



ECOS

2025 ECOS Spring Meeting: *Uniting States & Partners for Environmental Progress*

Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, Virginia

March 23-26 2025

#ECOSSpring25

As ECOS converges on the nation's capital for introductions to the new leadership of federal agencies and Congress, our diverse members bring their traditional spirit of bipartisanship to achieve environmental progress. The Spring Meeting will leverage our work with federal, NGO, and private sector partners to attain shared goals for the year ahead. ECOS priorities include building state capacity to lead, advancing water and energy infrastructure through permitting efficiencies and other means, accelerating the circular economy, and ensuring federal facility compliance.

- 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) All meeting space is located on the second floor.

Sunday, March 23

States-Only Business

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Registration Booth	Registration Desk Open <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting.</i>
4:15 – 5:30 p.m. Studio C	New Member Orientation (open to all ECOS members and staff)
5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Studio C & Foyer	Informal Happy Hour for State Attendees

Monday, March 24

Unity, Permitting Efficiency, Workforce, & AI

8:00 a.m. Registration Booth	Registration Desk Open <i>Please stop by the registration desk to receive a name badge to be worn throughout the meeting, including for the March 25 offsite event.</i>
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Salons 1-3	Buffet Breakfast

<p>8:40 – 9:40 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Oil & Gas Caucus (O&GC) – The Evolving Landscape for Oil & Natural Gas</p> <p><i>Amid new federal initiatives to expand drilling on public and private lands, states will be revisiting safeguards in place for air and water. Hear state, NGO, and industry perspectives on the near-term outlook for balancing environmental goals and economic growth.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President and O&GC Co-Chair James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (co-moderator & speaker) ❖ ECOS O&GC Co-Chair Dave Glatt, Director, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator & speaker) ❖ Jon Goldstein, Senior Director, Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund ❖ Angel Zivkovich, Air Policy Manager, Oxy ❖ Joe Vargo, Senior Manager Regulatory, WaterBridge Operating, LLC
<p>8:40 – 9:40 a.m. Studio B</p>	<p>Breakout Option #2: Environmental Permitting & Public Engagement at Waste Facilities</p> <p><i>When siting and permitting waste facilities, states may face intersecting and potentially conflicting requirements for improving air quality. Members will discuss efforts to navigate requirements while engaging with communities and stakeholders affected by waste facility activities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Land & Materials Committee Chair and Infrastructure Workgroup Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (moderator) ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency ❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
<p>8:40 – 9:40 a.m. Studio C</p>	<p>Breakout Option #3: Environmental Research Institute of the States (ERIS) Board Meeting (open to ERIS members, states, and invitees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ERIS President Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator)
<p>9:50 – 10:25 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Opening Plenary Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Call to Order, ECOS President and O&GC Co-Chair James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department ❖ Self-Introduction of Members {10} ❖ Association Priorities & Agenda Preview, James Kenney {10} ❖ Announcements & New Member Trivia, ECOS Executive Director Ben Grumbles {15}

<p>10:25 – 11:15 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Past ECOS Leaders on Bipartisanship in a Time of Transition <i>Panelists will share experiences and insights on finding common ground among state and federal partners while respecting one another's roles. Such lessons are critical in times of transition and changing priorities on funding, regulations, enforcement, and oversight. Several past ECOS Presidents and alumni in the audience will join the discussion, adding unique perspectives spanning the last three decades.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department (moderator & speaker) ❖ Former ECOS President Elizabeth Biser, President, Biser Strategies ❖ Former ECOS President Jim Macy, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 7 (invited) ❖ Former ECOS President Jon Niermann, Partner, Vinson & Elkins
<p>11:15 – 11:40 a.m. Foyer</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair</p>
<p>11:40 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Permitting Efficiencies to Safeguard the Environment & Expand State Economies <i>To protect public health and the environment while also fostering economic growth, many states are implementing innovative strategies to streamline permitting. In this roundtable, speakers will spotlight successful process and technological improvements and opportunities for broader application.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Secretary-Treasurer & Air Committee Chair Leah Feldon, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (moderator & speaker) ❖ Jessica Shirley, Acting Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ❖ Mike Rolband, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Sara Johnson, Executive Director, Ecological Restoration Business Association ❖ Sue Frost, Managing Director, Deloitte
<p>12:30 – 1:40 p.m. Salons 1-3</p>	<p>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&A: The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Chair, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, on the Outlook for PFAS, Permitting Reform, & Other Environmental Legislation in the 119th Congress, introduced by Harold Ward, Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (invited)</p>
<p>1:50 – 2:40 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Open Problem-Solving Session: Innovative Strategies in Workforce Development <i>In recent years, states have stepped up recruitment and retention efforts in order to attract skilled staff. Guest speakers will briefly spotlight promising approaches, like leveraging the legislatively authorized Senior Environmental Employment (SEE) Program to hire experienced former government workers over age 55 who bring needed expertise. In the open discussion that follows, ECOS members are asked to share their own ideas for developing the workforce of the future!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ERIS President Jess Byrne, Director, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (moderator) ❖ Eric Feldman, Senior Manager, Workforce, Partnership for Public Service

<p>2:40 – 3:25 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: AI as a Tool to Augment Agency Decision-Making <i>AI can serve as a powerful tool for helping regulators better understand, communicate, and address environmental and public health impacts. Speakers will discuss how machine learning can be used to fill data gaps and for predictive modeling, providing a more robust picture of risks across regions to better inform decision-making.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Cross-Media Committee Chair Katrina Kessler, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (moderator & speaker) ❖ Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Michael Ogletree, Director, Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment ❖ Kim Nelson, Chief Operating Officer, True Elements
<p>3:25 – 3:30 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Day 1 Wrap-up & Announcements</p>
<p>4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Capitol Hill</p>	<p>Joint Briefing of ECOS & the National Governors Association on State Environmental Funding & Priorities (open to invited state attendees)</p>
<p><i>Evening open for individually arranged cherry blossom viewing and meetings and dinners.</i></p>	

Tuesday, March 25
Resilience, SMM, Drinking Water, & PFAS

<p>8:00 a.m. Foyer</p>	<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>
<p>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Breakfast</p>
<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Breakout Option #1: ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Listening Session on Building Resilient Environmental Programs <i>Preparedness and adaptation are central to effective state environmental regulatory and permitting programs, particularly as states and their communities face extreme weather events. In this roundtable session, states will explore challenges, capacity gaps, and replicable successes for promoting more resilient programs and regulated facilities.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Todd Parfitt, Director, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (co-moderator) ❖ ECOS Climate & Energy Workgroup Co-Chair Katie Dykes, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (co-moderator) (invited)

<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Studio B</p>	<p>Breakout Option #2: ECOS Digital Business Workgroup (DBWG) on U.S. EPA Enforcement & Compliance History Online (ECHO) New Data Analysis Tools</p> <p><i>New tools available in ECHO can help decision-makers take action on air and water quality data. This session will feature a demonstration of water quality indicators, clean air tracking, and other data visualization tools.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 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)
<p>8:45 – 9:45 a.m. Studio C</p>	<p>Breakout Option #3: ECOS Federal Facilities Forum (FFF) (open to states and federal invitees)</p>
<p>9:55 – 10:00 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Call to Order & Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department
<p>10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Lessons Learned in Disaster Preparedness & Response</p> <p><i>From wildfires and hurricanes to chemical spills, disasters are striking at an alarming clip. Given the number and severity of natural disasters in recent years, states are looking for ways to shore up their infrastructure to prepare for and respond to future crises. Panelists will discuss funding and technological solutions for responding to a wide array of incidents.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Vice President & Compliance Committee Chair Chris Wells, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (moderator & speaker) ❖ Ed Tormey, Division Administrator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources ❖ Scott Lichtig, Deputy Secretary of Environmental Policy, California Environmental Protection Agency (invited) ❖ Sunny Fleming, Director, Environment, Conservation, & Natural Resources Solutions, Esri ❖ John Magee, CEO, VLS Environmental Solutions
<p>10:50 – 11:20 a.m.</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair</p>
<p>11:20 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Sustainable Management & Critical Mineral Recovery of Renewables</p> <p><i>As domestic production of solar panels, wind turbines, and EV batteries has amped up, so too has the need for sustainable end-of-life management. This roundtable will showcase how agencies are working to ensure safe disposal as well as innovative reuse of critical and other materials.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS Land & Materials Committee Chair & Infrastructure Workgroup Chair Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (moderator & speaker) ❖ ECOS Land & Materials Committee Vice Chair Rob Singletary, Executive Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality ❖ Ronné Adkins, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Environment, Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation ❖ TBD, General Motors

<p>12:10 – 1:25 p.m. Salons 1-3</p>	<p>Lunch with Keynote Address followed by Q&A: The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (invited), on Agency Priorities & State Collaboration Opportunities, introduced by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</p>
<p>1:35 – 2:25 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Innovations in Drinking Water Safety & Data Transparency <i>Fifty years following passage of the Safe Drinking Water Act, states still find themselves grappling with water safety challenges. This panel will cover opportunities around lead service line replacement, data sharing, repurposing of produced water, and other tools to ensure water safety and sustainability.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Julie Moore, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (moderator & speaker) ❖ Brooke Paup, Chairwoman, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ❖ Dan Yates, Executive Director, Groundwater Protection Council ❖ Steve Spiwak, Water Safety Services, Nalco Water (an Ecolab company)
<p>2:25 – 3:15 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Open Problem-Solving Discussion: Lessons & Laughter from Little Failures <i>While ECOS meetings regularly highlight successful programs and initiatives, we all know that not every agency strategy succeeds. Members will share and discuss examples of projects that may not have panned out, but from which states have learned valuable lessons.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ ECOS At-Large Board Member Terry Gray, Director, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (moderator)
<p>3:15 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments & Technology Fair</p>
<p>3:40 – 4:25 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Roundtable & Open Discussion: Strategies for Reducing PFAS in Products <i>Regulators, researchers, and the regulated community are working to urgently address PFAS in consumer products, aqueous film-forming foams, and other goods. In this session, panelists will focus on efforts to reduce PFAS in the supply chain and adopt PFAS-free alternatives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Casey Sixkiller, Director, Washington Department of Ecology (moderator & speaker) ❖ Bob Scott, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services ❖ Shalene Thomas, Senior Emerging Contaminants Program Manager, Battelle ❖ Rob Simon, Vice President, Chemical Products & Technology, American Chemistry Council
<p>4:25 – 4:30 p.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up & Call to Adjourn, ECOS President Jim Kenney of New Mexico</p>
<p>5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Amazon HQ2 Arlington, VA</p>	<p>ECOS Evening Event: Tour & Dinner Reception at Amazon's Platinum LEED-Certified HQ2 <i>Attendance is included for those who checked the registration checkbox. Please bring an id and your ECOS name badge and walk, carpool, or drive one mile. Those registered for the 5:15 tour should arrive by 5:00 at the main entrance at 510 14th St. S Arlington, and those registered for the 5:45 tour should arrive by 5:30. Tours conclude at the 5:45 dinner reception at Amazon Visitor Landing, 545 15th St. S Arlington (copper-colored entryway). Paid parking is available beneath 510 14th St S Arlington; enter the garage on Elm St. between 14th and 15th St. S.</i></p>

Wednesday, March 26
States-Only Business

<p>7:45 – 8:30 a.m. Studio B</p>	<p>Moment of Cherry Blossom Zen, led by ECOS President & Vinyasa yoga instructor James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department <i>Please bring a mat and/or towel.</i></p>
<p>8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Salons 1-3</p>	<p>Buffet Breakfast</p>
<p>9:00 a.m. Foyer</p>	<p>Registration Desk Open</p>
<p>9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>States-Only Session on Resolutions & Other Voting (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President James Kenney, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Environment Department</p>
<p>10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Salon 4</p>	<p>Break with Refreshments</p>
<p>11:00 a.m. – Noon Salon 4</p>	<p>ECOS Executive Committee Meeting (open to ECOS members and staff), led by ECOS President James Kenney of New Mexico</p>
<p>1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Capitol Hill</p>	<p>ECOS Member Meetings on Capitol Hill</p>