



ECOS

## 2025 ECOS Fall Meeting: *Environmental Inspiration in the Land of Enchantment*

La Fonda on the Plaza, Santa Fe, New Mexico

September 2-5, 2025

#ECOSFall25

*With its vibrant scenery and rich culture, Santa Fe serves as the ideal backdrop for exploring ways to transform environmental protection. ECOS member agencies are embracing new and improved approaches on **air, water, land, enforcement, and PFAS**, even amid budget uncertainty. Beyond priority policy issues, this gathering spotlights **artificial intelligence (AI)** uses, readiness, and impacts. An interactive **Shark Tank** will showcase AI and other technological tools that states might employ to enhance permitting.*

- 1) Except where highlighted in green, all sessions are open to all registrants, including press.
- 2) ECOS encourages a climate of open discussion among all meeting attendees, not only members seated around the plenary table. Please ask a question or offer input during Q&A.

### Tuesday, September 2

#### Optional Programming

4:00 – 6:30 p.m. 1352 Rufina Circle Santa Fe	Exploration of Meow Wolf Santa Fe's House of Eternal Return Immersive Art Museum (tentative)
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### Wednesday, September 3

#### AI, Technology, & Shark Tank

7:30 a.m. Mezzanine	<b>Registration Desk Open</b> <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting, including for the September 3 offsite event.</i>
7:30 – 9:00 a.m. La Terraza & Garden Terrace	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>

<p><b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>ECOS Oil &amp; Gas Caucus (O&amp;GC): Game-Changing Technologies in Methane Detection &amp; Water Reuse</b></p> <p><i>From satellite detection of methane to carbon capture and the use of AI in the produced water space, technology can help mitigate the impacts of oil and gas. Hear how states and their partners are leveraging the latest advances and advocating for robust testing and monitoring.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President and O&amp;GC Co-Chair James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS O&amp;GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) (invited)</li> <li>❖ Scott Lichtig, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency (invited)</li> <li>❖ Jon Goldstein, Senior Director, Regulatory &amp; Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>❖ Matthias Sayer, Vice President, Bradfute Sayer</li> <li>❖ Angel Zivkovich, Environmental &amp; Conservation Policy Manager, Oxy</li> </ul>
<p><b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b> Santa Fe Room</p>	<p><b>Breakout Option #2: State Approaches to Water Cybersecurity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ TBD, Maryland Department of the Environment</li> <li>❖ TBD, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>❖ TBD, U.S. EPA Office of Water</li> </ul>
<p><b>8:00 – 9:00 a.m.</b> Ballen Boardroom</p>	<p><b>Breakout Option #3: 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 Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:10 – 9:40 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>Opening Plenary Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Call to Order</b>, ECOS President, O&amp;GC Co-Chair, &amp; Meeting Host James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</li> <li>❖ <b>Self-Introduction of Members</b> {10}</li> <li>❖ <b>Host State Welcome, Association Priorities, &amp; Agenda Preview</b>, James Kenney {10}</li> <li>❖ <b>Tribal Welcome</b>, Josett Monette, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and Member, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (invited) {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Executive Director's Announcements</b>, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5}</li> </ul>

<p><b>9:40 – 10:25 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Ready, Set, AI!</b>  <i>With an increasing number of Americans awed by the capabilities of AI in a non-professional setting, several environmental practitioners are just now dipping their toes in the water to leverage the technology in their work. AI has the potential to improve environmental outcomes – if we overcome constraints and avoid pitfalls. State agency CIOs will offer sage advice on ways to adequately prepare!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Assistant Commissioner for Enterprise Management, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>❖ ECOS DBWG Vice Chair Miriam Patrocinio, Chief Data Officer, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:25 – 10:50 a.m.</b> Mezzanine</p>	<p><b>Break with Refreshments &amp; Technology Fair</b></p>
<p><b>10:50 – 11:00 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>Video Spotlight: Early State AI Adopters</b>, introduced by ECOS At-Large Board Member Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)</p>
<p><b>11:00 – 11:50 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: AI at Work in Environmental Programs</b>  <i>States are beginning to harness AI to improve permitting, streamline regulatory processes, and enhance environmental programs. This panel, featuring perspectives of states and private sector partners, will explore real-world applications and lessons learned from integrating AI into environmental programs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Past President Myra Reece, Director, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Meta Hirschl, Chief Data &amp; Technology Steward, New Mexico Environment Department</li> <li>❖ Phil Roos, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, &amp; Energy (invited)</li> <li>❖ Alicia Keyes, CEO &amp; Founder, Apaluma</li> </ul>
<p><b>11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.</b> La Terraza &amp; Garden Terrace</p>	<p><b>Lunch with Welcome Remarks by The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, State of New Mexico</b>, introduced by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</p>
<p><b>1:10 – 2:40 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom</p>	<p><b>Shark Tank &amp; Live Vote on Technology Solutions in Environmental Permitting</b>  <i>Amid rising permitting needs and resource constraints, many states are turning to novel technologies to modernize environmental permitting. In this fun and friendly Shark Tank-style session, firms will pitch innovative solutions to a panel of "State Sharks," creatively demonstrating how technology can improve outcomes, reduce delays, and better serve both the regulated community and the public. Participants include Apaluma, Deloitte, ERG, Esri, EY, SAS, and SmartComment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (State Shark)</li> <li>❖ ECOS At-Large Board Member Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (State Shark)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Air Committee Vice Chair Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (State Shark)</li> </ul>

<b>2:40 – 3:30 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Powering &amp; Watering AI</b> <i>The explosive growth of AI is driving unprecedented demand for computing power and new data centers. Processing all those bits and bytes may require massive amounts of energy, water, and other resources. This panel will explore the ways states and the private sector are cooperating to capitalize on the economic opportunities of AI while mitigating data center impacts on water, air, and land.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Vice President Chris Wells, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Mike Rolband, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</li> <li>❖ Missy Neff, Director, Environmental, Dominion Energy</li> </ul>
<b>3:30 – 3:35 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Day 1 Wrap-up &amp; Announcements</b> , ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico
<b>4:00 – 6:45 p.m.</b> Violet Crown Theater Santa Fe Railyards	<b>Sky Railway Sunset Serenade Pre-Dinner Classic Train Ride</b> (open to meeting registrants who signed up via the registration site; space not currently available for guests) <i>All aboard for a scenic mountain ride to and from Lamy, New Mexico, with live local entertainment, appetizers, and drinks! Wear your name badge and meet in the hotel lobby by 4:00 p.m. for a one-mile walk to the depot and 4:45 p.m. train departure. The train returns by 6:45 p.m. in time for individual dinner reservations in downtown Santa Fe.</i>

## Thursday, September 4

### Environmental Programs, Agency Management, & Funding

<b>7:00 – 7:45 a.m.</b> New Mexico Room	<b>Enchanted Yoga</b> , led by ECOS President & Vinyasa yoga instructor James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>Please bring a mat and/or towel.</i>
<b>7:45 a.m.</b> Mezzanine	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>
<b>7:45 – 9:15 a.m.</b> La Terraza & Garden Terrace	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>
<b>8:15 – 9:15 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Roundtable</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (co-moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Climate &amp; Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator)</li> </ul>
<b>8:15 – 9:15 a.m.</b> Ballen Boardroom	<b>Breakout Option #2: ECOS Federal Facilities Forum (FFF)</b> (open to states and federal invitees) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ TBD, State (moderator)</li> </ul>

<b>9:20 – 9:40 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Second Plenary Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Call to Order</b>, ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</li> <li>❖ <b>Announcement of 2025-26 ECOS Officers &amp; Recognition of 2024-25 Officers</b>, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5}</li> <li>❖ <b>Presentation of ECOS President's, Founders, &amp; Special Recognition Awards</b>, ECOS President James Kenney {15}</li> </ul>
<b>9:40 – 10:40 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Hot Topics, Hot Takes from the ECOS Chairs</b> <i>With more than 90% of federal programs implemented by state environmental agencies, ECOS members are on a mission to preserve federal FY26 funding to propel their important work. In this session, ECOS leaders will address priorities ranging from air and water regulation to promoting the circular economy – and why adequate federal funding is imperative to meeting the needs of the day.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department of New Mexico (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Air Committee Chair Clint Woods, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management</li> <li>❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Karen Peters, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality</li> <li>❖ ECOS Land &amp; Materials Committee Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>❖ ECOS Budget &amp; Management Committee Chair and Land &amp; Materials Committee Vice Chair Rob Singletary, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality</li> </ul>
<b>10:40 – 11:10 a.m.</b> Mezzanine	<b>Break with Refreshments &amp; Technology Fair</b>
<b>11:10 – 11:35 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Video Presentation &amp; Live Vote for 2024 State Program Innovation Awards in the Environmental Programs &amp; Agency Management Category</b> , ECOS At-Large Board Member Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)
<b>11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: The State of State Compliance &amp; Enforcement</b> <i>Compliance is the core objective of any regulatory program. Hear a panel of legal experts weigh in on the trends, technologies, and tools that can boost state compliance and enforcement efforts, even when staffing takes a hit.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ ECOS Compliance Committee Chair Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection</li> <li>❖ Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (invited)</li> <li>❖ David Ross, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs &amp; Sustainability, Veolia North America (former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water)</li> <li>❖ David Uhlmann, Partner, Marten Law (former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement &amp; Compliance Assurance)</li> <li>❖ Peggy Otum, Partner &amp; Co-Chair of Energy, Environment, &amp; Natural Resources Practice, WilmerHale</li> </ul>

<b>12:25 – 1:35 p.m.</b> La Terraza & Garden Terrace	<b>Lunch with Keynote Address or Dialogue followed by Q&amp;A: The Honorable David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</b> (invited), introduced by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
<b>1:35 – 1:55 p.m.</b> Garden Terrace	<b>Class of 2025 ECOS Members, Deputies, &amp; Executive Director Photo</b> , followed by ECOS staff photo
<b>2:00 – 2:50 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Challenges &amp; Considerations for PFAS Destruction &amp; Disposal</b> <i>States continue to advocate for national guidance on PFAS destruction and disposal methods that are effective, supported by rules, and can standardize remediation. This panel of state, federal, and private sector experts will highlight key challenges and considerations, including tools for choosing effective and cost-efficient technologies and methods to reduce liability and risk.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Karen Hyun, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (moderator)</li> <li>❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</li> <li>❖ TBD, U.S. EPA</li> <li>❖ Hunter Anderson, Restoration Subject Matter Expert, Strategic Environmental Research &amp; Development Program/Environmental Security Technology Certification Program</li> <li>❖ Terry Johnson, Senior Director, Disposal Operations, Waste Management</li> </ul>
<b>2:50 – 3:40 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Open Problem-Solving Discussion: Workforce Solutions amid Budget Woes</b> <i>Given a shift in the federal funding picture for water infrastructure and continued budget shortfalls for delegated programs, state environmental agencies must be nimble. The session will offer an opportunity for ECOS members to share how they are working with their Governors' offices, legislatures, and the regulated community to provide expected services in unpredictable times.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (moderator)</li> </ul>
<b>3:40 – 4:00 p.m.</b> Mezzanine	<b>Break with Refreshments &amp; Technology Fair</b>
<b>4:00 – 4:50 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Roundtable &amp; Open Discussion: Water for All, Large &amp; Small</b> <i>States can strengthen local water and wastewater systems by partnering with communities, utilities, and companies to deliver sustainable solutions through consolidation, regionalization, and modern governance. With support from the private and philanthropic sectors, some states are overcoming funding gaps to ensure clean, safe water for all.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator)</li> <li>❖ Kimberlee Cornett, Senior Director, Impact Investments, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</li> <li>❖ Robert Powelson, President &amp; Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Water Companies</li> <li>❖ Matt Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Water Association</li> <li>❖ Olga Morales-Pate, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Community Assistance Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>4:50 – 5:00 p.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>Meeting Wrap-Up &amp; Call to Adjourn</b> , ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico
<b><i>Evening open for individually arranged meetings and dinners.</i></b>	

**Friday, September 5**  
**States-Only Business**

<b>7:15 a.m.</b> Mezzanine	<b>Registration Desk Open</b>
<b>7:15 – 8:30 a.m.</b> La Terraza & Garden Terrace	<b>Buffet Breakfast</b>
<b>8:30 – 10:15 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>States-Only Session on Resolutions &amp; Funding</b> (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President and O&GC Co-Chair James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
<b>10:15 – 10:30 a.m.</b> Mezzanine	<b>Break with Refreshments</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:30 a.m.</b> Lumpkins Ballroom	<b>ECOS Board Meeting</b> (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico