

Strategy for ECOS Climate and Energy Workgroup

Mission

To increase the coordination and integration of climate-related and energy-related policies, programs, and practices into environmental and public health policies, programs, and practices.

Vision

Integrated, successful, adaptable, and sustainable environmental solutions for reducing carbon pollution, advancing clean energy economies, and increasing the resiliency and vibrancy of communities and ecosystems.

Principles

1. **Climate federalism** - Recognizing and respecting varying roles of state and federal authorities, as well as local jurisdictions and nongovernmental organizations, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, grow economies, and customize strategies for the most effective and equitable results.
2. **Preparedness and resiliency** - Increasing efforts to protect the safety, health and vitality of communities, ecosystems, and supporting infrastructure systems.
3. **Science and economics** - Using facts, experience, and analysis to understand climate-related threats and identify cost-effective, durable and equitable solutions.
4. **Partnerships** - Expanding and strengthening collaboration among public and private organizations and sectors, at varying scales, to spur innovation and increase success.

Priorities and Early Actions

1. Establish an ECOS steering committee and broader workgroup of diverse state environmental leaders to provide direction and coordination with existing ECOS committees and workgroups.
2. Establish partnerships and memoranda of understanding with state and federal energy and climate offices and organizations.
3. Send an ECOS letter to EPA, CEQ on Inflation Reduction Act priorities and coordination with states.
4. Send an ECOS letter to EPA on Carbon Capture and Storage, Class VI UIC Primacy.
5. Host webinars and meetings to share practices for preparedness and resiliency and establish common ground among all states.
6. Focus on existing and new permit streamlining and regulatory problem-solving to accelerate clean energy and climate smart solutions such as a webinar or in person meeting with bipartisan former directors of White House CEQ to discuss Aspen Institute report on faster, smarter permitting for clean energy.

7. Make recommendations to Congress and federal agencies on needs and solutions in order to decarbonize the economy and strengthen resiliency of natural and man-made infrastructure systems, and specifically implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (aka Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), and the American Rescue Plan Act.
8. Pursue partnerships and scope state pilot project opportunities with:
 - the ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus to promote methane reduction activities;
 - academic research organizations;
 - international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Program;
 - ITRC and E-Enterprise project teams (e.g. best practices for tracking and measuring emissions); and
 - large philanthropic foundations (e.g. Google, Amazon, Patagonia, Climate Reality)
9. Document best practices from states on climate resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation.

Structure and Leadership

The ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup would be housed under the ECOS Officers and Executive Committee. The Workgroup will be guided by a Steering Committee led by two state co-chairs.