



ECOS Priorities

Meeting State Capacity Needs. States implement and enforce more than 90% of the nation's environmental programs. This important responsibility and administrative burden continues to grow. The challenges posed by PFAS and other emerging contaminants add to this burden, as do increasing deployments in response to disasters. For two decades, EPA's categorical grant funding, which supports state regulatory programs, has been stagnant or declining. ECOS will continue its advocacy to Congress and U.S. EPA to increase state categorical grants – while emphasizing that federal regulatory agendas affect states' burdens. At the same time, EPA and ECOS must collaborate on ways to reduce these burdens without compromising responsible environmental protection. Advancing workforce innovation and productivity has an important role in addressing the imbalance.

Accelerating the Circular Economy. Through sustainable materials management, we can reduce the environmental footprint of goods and services while growing the economy. ECOS will continue its work on market-based, regulatory, and other approaches to extend the useful life of materials in our production cycles, diverting materials from landfills and closing the loop where appropriate between post-consumer use and supply chains.

Advancing Water and Energy Infrastructure. Aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, rapidly growing demand, and a need for diversification, hardening, and resilience all underscore the need for new and improved water and energy assets. Private and public monies are poised to develop water supply and flood control projects, including projects for storage, reuse, and beneficial use of produced waters; drinking water and wastewater systems to meet demand, conserve water, and address emerging contaminants; additional and diversified generation and transmission capacity and other energy-related assets; and supply chains, including for critical minerals to meet the demand for electric vehicles and power storage. ECOS members are committed to modernizing the business of environmental protection through artificial intelligence and permit streamlining processes to deliver better, faster results. ECOS will continue advocating for funding to ensure state permitting teams are appropriately staffed and that Congress supports the water infrastructure state revolving funds.

Assuring Federal Facility Compliance. Federal agencies and their contractors are subject to state regulations and permits that address air emissions, water discharges, hazardous waste management, and more. The federal government is responsible for thousands of remedial actions at active and inactive sites across the United States and federally regulated permittees must comply with environmental laws and requirements in the same manner and to the same extent as any other regulated facility. ECOS will advocate for greater transparency, federal funding, and increased consequences related to federal facility and contractor issues.

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