



**2024 ECOS Fall Meeting
Draft Agenda
Environmental Sea Change
September 3-6
Hotel Viking
Newport, Rhode Island
#ECOSFall24**

Though only 37 miles wide and 48 miles long, the Ocean State boasts some 400 miles of shoreline along Narragansett Bay in the Atlantic. Newport offers the ideal backdrop to explore ways to bring about Environmental Sea Change, as states work to transform environmental protection through innovative programs on water quantity and quality, microplastics, PFAS, sustainable materials management, air, offshore wind, artificial intelligence, satellites, and more.

The meeting will showcase lively discussions and our annual innovation video voting.

- 1) Except where highlighted in green, all sessions are open to all registrants, including press.
- 2) All ECOS meeting space is located on the lobby level except for the Viking Ballroom and Courtyard, which are down the short flight of stairs.
- 3) ECOS and the Hotel Viking will direct excess food from our Fall Meeting to people in need. See the ECOS website for information on additional sustainability initiatives at the meeting.
- 4) Dress is business casual.
- 5) 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 3

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Optional Private Charter aboard the Adirondack IV Schooner <i>Enjoy a 90-minute excursion aboard a majestic sailing ship (open to all attendees and their guests, participation capped at 70). Meet in the hotel lobby at 3:30 p.m. to walk together to the wharf by 3:45 p.m. for the 4:00-5:30 p.m. charter. To participate in this individually paid event, sign up via the registration checkbox.</i>	23 Bowen's Wharf Newport, Rhode Island
5:45 – 7:00 p.m.	Happy Hour with Drinks & Light Hors d'Oeuvres (open to meeting registrants only)	Viking Courtyard

Wednesday, September 4

Water & PFAS

7:30 a.m.	<p>Registration Desk Open <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting, including for September 5 offsite event guests.</i></p>	Viking Foyer
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<p>Breakfast</p>	Bellevue Ballroom
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<p>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus (O&GC) – Methane Satellite Detection & Other Cutting-Edge Measurement Approaches <i>Come hear the latest on the continuing quest of states, nonprofits, and industry to quantify and address greenhouse gas emissions over wide areas. In one major advance, a groundbreaking methane satellite program is providing regulators and oil and gas operators an unprecedented ability to compare near real-time results against emission goals.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS O&GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer and O&GC Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator) ❖ Jon Goldstein, Senior Director, Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund ❖ Angela Zivkovich, Air Policy Manager, Oxy 	Viking Ballroom
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	<p>Breakout Option #2: Environmental Justice Workgroup & Steering Committee – Optimizing Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) and Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) <i>SEPs and CBAs can serve as important tools for addressing inequities and enhancing the quality of life in underserved and overburdened communities. When done well, these projects and agreements foster collaboration among regulators, businesses, and local communities toward shared goals. Join state and U.S. EPA leaders as they consider best practices for designing and implementing SEPs and CBAs to maximize impact and meet regulatory requirements.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Past President and EJ Workgroup & Steering Committee Co-Chair Myra Reece, Interim Director, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (moderator) ❖ Cecil Rodrigues, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance ❖ Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Jennifer Carr, Administrator, Nevada Division of Environmental Protection ❖ Kandyce Perry, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 	Thames I

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakout Option #3: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting (open to ERIS members, states, and invitees) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ERIS President Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) 	Tauro Boardroom
9:10 – 10:00 a.m.	Opening Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Call to Order, ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Mayor's Welcome, Xaykham (Xay) Khamsyvoravong, Mayor of Newport, introduced by ECOS Meeting Host and Land & Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management {5} ❖ Self-Introductions by ECOS Members {10} ❖ Host State Welcome, Terry Gray {5} ❖ ECOS Priorities & Agenda Preview, Elizabeth Biser {5} ❖ Updates from the Executive Director, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {5} ❖ Keynote Remarks followed by Q&A: Sailboat Racing & Leaving Sustainable Oceans in Our Wake, Michelle Carnevale, President, 11th Hour Racing, introduced by Terry Gray {20} 	Viking Ballroom
10:00 – 10:50 a.m.	Roundtable & Open Discussion: Alleviating Water Scarcity – Innovative Technologies & Solutions Every State Should Know About <i>Between population growth and exceptional events, water quantity concerns are cropping up and intensifying around the country. Panelists will discuss approaches ranging from New Mexico's use of state-of-the-art satellite imagery to detect water system leaks to other state partnerships on produced water reuse and drought-resilient infrastructure.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer and O&GC Co-Chair Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (moderator) ❖ ECOS Water Committee Chair Dru Buntin, Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources ❖ Amy Thomas Gerling, Account Executive, Google ❖ George Azzari, Director, AI, Woolpert Digital Innovations ❖ Dave Ross, Chief Sustainability Officer, Veolia North America 	Viking Ballroom
10:50 – 11:15 a.m.	Fresh Air Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair	Viking Foyer & Courtyard

11:15 a.m. – Noon	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Turning the Tide on Microplastics & More</p> <p><i>You asked. They answered. Representatives of the Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS), Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC), and U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development will discuss key findings developed in response to a recent ERIS Survey of State Research Needs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ERIS President Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Charles Reyes, Director, ITRC ❖ Grace Anne Martin, ITRC Microplastics Team Co-Leader and Environmental Health Manager III, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services ❖ Chris Frey, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development 	Viking Ballroom
Noon – 12:25 p.m.	<p>Video Presentation & Live Vote for 2024 State Program Innovation Awards in the Water & PFAS Category, ECOS Vice President and two-time innovation honoree Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	Viking Ballroom
12:30 – 1:40 p.m.	<p>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&A: The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on the Budget, and Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works, introduced by ECOS Meeting Host and Land & Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management</p>	Bellevue Ballroom
1:40 – 2:10 p.m.	<p>Class of 2024 ECOS Members, Deputies, & Executive Director Photo, followed by ECOS Staff Photo and U.S. DOD Regional Environmental Coordinators Photo</p>	Viking Courtyard
2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	<p>Breakout Option #1: PFAS in Products & the Supply Chain</p> <p><i>Increasingly, states are focusing on upstream sources of PFAS to better understand how the contaminants are used in industry, how they are discharged into the environment, and how they transfer across media. Experts on PFAS use will highlight the challenge of PFAS in the supply chain and essential products, as well as management solutions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President and Land & Materials Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality President (moderator) ❖ Andrew Pawlisz, Regulatory Toxicologist & Environmental Risk Assessor, Trihydro Corporation ❖ Kevin Fay, Executive Director, Sustainable PFAS Action Network 	Viking Ballroom

2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	<p>Breakout Option #2: PFAS in Water</p> <p><i>This session will look more downstream – to explore how to minimize PFAS pollution in surface water and how to effectively manage funding sources for drinking water contamination, among other strategies. Panelists will discuss ways to incorporate PFAS in National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits, how regulated entities are handling PFAS in water systems, and where opportunities exist to fund and support water infrastructure and treatment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair & ERIS Board Member Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (moderator) ❖ Phil Roos, Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, & Energy ❖ David Cash, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 1 ❖ Adam Krantz, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Clean Water Agencies 	Thames I
2:10 – 3:10 p.m.	<p>Breakout Option #3: PFAS Destruction, Disposal, & Designation</p> <p><i>Diving into the monumental topic of cleanup, panelists will discuss policy and technological solutions, including practical next steps for PFAS destruction and disposal. They will also share perspectives on regulating PFAS as a hazardous waste under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, & Liability Act.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Infrastructure Workgroup Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) ❖ Cliff Villa, Deputy Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Land & Emergency Management ❖ Shalene Thomas, Senior Emerging Contaminants Program Manager, Battelle ❖ AnnieLu DeWitt, Senior Director, Total PFAS Solution, Clean Harbors 	Thames II
3:10 – 3:40 p.m.	<p>Fresh Air Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair</p>	Viking Foyer & Courtyard
3:40 – 4:20 p.m.	<p>Takeaways & Open Discussion: Best Practices for Tackling PFAS on All Fronts</p> <p><i>Moderators will share highlights from each of the PFAS breakouts, and all attendees will have an opportunity to engage in an open discussion of best practices.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) 	Viking Ballroom
4:20 – 4:30 p.m.	<p>Day 1 Wrap-up & Announcements, ECOS President Elizabeth Biser of North Carolina</p>	Viking Ballroom

Thursday, September 5
SMM, Air, Agency Management, & AI

7:30 a.m.	Registration Desk Open <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting, including for September 5 offsite event guests.</i>	Viking Foyer
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Bellevue Ballroom
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Breakout Option #1: Joint Meeting of the ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup and Digital Business Workgroup on Leveraging GIS in Climate Action Planning <i>Planning for climate action and resilience is a data-intensive business. Agencies often need to aggregate, interpret, and apply complex data from myriad sources to know where and how to focus their mitigation and adaptation efforts. This listening session will address the challenges and spotlight mapping tools that can help, including the White House Climate Mapping for Resilience & Adaptation Portal and innovative state examples.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS DBWG Chair Victoria Phillips, Assistant Commissioner for Enterprise Management, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS DBWG Vice Chair Miriam Patrocino, Chief Data Officer, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ Sunny Fleming, Director of Environment, Conservation, & Natural Resource Solutions, Esri 	Viking Ballroom
8:15 – 9:15 a.m.	Breakout Option #2: ECOS Federal Facilities Forum (open to states) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Federal Facilities Forum Chair Greg Young, Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (moderator) 	Tauro Boardroom
9:25 – 9:40 a.m.	Second Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Call to Order & Announcement of New Committee Chairs, ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality {5} ❖ Announcement of 2024-25 ECOS Officers & Recognition of 2023-24 Officers, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles ❖ Presentation of ECOS President's, Founders, and Special Recognition Awards, ECOS President Elizabeth Biser of North Carolina 	Viking Ballroom

<p>9:40 – 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Charting a Sustainable Course on Reduction, Reuse, & Recycling</p> <p><i>States play an essential role in encouraging recycling and directing investments in recycling infrastructure. As the Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) grant program draws state participation nationwide, hear about a range of SWIFR-funded initiatives underway to enhance solid waste capacity in states, collect recycling data, and ensure that end-of-life materials make their way back into the economy as manufacturing feedstock.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President and Land & Materials Committee Vice Chair Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ ECOS Air Committee Chair and ERIS Board Member Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Emma Pokon, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation ❖ Nena Shaw, Director, Resource Conservation & Sustainability Division, U.S. EPA Office of Land & Emergency Management ❖ Scott Breen, Senior Vice President of Sustainability, Can Manufacturers Institute 	<p>Viking Ballroom</p>
<p>10:30 – 10:55 a.m.</p>	<p>Dialogue & Open Discussion: Materials Management to Green Our Wastesheds</p> <p><i>Innovative materials management practices will be key to achieving statewide waste reduction goals. In this dialogue, practitioners will highlight ways for states to encourage efficient waste stream management systems. They will also address permitting considerations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Meeting Host and Land & Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator) ❖ Rob Watson, Principal, Upland Road ❖ Dan Moran, Chief Commercial Officer, Reworld Waste 	<p>Viking Ballroom</p>
<p>10:55 – 11:15 a.m.</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair</p>	<p>Viking Foyer & Courtyard</p>
<p>11:15 – 11:35 a.m.</p>	<p>Video Presentation & Live Vote for 2024 State Program Innovation Awards in the Land, Air, & Cross-Media Category, ECOS Vice President and two-time innovation honoree Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	<p>Viking Ballroom</p>

11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Environmental Markets to Achieve Carbon, Water, & Wetland Goals</p> <p><i>States are increasingly weighing market-based approaches to supplement environmental regulation and accelerate the restoration economy. State and private sector panelists will provide insight on their use of mechanisms such as carbon caps and offsets, mitigation banking, “pay-for-success” contracting, and other strategies to achieve environmental results.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles (moderator) ❖ Laura Watson, Director, Washington State Department of Ecology ❖ Mike Rolband, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Charles Hernick, Head of Sustainability Disclosures Policy, Amazon ❖ Michael Hare, Director of Government Affairs, Business Development, & Corporate Communications, RES 	Viking Ballroom
12:30 – 1:35 p.m.	<p>Lunch with Featured Dialogue and Q&A: The Honorable Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, moderated by ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality</p>	Bellevue Ballroom
1:40 – 2:25 p.m.	<p>Dialogue & Open Discussion: What's on the Horizon for Offshore Wind</p> <p><i>There is perhaps no better place than Rhode Island, the site of the first U.S. offshore wind farm, to examine the potential of the technology to advance clean, domestic energy production. State and private sector panelists will delve into efforts to streamline permitting, as well as strategies to achieve carbon goals while preserving marine health.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (moderator) ❖ ECOS Meeting Host and Land & Materials Committee Chair Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ❖ Travis Voyles, Secretary, Virginia Department of Natural & Historic Resources ❖ Bill Murray, Senior Vice President–Corporate Affairs & Communications, Dominion Energy 	Viking Ballroom
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	<p>Coffee & Light Snacks Available (no break will be taken)</p>	Viking Foyer
2:25 – 2:45 p.m.	<p>Video Presentation & Live Vote for 2024 State Program Innovation Awards in the Agency Management Category, ECOS Vice President and two-time innovation honoree Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</p>	Viking Ballroom

2:45 – 2:55 p.m.	<p>Dialogue: Navigating Headwinds & Setting Sail on a New Agency <i>ECOS members sometimes find themselves with the all-consuming task of leading the transition to a new agency. Hear the firsthand account of ECOS Past President Myra Reece on her recent journey from the Department of Health & Environmental Control to the Department of Environmental Services.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Vice President Jon Niermann, Chairman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ ECOS Past President and EJ Workgroup & Steering Committee Co-Chair Myra Reece, Interim Director, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services 	Viking Ballroom
2:55 – 3:45 p.m.	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Catching the AI Wave <i>As states begin to leverage artificial intelligence (AI) in areas ranging from permitting and compliance to public comments and internal operations, they are navigating the new world carefully. This session will help demystify the technology and shed light on the possibilities ahead. Please come prepared to discuss your own experiences.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) ❖ Carey Merrill, Deputy Commissioner for Risk & Innovation, New York Department of Environmental Conservation ❖ Greg Rogers, Director, Information Resources Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ❖ Joe Conti, Managing Director, Deloitte ❖ Eyal Darmon, Public Service AI Lead, Accenture ❖ Tom Lawler, Executive Director, Digital Climate Alliance 	Viking Ballroom
3:45 – 3:50 p.m.	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up & Call to Adjourn, ECOS President Elizabeth Biser of North Carolina</p>	Viking Ballroom
4:15 – 8:15 p.m.	<p>ECOS Evening Event: Scenic Cliff Walk followed by Clambake at Historic Fort Adams <i>Comfortable shoes and casual attire recommended. Electric school buses generously provided by First Student will depart from the hotel promptly at 4:15 p.m., arriving at the Cliff Walk Easton's Beach drop-off location at 4:30 p.m. Student ambassadors of Salve Regina University will guide groups along a picturesque seaside path with Gilded Age mansions that is now partially obstructed by a 30-foot crater – a vivid illustration of coastal resilience challenges stemming from sea-level rise and extreme weather. Also on view is a traveling art exhibition depicting a herd of life-size elephants. Buses will pick up guests at 5:15 p.m. at the Breakers Parking Lot for arrival at Fort Adams State Park at 5:30 p.m. and an authentic New England clambake and cash bar. Buses will pick up attendees at 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. for return trips to the hotel. To participate, sign up via the registration checkbox. The cost of this event is included in the registration fee, and attendees' guests may be pre-registered for a fee as part of the registration process.</i></p>	Cliff Walk & Fort Adams State Park, Newport, Rhode Island

Friday, September 6
States-Only Business

7:00 – 7:30 a.m.	Moment of Seaside Zen , led by Vinyasa yoga instructor Jim Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>Please bring a mat and/or towel.</i>	Thames
7:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Breakfast	Bellevue Ballroom
8:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Open	Viking Foyer
8:45 – 10:30 a.m.	States-Only Session on Bylaws & Resolutions Voting, & 2026 Fall Meeting Host State Selection (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, Secretary, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality	Viking Ballroom
10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Break with Refreshments	Viking Ballroom
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	ECOS Executive Committee Meeting (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President Elizabeth Biser of North Carolina	Viking Ballroom
11:00 a.m. – Noon	Boxed Lunch Pickup	Viking Ballroom
1:30 – 3:00 p.m.	ECOS Field Demo of U.S. EPA Office of Research & Development and Rhode Island Research <i>Before you head home, take a short trip with ECOS to participate in a field demo at the largest freshwater pond in the city of Providence, the site of innovative research by U.S. EPA's Office of Research & Development to evaluate HABs over space and time and understand the impacts of their social and recreational use. Rhode Island is also exploring enhanced stormwater controls in the watershed. Participants will share rides to the site and airport. To participate, sign up via the registration checkbox.</i>	Mashapaug Pond Providence, Rhode Island (approximately 10 minutes from the Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport in Warwick, RI)