



ECOS

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# **Environmental Protection in the States**

# Today's Topics

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- About ECOS
- Significant influences on states' current environmental work
- State and EPA interactions
- Current priority issues

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# **Who is ECOS and What Does ECOS Do?**

# ECOS

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- ❑ Is the national non-profit nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders
- ❑ Works to improve the capability of state environmental agencies and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment of the United States

# ECOS

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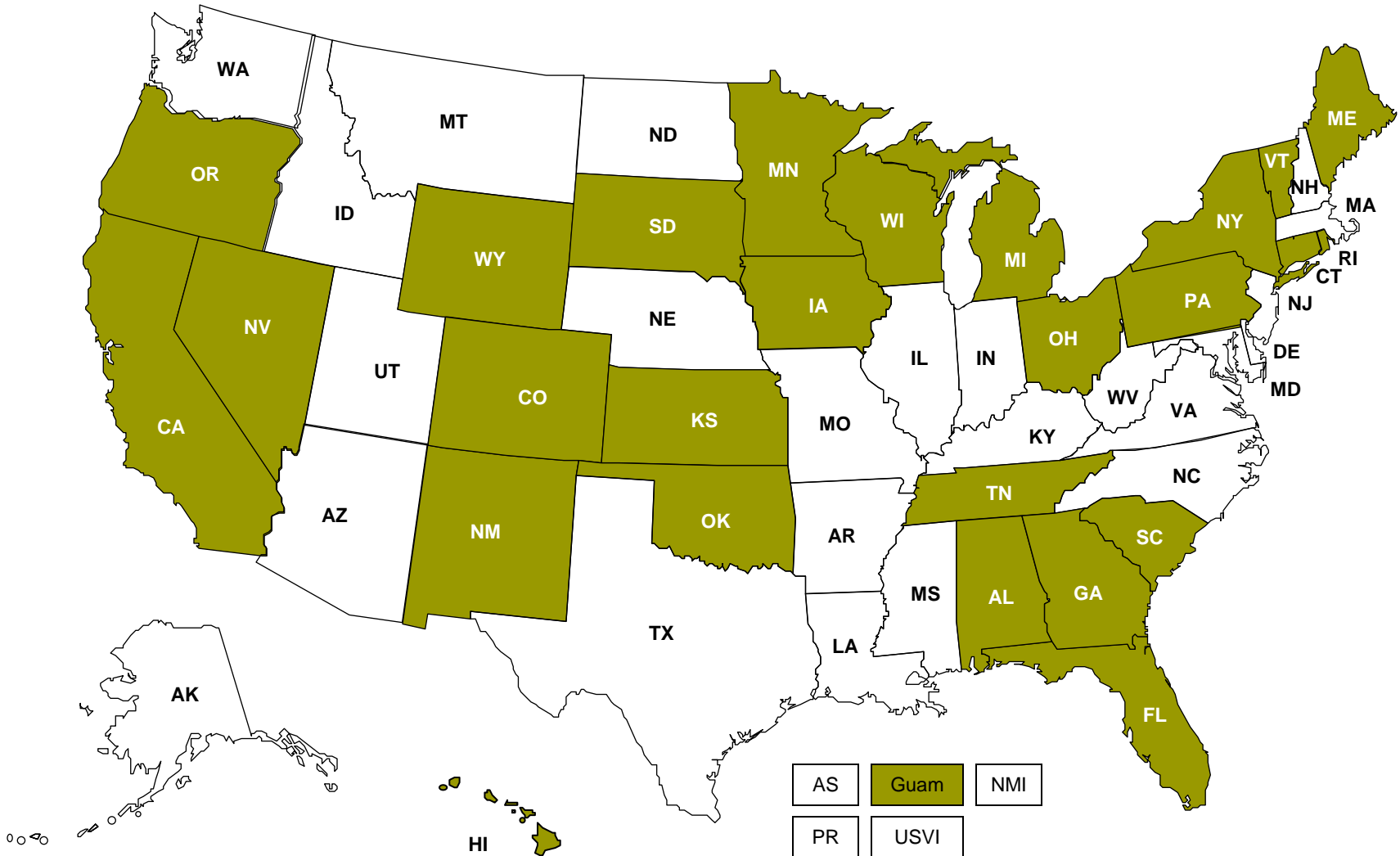
- ❑ Works through committees and other groups to discuss and develop policy positions
- ❑ Conducts research to support the states
- ❑ Provides a forum for states to share ideas and best practices
- ❑ Communicates with the federal government

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**Some Significant  
Influences on State  
Environmental  
Agencies**

# Governors

- Change in Governor
- No Change in Governor





# Budgets

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- Most State agency budgets would have declined from 2009 to 2010, but stimulus funds prevented this
- Most State agency budgets will decline from 2010 to 2011
- This decline will be more pronounced if State tax revenues decline, or the EPA 2011 budget does not pass

# Budget Effects

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- Fewer state agency staff
- Elimination or reduction of some state programs
- Inability to keep delegated programs
- Delays in permitting, rulemaking, and other areas

# EPA and the Federal Government

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- ❑ States are “co-regulators” with U.S. EPA
- ❑ 96% of the of the delegable national environmental laws are delegated
- ❑ “Delegation” includes permitting, inspections, enforcement, monitoring and often standards setting
- ❑ On average about 25% of a state environmental budget comes from the federal government
- ❑ States supply over 90% of the data to EPA’s biggest databases
- ❑ States conduct over 90% of the inspections, EPA the rest

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# State and EPA Interactions

# Some Areas of Cooperation

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- “Building strong state partnerships”
- Budgets
- New rule consultations
- SIP reform
- ‘Lean’ processes
- Streamlining data transfers

# Where We Are Working on Agreement

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- Rule implementation planning
- Cost of rules implementation
- EPA's reliance on interim guidelines

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# Current ECOS Priorities

# ECOS Priorities

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## □ Air

- Greenhouse Gases
- Changing NAAQS
- State Implementation Plan (SIP) Reform

## □ Waste

- Brownfield Redevelopment
- Sustainable Materials Management
- Coal Combustion Waste Designation

# ECOS Priorities

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## □ Water

- Clean Water Act Jurisdiction
- Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Green Infrastructure
- Revision of the Stormwater Rule

## □ Enforcement

- Clean Water Action Plan
- Interim Guidance Issue

# ECOS Priorities

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## □ Cross Media

- Mercury Pollution
- TSCA Reform
- Green Chemistry
- Emerging Contaminants
- Sustainability and Pollution Prevention

# Two Other Major Projects

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## □ Remediation

- Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)
- [www.itrcweb.org](http://www.itrcweb.org)

## □ State-EPA Data Sharing

- The Exchange Network
- [www.exchangenetwork.net](http://www.exchangenetwork.net)

# Upcoming ECOS Meetings

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- March 28-30 in Alexandria, Virginia
- September 25-27 in Indianapolis, Indiana



ECOS

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