

NCEL 2026 National Forum Agenda

Thursday, July 23 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

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| Thursday, July 23 |
| Session and Time |
| 8:00 - 9:30 AM Breakfast |
| 9:00 - 10:30 AM 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> |
| 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Learning Tracks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Program Track 1: Nature-Based Solutions 101 ● Program Track 2: One Health for People and Nature 101 ● Program Track 3: Utilities and the Grid 101 |
| 2:30- 5:00 PM Outdoor Activity: Routes to Resilience: Connecting Nature, Health, & Opportunity Through Active Transit |
| 6:00 - 9:00 PM Opening Reception |
| Friday, July 24 |
| Session and Time |
| 8:00 - 9:00 AM Registration table opens. Breakfast starts serving at 8:00. |
| 9:00 - 10:00 AM Welcome and 2026 Legislative Highlights |
| 10:00 - 11:00 AM Plenary Session: Biodiversity: Bending the Curve of Nature Loss with State Action |
| 11:00 - 11:30 AM Networking Break |
| 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM Concurrent Breakout Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pesticides, Parkinson's and Public Health: A Comprehensive Policy Approach for Addressing Toxic Chemical Use ● The Microplastic Reality Check: Impacts and Upstream Interventions |

- Deploying Without Destroying: Keeping Nature Connected While Streamlining Renewable Energy Buildout
- Insurance Rates are Rising: How to Ensure Accountability Does Too

12:45 - 2:00 PM

Lunch

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

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

3:15 - 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 - 10:45 AM

Plenary Session: Smart Growth, Strong Communities: Decarbonizing the Commute and the Home

10:45 - 11:15 AM

Networking Break

11:15 AM - 12:00 PM

Lightning Round

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
- Strategies for Strengthening 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