



Resolution 18-2
Approved August 30, 2018
Stowe, Vermont

Revised September 16, 2021
Via Zoom Meeting

Revised September 6, 2024
Newport, Rhode Island

As certified by
Ben Grumbles
Executive Director

ADEQUATELY FUNDED TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESS

WHEREAS, knowledgeable agency employees are essential to successful environmental programs; and

WHEREAS, agency staff must remain well informed regarding existing and new environmental regulations and operational procedures at the federal and state levels; and

WHEREAS, many statutes require training for state, local, and territorial environmental professionals; and

WHEREAS, under cooperative federalism, enhanced partnership between U.S. EPA and states will expand the state compliance and enforcement role, making adequate training a crucial component of a successful program; and

WHEREAS, the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC) is a program of the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) that works with a national network to provide training on reviewing and implementing innovative environmental technologies; and

WHEREAS, ECOS acknowledges the work U.S. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards and Joint Training Committee have done to update course material, modernize the user interface, and support future maintenance of and coursework additions to the AirKnowledge Program, formerly the Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI-Learn); and

WHEREAS environmental agencies are experiencing reduced staff levels and increased turnover, thus creating a critical, long-term training need for existing and incoming staff; and

WHEREAS, a mix of training opportunities should be available to state, local, territorial, and federal employees. Online instruction is a valuable, cost-effective tool; however, classroom instruction is essential to an effective training program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ECOS:

Urges U.S. EPA to adequately and consistently fund training programs without decreasing funding for core program work;

Encourages state agencies to leverage training resources with state and U.S. EPA employees by providing access to state training databases, materials, and courses that may be helpful to fellow state, local, territorial, and federal agencies nationwide;

Supports ITRC as a mechanism for assisting state environmental agencies in gaining valuable technical knowledge;

Encourages U.S. EPA headquarters and regional offices to provide in-person and online co-training courses for U.S. EPA and state officials;

Encourages U.S. EPA to consider sending training providers out to states to conduct training to reduce the travel costs for state attendees;

Encourages U.S. EPA to develop and deliver cost-effective, accessible training using existing, new, and emerging technologies; and

Believes a collaborative approach to training programs between U.S. EPA, states, local, and territorial agencies will lead to improved environmental and public health outcomes.