuess, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Anne Vogel, Director, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>❖ Jessica Bralish, Director, Office of Communications, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
12:30 – 1:40 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&amp;A: The Honorable Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary for the Office of Fossil Energy &amp; Carbon Management, U.S. Department of Energy, on Carbon Sequestration and Other Promising Technological Solutions for the 21st Century</b>, introduced by ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina</p>	Conference Pavilion
1:40 – 1:55 p.m.	<p><b>Class of 2023 ECOS Members, Deputies, &amp; Executive Director Photo, followed by ECOS Staff Photo and U.S. DOD Regional Environmental Coordinators Photo</b></p>	Redgarden Lawn (indoor weather backup TBA)

2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Breakthroughs in Carbon Management &amp; Emissions Reductions</b></p> <p><i>Against the backdrop of expanded federal efforts to accelerate the reduction of carbon pollution, states are working with the energy industry and academia to drive market transformation and advance net-zero goals. From renewables to hydrogen to differentiated (green-certified) natural gas – and from sequestration and quantification to trading of carbon – a mix of strategies already is yielding promising results.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Past President and Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Air Committee Vice Chair Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality</li> <li>❖ Edward Lush, Business Development Lead, New Energy Ventures, Williams</li> <li>❖ Lauren Quillian, Director, Energy &amp; Environmental Policy, Xcel Energy</li> <li>❖ Liesl Eichler Clark, Director, Sustainable Climate Action Engagement, University of Michigan</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
2:50 – 3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Video Presentation &amp; Live Vote for 2023 State Program Innovation Awards in the Agency Management &amp; Emergency Response Category</b>, ECOS Secretary-Treasurer, Air Committee Chair, and two-time innovation honoree Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	Xanadu Ballroom
3:15 – 3:35 p.m.	<p><b>Break with Refreshments</b></p>	Redgarden Lawn (Ballroom Pre-Function weather backup)
3:35 – 4:25 p.m.	<p><b>Open Problem Solving Session: Retention, Recruitment, &amp; Leadership Development 2.0 – A Progress Report</b>, moderated by ECOS Oil &amp; Gas Caucus Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</p> <p><i>Last year, ECOS members put their heads together at the Spring and Fall meetings about ways to entice and retain top talent in a tight labor market. Several states brought home the ideas and implemented them. In this open discussion, members will report out on what they've tried, what's working, and where challenges remain.</i></p>	Xanadu Ballroom
4:25 – 4:30 p.m.	<p><b>Announcements &amp; Wrap-Up</b>, ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina</p>	Xanadu Ballroom

4:40 – 6:45 p.m.	<p><b>Celebratory Hike at the Colorado Chautauqua</b></p> <p><i>All attendees and their prearranged reception guests may join this easy, one-hour scenic excursion along the nearby Enchanted Mesa and Bluebell Spur. Transportation will be provided. Pickups from the St. Julien Hotel are scheduled for 4:40 and 5:10 p.m. Pickups from Chautauqua are scheduled for 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. Guests will be divided into groups of 15 plus an assigned Colorado or ECOS staff tour leader.</i></p>	The Colorado Chautauqua
6:45 – 8:45 p.m.	<p><b>Anniversary Dinner Reception with Cash Bar, Boulder Photo Booth, &amp; Musical Entertainment by the Hitmakers of 1993 followed by Soul Medicine (the In-House Band of Boulder Community Health),</b> introduced by Fall Meeting host Trisha Oeth of Colorado</p>	Conference Pavilion

**Tuesday, August 29**  
**Environmental Programs & Equity**

7:30 a.m.	<p><b>Registration Desk Open</b></p> <p><i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i></p>	Ballroom Pre-Function
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Breakfast</b></p>	Conference Pavilion
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #1: ECOS-Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) Community Healthy Air Monitoring Partnership (CHAMP) on Collaboration to Improve the Collection &amp; Use of Community Air Monitoring Data</b></p> <p><i>In light of new funding and advances in technology, community air monitoring capacity is rapidly expanding. Join this discussion to learn how state, local, and national partners are collaborating to improve the collection, analysis, and use of community air monitoring data to support cleaner air and better health outcomes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS CHAMP Co-Chair Trisha Oeth, Director of Environmental Health &amp; Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS CHAMP Co-Chair Brian Rockensuess, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ Michael Ogletree, Director, Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment</li> <li>❖ Fern Uennatornwarangoon, Air Quality Policy Manager, Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>❖ Mary Gade, President, Gade Environmental Group LLC</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #2: ECOS Infrastructure Workgroup on Addressing Lead-Covered Telecom Cables &amp; Earmark Impacts on Future State Revolving Fund Investing</b> (open to states, state media associations, and U.S. EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sean Moriarty, Deputy Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (moderator)</li> </ul>	Calypso Room
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout Option #3: ECOS Federal Facilities Forum on State Priorities Surrounding Cleanup of U.S. DOE Environmental Management Sites</b> (open to states and invited guests)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Federal Facilities Forum Chair Greg Young, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment &amp; Conservation (moderator)</li> </ul>	Fandango Room
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Call to Order &amp; Announcements</b>, ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Announcement of 2023-24 Officers &amp; Recognition of 2022-23 Officers</b>, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {10}</li> <li>❖ <b>Video Presentation &amp; Live Vote for 2023 State Program Innovation Awards in the Environmental Programs &amp; Equity Category</b>, ECOS Secretary-Treasurer, Air Committee Chair, and two-time innovation honoree Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality {30}</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: State Stewardship in the Wake of the Supreme Court's WOTUS Ruling</b></p> <p><i>Whatever the shape of the final rule expected soon from U.S. EPA and the Corps addressing the Supreme Court's Sackett decision, it is clear that the narrower definition of WOTUS will require states to play an increasingly significant role in protecting wetlands and watersheds. This discussion will explore how states and the private sector are navigating the changing regulatory landscape and stepping up collaborative efforts.</i></p> <p><i>*Ahead of the session, state attendees are asked to please visit the materials section of the ECOS Fall Meeting webpage to review and prepare responses to live polling questions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Laura Watson, Director, Washington Department of Ecology (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</li> <li>❖ ECOS Region 7 Executive Committee Representative Dru Buntin, Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>❖ Alexandra Dapolito Dunn, Partner, Baker Botts</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom

10:50 – 11:20 a.m.	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>	Redgarden Lawn (Ballroom Pre-Function weather backup)
11:20 – 11:50 a.m.	<p><b>Dialogue &amp; Open Discussion: Enhancing Engagement with Our State Legislatures</b></p> <p><i>Fresh off a successful first session as a Washington State Representative, ECOS' own Sharlett Mena offers her unique dual-role perspective on ways for state environmental agencies to productively engage with state legislators. Joining the dialogue is John Lucey, who brings insights from his intergovernmental roles in North Carolina and at U.S. EPA.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer and Air Committee Chair Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Sharlett Mena, Special Assistant to the Director, Washington Department of Ecology, and Representative for the 29th District, Washington House of Representatives</li> <li>❖ John Lucey, Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. EPA, and former Legislative Analyst and Chief Strategy Officer, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
11:50 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Partnerships in Materials Management</b></p> <p><i>As states and communities grapple with the challenge of overcrowded landfills, they are working to optimize reuse and recycling of materials. Options run the gamut, from the diversion of municipal waste to manufacturing feedstock, to technological processes that break down materials into their chemical constituents. This session is designed to help states sift through the limitations and possibilities of various approaches.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Chair &amp; Region 1 Executive Committee Representative Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Biser of North Carolina</li> <li>❖ Jeffrey Smith, Principal, Upland Road Developers</li> <li>❖ Maranda Demuth, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Eastman</li> <li>❖ Dylan de Thomas, Vice President of Public Policy &amp; Government Affairs, The Recycling Partnership</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom

12:40 – 1:50 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&amp;A: The Honorable Bill Ritter, Jr., Former Governor, State of Colorado, and Founder &amp; Director, Center for the New Energy Economy, Colorado State University</b>, introduced by Trisha Oeth, Director of Environmental Health &amp; Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health &amp; Environment</p>	Conference Pavilion
2:00 – 2:50 p.m.	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Compliance Innovations &amp; Lessons Learned Around the Country</b>  <i>In their ongoing quest to boost compliance by regulated entities, states are experiencing success with innovative compliance assistance, inspection, and enforcement approaches. Hear about states' use of predictive analytics and other recent strategies in helping facilities maintain and achieve compliance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources</li> <li>❖ Karen Peters, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality</li> <li>❖ Ed Kowalski, Director, Enforcement &amp; Compliance Assurance Division, U.S. EPA Region 10</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
2:50 – 3:15 p.m.	<p><b>Keynote Remarks followed by Q&amp;A: Basil Seggos, Commissioner, New York Department of Environmental Conservation</b>, an Army Veteran who took leave from his agency to serve as a volunteer ambulance driver at the front in Ukraine and to support the country's efforts to safeguard the environment amid the war, introduced by ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina</p>	Xanadu Ballroom
3:15 – 3:20 p.m.	<p><b>Wrap-up &amp; Adjourn</b>, ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina</p>	Xanadu Ballroom
3:20 – 3:40 p.m.	<p><b>Break with Refreshments</b></p>	Redgarden Lawn (Ballroom Pre-Function weather backup)
3:40 – 4:40 p.m.	<p><b>ECOS Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup on Opportunities for State-U.S. EPA Coordination on Title VI &amp; EJ</b> (open to states and U.S. EPA)</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 President &amp; EJ Workgroup Co-Chair Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ Theresa Segovia, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Environmental Justice &amp; External Civil Rights, U.S. EPA</li> <li>❖ Marianne Engelman-Lado, Deputy General Counsel for Environmental Initiatives, U.S. EPA</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom



4:50 – 5:50 p.m.	<p><b>ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup on Clean Air Act 111 Rules &amp; Climate Pollution Reduction Grants</b> (open to states, U.S. EPA, and invited guests)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair &amp; Past President Todd Parfitt (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Jeff Ackermann, Senior Policy Advisor, Center for the New Energy Economy, Colorado State University (co-facilitator)</li> <li>❖ Shaun McGrath, Consultant, Center for the New Energy Economy, Colorado State University (co-facilitator)</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
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**Wednesday, August 30**  
**States-Only Business**

7:00 – 7:30 a.m.	<p><b>Moment of Mountain Zen</b>, led by Vinyasa yoga instructor Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>Please bring a mat and/or towel.</i></p>	Fandango Room
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>	Redgarden Lawn and Terrace (Hotel Lobby weather backup)
8:00 a.m.	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>	Ballroom Pre-Function
8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	<p><b>Breakout: ECOS Digital Business Workgroup (DBWG) on the Value of Data Visualization in Decision-Making &amp; Public Outreach</b> (open to states and U.S. EPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Assistant Commissioner for Enterprise Management, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (moderator)</li> </ul>	Calypso Room
8:45 – 10:30 a.m.	<p><b>States-Only Session on Resolutions, Bylaws Process, Engaging Congress &amp; Building State Capacity, &amp; 2025 Fall Meeting Host State Selection</b> (open to ECOS members and staff)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President Myra Reece, Director of Environmental Affairs, South Carolina Department of Health &amp; Environmental Control</li> </ul>	Xanadu Ballroom
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>	Redgarden Lawn (Ballroom Pre-Function weather backup)

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>ECOS Executive Committee Meeting</b> (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Myra Reece of South Carolina	Xanadu Ballroom
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>ECOS Site Tour at Colorado-based Innovator Global Thermostat</b> <i>On the way back to Denver International Airport, a limited number of attendees will have an opportunity to view one of the largest direct air carbon capture units ever operated. Please reach out to Carolyn Hanson (chanson@ecos.org) to reserve your spot.</i>	Global Thermostat Facility Brighton, Colorado