



Resolution 13-3
Approved September 16, 2013
Arlington, Virginia

Revised September 17, 2014
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Revised September 13, 2017
Jackson, Wyoming

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Via Conference Call

Revised August 30, 2023
Boulder, Colorado

As certified by
Ben Grumbles
Executive Director

SUPPORT FOR E-ENTERPRISE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE EXCHANGE NETWORK

WHEREAS, multiple state and federal Executive Orders mandate agencies to increase efficiencies, reduce regulatory burdens, and build a streamlined and modernized government that develops and implements new approaches and business processes to environmental management that increase effectiveness and better serve all Americans; and

WHEREAS, E-Enterprise for the Environment is a joint initiative among states, tribes, and U.S. EPA as co-regulators to improve environmental outcomes and dramatically enhance service to the regulated community and the public by optimizing operations, increasing transparency, and maximizing the use of information technologies; and

WHEREAS, E-Enterprise, this jointly managed governance and business strategy, leverages the longstanding partnership of the Exchange Network — a national platform for environmental data sharing; and

WHEREAS, E-Enterprise and the Exchange Network honor existing delegated authorities and other environmental program jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA, tribes, and states use the E-Enterprise for the Environment framework to cooperatively coordinate investments, implement program improvements and modernizations, and achieve economies of scale; and

WHEREAS, E-Enterprise for the Environment establishes a mechanism for states, tribes, and U.S. EPA to engage earlier and more effectively in improving business processes and program operations; and

WHEREAS, E-Enterprise for the Environment provides states, tribes, and U.S. EPA with enhanced transparency with respect to regulated entity environmental performance, ambient environmental conditions, and administrative processes, which states, tribes, and U.S. EPA can use to more effectively allocate scarce resources and to better inform environmental policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the [E-Enterprise Digital Strategy](#) (July 2019) calls on states, tribes, and U.S. EPA to coordinate their technology investments and program modernizations to make transformative improvements to environmental protection, lower development and operating costs, and dramatically enhance customer service; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, through E-Enterprise for the Environment, states, tribes, and U.S. EPA considered “Straw Principles for the Future of Environmental Data Sharing” and recommends these principles be considered in ongoing work; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA has provided key funding for technical and administrative support of joint governance and development of innovative shared services, data exchanges, and other central services through investments by its national program offices’ operations budgets, programmatic Categorical Grants, and through the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, ECOS and U.S. EPA have taken a number of steps to institutionalize and advance E-Enterprise for the Environment, including approving the *Charter for ECOS EPA Working Group on Electronic Environmental Transactions* to develop a vision for E-Enterprise for the Environment (July 2012), agreeing to a Joint Governance Statement to support the development, implementation, and continuous improvement of E-Enterprise (December 2012); signing the *Charter for State and EPA E-Enterprise Leadership Council*, which among other outcomes, established the E-Enterprise Leadership Council (September 2013); and signing the *Governance Charter for E-Enterprise for the Environment* (September 2016) that adds tribal members to the EELC and establishes other managing governance bodies; and

WHEREAS, ECOS recommends this resolution be considered complimentary to [Resolution 11-2: Respectful Use of Data](#) and to [Resolution 13-4: Environmental Performance and Outcomes Data and Metrics](#); and

WHEREAS, the E-Enterprise Leadership Council consists of high-level state, tribal, and U.S. EPA officials and has been meeting regularly since December 2013 to guide and oversee the implementation of the E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES:

Reaffirms its commitment to E-Enterprise for the Environment, the Exchange Network, the E-Enterprise Leadership Council, and the *Governance Charter for E-Enterprise for the Environment*;

Calls on states, tribes, and U.S. EPA, to the extent practicable, to implement the recommendations of the E-Enterprise Leadership Council;

Requests that U.S. EPA continue to support the use of programmatic formula Categorical Grants for the efficient and effective multi-directional exchange of data between and among states, U.S. EPA, and other regulatory partners to maintain transparency and oversight;

Requests continued funding to U.S. EPA's Office of Mission Support, program offices and to states to support collaborative program modernization, innovation, digital transformation, maintenance, and interoperability of shared and related services including joint investment and operation of new and existing digital tools and infrastructure; and

Calls on the U.S. Congress to continue funding the National Environmental Information Exchange Network Grants Program and provide adequate funding to support efforts to implement the vision of E-Enterprise.