

## NCEL 2026 National Forum Agenda

Thursday, July 23 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

<b>Thursday, July 23</b> Session and Time
<b>8:00 - 9:30 AM</b> Breakfast
<b>9:00 - 10:30 AM</b> Special Session for New Legislators <i>Session is dedicated for early career legislators (in their 1st or 2nd terms) or new to the NCEL Network</i>
<b>11:00 AM - 2:00 PM</b> Learning Tracks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nature-Based Solutions 101</li> <li>● One Health for People and Nature 101</li> <li>● Utilities and the Grid 101</li> </ul>
<b>2:30- 5:00 PM</b> Outdoor Activity: Routes to Resilience: Connecting Nature, Health, & Opportunity Through Active Transit
<b>6:00 - 9:00 PM</b> Opening Reception

<b>Friday, July 24</b> Session and Time
<b>8:00 - 9:00 AM</b> Registration table opens. Breakfast starts serving at 8:00.
<b>9:00 - 10:00 AM</b> Welcome and 2026 Legislative Highlights
<b>10:00 - 11:00 AM</b> Plenary Session: Biodiversity: Bending the Curve of Nature Loss with State Action
<b>11:00 - 11:30 AM</b> Networking Break
<b>11:30 AM - 12:45 PM</b> Concurrent Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pesticides, Parkinson's, Pollinators, and Public Health: Policy Approaches for Addressing Toxic Chemical Use</li> <li>● The Microplastic Reality Check: Impacts and Upstream Interventions</li> </ul>

- Energy and Nature Unite: Siting and Permitting, Co-Location, Agrivoltaics, and Other Strategies for Conserving Nature while Deploying Renewable Energy
- Insurance Rates are Rising: How to Ensure Accountability Does Too

**12:45 - 2:00 PM**

Lunch

**2:00 - 2:15 PM**

Energy Transition and Electrification with Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission

**2:15 - 3:30 PM**

Plenary Session: States Leading on Energy Affordability & Clean Energy: Lessons Learned from New Jersey & Virginia

**3:30 - 3:45 PM**

Networking Break with snacks

**3:45 - 5:00 PM**

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- ENERGY: Protecting Ratepayers from Excessive Spending and Corporate Profits
- Cheaper, Faster, and Closer to Home: Unlocking Renewables and Efficiency for a Domestic Energy System
- Beyond Energy: State Solutions for Addressing Data Center Impacts on Land, Water, and Wildlife
- The Physical Toll of the Digital World: Data Centers and Justice-Centered Approaches

**7:00 - 10:00 PM**

Evening Reception

## Saturday, July 25

### Session and Time

**8:00 - 9:00 AM**

Breakfast

**9:00 - 9:45 AM**

Day 2 Welcome and Upcoming NCEL Events

**9:45 - 10:30 AM**

Lightning Round

**10:30 - 11:00 AM**

Networking Break

**11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Mapping the Future: Montana Housing and Illinois Transit Frameworks for Affordability and Cutting Emissions

**12:00 - 1:30 PM**

Lunch and Awards

**1:30 - 2:45 PM**

Concurrent Breakouts

- Developing Your State Blue Economy: Bayous, Coasts, and Beyond
- Nature as Preventive Care: Outdoor Engagement and the Future of Public Health
- Seizing the Moment for State Wildlife Agencies
- Cutting through the Noise: Digging Deep on New & Revived Energy Technologies

**2:45 - 3:15 PM**

Break and Snack

**3:15 - 4:15 PM**

Plenary Session: Rising Risks, Retreating Systems: Rethinking Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate

**4:15 - 5:00 PM**

2027 Preview and NCSL Prep