



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.
- 3) ECOS registrants may present their name badges for free admission September 2-8 at any museum or historic site listed at www.newmexicoculture.org/visit. Registrants' guests are not covered.

We extend our gratitude to the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs for this generous opportunity.

Tuesday, September 2

Welcome Event

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. 1352 Rufina Circle Santa Fe	Exploration of Meow Wolf Santa Fe's House of Eternal Return Immersive Art Museum <i>Complimentary tickets and transportation are available on a first-come, first-served basis to ECOS registrants and their guests. Please email Adam Elkins of ECOS (aelkins@ecos.org) with the number of tickets desired, names of participants, and desired hotel departure time. Buses depart from near the hotel garage entrance at 4:00 and 4:40 for museum entrance at 4:20 and 5:00. Returning buses depart the museum at 6:00 and 6:40.</i>
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Wednesday, September 3

AI, Technology, & Shark Tank

7:30 a.m. Mezzanine	Registration Desk Open <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	Buffet Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus (O&GC): Game-Changing Technologies in Water Reuse and Methane Detection & Mitigation <i>From the use of AI in the produced water space to methane satellite detection, breakthrough technologies are helping to 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> Advanced Treatment of Produced Water ❖ ECOS President and O&GC Co-Chair James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator) ❖ Matthias Sayer, Vice President, Bradfute Sayer Methane Detection ❖ Scott Lichtig, Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency (invited) ❖ Jon Goldstein, Senior Director, Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund Methane Mitigation ❖ ECOS O&GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ Angel Zivkovich, Environmental & Conservation Policy Manager, Oxy
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Santa Fe Room	Breakout Option #2: State Approaches to Water Cybersecurity <i>Cyberattacks targeting U.S. water and wastewater systems can disrupt the clean and safe supply of drinking water and impose significant costs on affected communities. This breakout will address the current threat landscape and highlight resources available to states. It will also feature state approaches to developing water cybersecurity regulations, identifying tools to integrate best practices into their programs, and supporting systems in safeguarding their water resources.</i> ❖ Patrick Cummins, Director of Environmental Health & Protection, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (moderator) ❖ ECOS At-Large Board Member Serena McIlwain, Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment ❖ ECOS Digital Business Workgroup Chair Victoria Phillips, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Cole Dutton, Cybersecurity Analyst, U.S. EPA Office of Groundwater & Drinking Water
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Exchange Room	Breakout Option #3: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting (open to ERIS members, states, and invitees) ❖ ERIS President Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)
9:10 – 9:40 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Opening Plenary Session ❖ Call to Order, ECOS President, O&GC Co-Chair, & Meeting Host James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ Self-Introduction of Members {10} ❖ Host State Welcome, Association Priorities, & Agenda Preview, James Kenney {10} ❖ Tribal Welcome, Josett Monette, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department, and Member, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians {5} ❖ Executive Director's Announcements, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5}

9:40 – 10:20 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Ready, Set, AI! <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> ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ ECOS Digital Business Workgroup Chair Victoria Phillips, Assistant Commissioner for Enterprise Management, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ❖ ECOS Digital Business Workgroup Vice Chair Miriam Patrocinio, Chief Data Officer, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
10:20 – 10:45 a.m. Mezzanine	Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair
10:45 – 11:05 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Video Presentation & Live Vote for 2025 State Program Innovation Awards in the AI & Technology Category , ECOS At-Large Board Member Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)
11:05 – 11:50 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: AI at Work in Environmental Programs <i>States are beginning to harness AI to improve permitting, streamline regulatory processes, and enhance environmental programs. This panel, featuring perspectives of states at various stages of adoption, will explore real-world applications and lessons learned from integrating AI into internal and public-facing operations.</i> ❖ ECOS Past President Myra Reece, Director, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (moderator) ❖ Meta Hirschl, Chief Data & Technology Steward, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ David Salyers, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation ❖ Phil Roos, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy ❖ Alicia Keyes, CEO & Founder, Apaluma
11:50 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. La Terraza & Garden Terrace	Lunch with Welcome Remarks by The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor, State of New Mexico , introduced by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
1:10 – 2:35 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Shark Tank & Live Vote on Technology Solutions in Environmental Permitting <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> ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (State Shark) ❖ ECOS At-Large Board Member Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources (State Shark) ❖ ECOS Air Committee Vice Chair Jessica Shirley, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (State Shark)

2:35 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Seventh Inning Stretch <i>Attendees are invited to take a five-minute break.</i>
2:40 – 3:25 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Powering & Watering AI <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> ❖ ECOS Vice President Chris Wells, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Mike Rolband, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Michael Obradovitch, Area Vice President, Global Data Center Solutions, Ecolab ❖ Diana Rodriguez, Principal, Sustainability Public Policy, Americas, Amazon Web Services ❖ Missy Neff, Director, Environmental, Dominion Energy
3:25 – 3:30 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Day 1 Wrap-up & Announcements , ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico
4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Violet Crown Theater Santa Fe Railyards	Sky Railway Sunset Serenade Pre-Dinner Classic Train Ride (open to meeting registrants with a train sticker on their name badge) <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 near the hotel garage entrance for shuttle departures beginning at 4:00 and ending at 4:30 for a 4:45 train departure. Returning shuttles will depart the train depot starting at around 6:45, in time for individual dinner reservations in downtown Santa Fe.</i>

Thursday, September 4

Environmental Programs, Agency Management, & Funding

7:00 – 7:45 a.m. New Mexico Room	Enchanted Yoga , led by ECOS President & Vinyasa yoga instructor James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>The hotel will provide yoga mats.</i>
7:30 a.m. Mezzanine	Registration Desk Open
7:30 – 9:15 a.m. La Terraza & Garden Terrace	Buffet Breakfast

8:15 – 9:15 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Breakout Option #1: ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup - Strategies in Resilience & Adaptation <i>A summer of tragic flooding has served as a vivid reminder of the urgent need to build more resilient communities and infrastructure. With states often on the front lines in managing and mitigating the impacts of extreme weather, ECOS members will share real-world examples, lessons learned, adaptation strategies, and actionable insights.</i> ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources ❖ Reid Wilson, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Phetmano Phannavong, Senior Advisor - Water, AECOM
8:15 – 9:15 a.m. Santa Fe Room	Breakout Option #2: ECOS Federal Facilities Forum (FFF) (open to ECOS members and staff)
9:20 – 9:40 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Second Plenary Session ❖ Call to Order, ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ Announcement of 2025-26 ECOS Officers & Recognition of 2024-25 Officers, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5} ❖ Presentation of ECOS President's, Founders, & Special Recognition Awards, ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico and Vice President Chris Wells of Mississippi {12} ❖ Preview of 2025 Environmental Law Institute (ELI) Environmental Achievement Award, ELI Board Member Peggy Otum {3}
9:40 – 10:30 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: The State of State Compliance & Enforcement <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> ❖ ECOS Compliance Committee Chair Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources ❖ Dave Ross, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs & Sustainability, Veolia North America (former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water) ❖ David Uhlmann, Partner, Marten Law (former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement & Compliance Assurance) ❖ Peggy Otum, Partner & Co-Chair of Energy, Environment, & Natural Resources Practice, WilmerHale
10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Mezzanine	Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair
11:00 – 11:20 a.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Video Presentation & Live Vote for 2025 State Program Innovation Awards in the Environmental Programs & Agency Management Category , ECOS At-Large Board Member Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)

11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Hot Topics, Hot Takes from the ECOS Chairs <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 forward. 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> ❖ ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (moderator) ❖ ECOS Air Committee Chair Clint Woods, Commissioner, Indiana Department of Environmental Management ❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Karen Peters, Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ❖ ECOS Land & Materials Committee Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ❖ ECOS Budget & Management Committee Chair and Land & Materials Committee Vice Chair Rob Singletary, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
12:25 – 1:35 p.m. La Terraza & Garden Terrace	Lunch with Keynote Address: The Honorable David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency , introduced by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
1:35 – 1:55 p.m. Garden Terrace	Class of 2025 ECOS Members, Deputies, & Executive Director Photo , followed by ECOS staff photo
2:00 – 2:50 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Challenges & Considerations for PFAS Destruction & Disposal <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> ❖ Karen Hyun, Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (moderator) ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ❖ Steven Cook, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Land & Emergency Management ❖ Nancy Collins, PFAS Lead for Eastern Half of North America, Clean Harbors ❖ Terry Johnson, Senior Director, Disposal Operations, Waste Management
2:50 – 3:40 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Open Problem-Solving Discussion: Workforce Solutions amid Budget Woes <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> ❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (moderator)
3:40 – 4:00 p.m. Mezzanine	Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair

4:00 – 4:50 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Water for All, Large & Small <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> ❖ Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Kimberlee Cornett, Senior Director, Impact Investments, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ❖ Robert Powelson, President & Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Water Companies ❖ Matt Holmes, Chief Executive Officer, National Rural Water Association ❖ Olga Morales-Pate, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Community Assistance Partnership
4:50 – 5:00 p.m. Lumpkins Ballroom	Meeting Wrap-Up & Call to Adjourn , ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico
<i>Evening open for individually arranged meetings and dinners.</i>	

Friday, September 5
States-Only Business

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