

US ECOLOGY, INC.  
Form DEF 14A  
April 12, 2017

QuickLinks -- Click here to rapidly navigate through this document

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**US ECOLOGY, INC.**

---

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

---

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:

Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
  - o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
    - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
    - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
    - (3) Filing Party:
    - (4) Date Filed:
-

## US ECOLOGY, INC.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TIME	8:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time on May 23, 2017
PLACE	Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport O'Hare International Airport Chicago, Illinois 60666
PURPOSE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) To elect six directors to the Board of Directors to serve a one-year term.</li><li>(2) To ratify the appointment of Deloitte &amp; Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the Company's fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.</li><li>(3) To hold a non-binding advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation.</li><li>(4) To hold a non-binding advisory vote on the frequency of the advisory vote on executive compensation.</li><li>(5) To transact other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.</li></ol>
RECORD DATE	You are entitled to vote if you were a stockholder at the close of business on March 29, 2017. A list of stockholders will be available for inspection at the Company's principal office in Boise, Idaho for a period of ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting of Stockholders and will also be available for inspection at the meeting.
VOTING BY PROXY	In accordance with rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have elected to use the Internet as our primary means of furnishing proxy materials to our stockholders. Accordingly, most stockholders will not receive paper copies of our proxy materials and we will mail a notice to these stockholders with instructions for accessing the proxy materials, including our Proxy Statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K, and for voting via the Internet. This notice also provides information on how stockholders may obtain paper copies of our proxy materials free of charge, if they so choose. The electronic delivery of our proxy materials will reduce our printing and mailing costs and the environmental impact of the proxy materials. Your vote is important. Whether or not you are able to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person, it is important that your shares be represented. We have provided instructions on each of the alternative voting methods in the accompanying Proxy Statement. <u>Please vote as soon as possible.</u>

**Jeffrey R. Feeler**  
*Chairman of the Board of Directors*

Boise, Idaho  
April 12, 2017

---

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

All Stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in person. Even if you have given your proxy, you may still vote in person if you attend the Annual Meeting of Stockholders and elect to revoke your proxy.

PLEASE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF YOUR SHARES ARE HELD OF RECORD BY A BROKER, BANK OR OTHER NOMINEE AND YOU WISH TO VOTE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS, YOU WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VOTE IN PERSON AT THE MEETING UNLESS YOU FIRST OBTAIN A PROXY ISSUED IN YOUR NAME FROM THE RECORD HOLDER.

---

**US ECOLOGY, INC.**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**  
**TO BE HELD ON MAY 23, 2017**

**PROXY STATEMENT**

---

The Board of Directors ("*Board*" or "*Board of Directors*") of US Ecology, Inc. ("*Company*") is soliciting proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company to be held on May 23, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. Central Daylight Time, at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois 60666, including any adjournments or postponements thereof (the "*Meeting*" or the "*Annual Meeting*"). We intend to mail a Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials ("*Notice*") and to make this Proxy Statement available to our stockholders of record entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting on or about April 12, 2017.

**PROXY SOLICITATION AND VOTING INFORMATION**

In accordance with the rules and regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission ("*SEC*"), instead of mailing a printed copy of our proxy materials to each stockholder of record, we will furnish proxy materials, including this Proxy Statement, the proxy card and the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016 ("*Annual Report*"), to our stockholders by providing access to such documents on the Internet. Stockholders will not receive printed copies of the proxy materials unless requested. Instead, the Notice will inform stockholders how they may access and review all of the proxy materials. The Notice will also inform stockholders how to submit a proxy through the Internet. If you wish to receive a paper copy or e-mail copy of your proxy materials, please follow the instructions in the Notice for requesting such materials. We will pay the entire cost of preparing, assembling, printing, mailing and distributing these proxy materials and soliciting votes. If you choose to access the proxy materials and/or vote over the Internet, however, you are responsible for any Internet access charges you may incur.

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. A ballot will be provided to you upon your arrival. If you do not wish to vote in person or you will not be attending the Annual Meeting, you may vote by proxy over the Internet, by telephone or by mail. The procedures for voting by proxy are as follows:

To vote by proxy on the **Internet**, go to [www.proxyvote.com](http://www.proxyvote.com) to complete an electronic proxy card.

To vote by proxy by telephone, dial the toll free number listed on your proxy card using a **touch-tone telephone** and follow the recorded instructions.

To vote by proxy using a **mailing card** (if you received a printed copy of these proxy materials by mail), complete, sign and date the enclosed proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided.

All shares represented by duly executed proxies on the accompanying form received prior to the Meeting will be voted in the manner specified therein. Any stockholder granting a proxy may revoke it at any time before it is voted by filing with the Secretary of the Company either an instrument revoking the proxy or a duly executed proxy bearing a later date. Any stockholder present at the Meeting who expresses a desire to vote shares in person may also revoke his or her proxy. For any matter for which no choice has been specified in a duly executed proxy, the shares represented will be voted **FOR** each of the nominees for director listed herein, **FOR** the ratification of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, **FOR** the compensation as disclosed in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section and the accompanying compensation tables contained in this Proxy Statement,

**FOR** a frequency vote on say-on-pay of once **EVERY** year and, with respect to any other business that may properly come before the Meeting, at the discretion of the persons named in the proxy.

The Company is providing Internet proxy voting to allow you to vote your shares on-line using procedures designed to ensure the authenticity and correctness of your voting instructions. If you vote by proxy on the Internet or by telephone, your vote must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 22, 2017, to be counted.

The Annual Report is being furnished with this Proxy Statement to stockholders of record as of March 29, 2017. The Annual Report does not constitute a part of the proxy solicitation materials except as otherwise provided by the rules of the SEC, or as expressly provided for herein.

## OUTSTANDING SHARES AND VOTING RIGHTS

The Board of Directors of the Company fixed March 29, 2017 as the record date ("*Record Date*") for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting. On the Record Date there were 21,794,471 shares of common stock issued, outstanding and entitled to vote. The Company has no other voting securities outstanding. Each stockholder of record is entitled to one vote per share held on all matters submitted to a vote of stockholders, except that in electing directors each stockholder is entitled to cumulate his or her votes and give any one candidate an aggregate number of votes equal to the number of directors to be elected (6), multiplied by the number of his or her shares, or to distribute such aggregate number of votes among as many candidates as he or she chooses. For a stockholder to exercise cumulative voting rights, the stockholder must give notice of his or her intention to cumulatively vote prior to the Meeting or at the Meeting in person, prior to voting. If any stockholder has given such notice, all stockholders may cumulatively vote. The holders of proxies will have authority to cumulatively vote and allocate such votes in their discretion to one or more of the director nominees. The holders of the proxies solicited do not intend to cumulatively vote the shares they represent unless a stockholder indicates his or her intent to do so, in which instance they intend to cumulatively vote all the shares they hold by proxy as indicated by the stockholder.

The holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock on the Record Date entitled to vote at the Meeting in person or by proxy will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the Meeting. In accordance with the Company's Amended and Restated Bylaws, an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast is required for approval of all matters. Abstentions and broker non-votes are not included in the determination of the number of votes cast at the Meeting, but are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

In accordance with the Delaware General Corporation Law, the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Amended and Restated Bylaws, the Company's business, property and affairs are managed under the direction of the Board of Directors. Although the Company's non-employee directors are not involved in day-to-day operations, they are kept informed of the Company's business through written financial and operations reports and other documents provided to them from time to time by management, as well as by operating, financial and other reports presented by management in preparation for, and at meetings of, the Board of Directors and the three standing committees of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for the Company's corporate governance and it is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to ensure that the Company complies with federal securities laws and regulations, including those promulgated under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

The Board of Directors has adopted a Code of Ethics for Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Other Executive Officers as well as a Code of Ethics for Directors (collectively the "*Codes*")

of Ethics"), which are posted on the Company's website at [www.usecology.com](http://www.usecology.com). Please note that none of the information on the Company's website is incorporated by reference in this Proxy Statement. There have been no waivers to the Codes of Ethics since their adoption. Any future waivers or changes to the Codes of Ethics would be disclosed on the Company's website in accordance with SEC rules.

**Independence.** The Company is required by NASDAQ listing standards to have a majority of independent directors. The Board of Directors has determined that the following directors are independent as defined by the applicable NASDAQ standards: Joe F. Colvin, Katina Dorton, Daniel Fox, Stephen A. Romano and John T. Sahlberg. The Board of Directors has determined that each of these directors is free of any relationship that would interfere with his or her exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director.

Mr. Feeler is the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer and therefore not considered independent under the applicable NASDAQ standards.

**Meetings of the Board of Directors.** During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Board of Directors held four regularly scheduled meetings. Three special meetings of the Board were also held. Each of the directors attended at least 75% of the total meetings of the Board of Directors and the total number of meetings held by the committees on which he or she served. Director attendance at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders is encouraged but not required. All directors who stood for election at the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders on June 2, 2016 attended that meeting. It is the policy of the Board to hold regular executive sessions where non-employee directors meet without management participation. The Board of Directors met in executive session without management present at all regularly scheduled Board of Directors meetings in fiscal year 2016.

**Risk Oversight.** The Board of Directors oversees an enterprise-wide approach to risk management, designed to support the achievement of organizational objectives, including strategic objectives, to improve long-term organizational performance and enhance stockholder value while managing risk. A fundamental part of risk management is not only understanding the risks the Company faces and what steps management is taking to understand and manage those risks, but also evaluating what level of risk is appropriate for the Company. The involvement of the full Board of Directors in setting the Company's business strategy is a key part of its assessment of management's risk tolerance and determination of what constitutes an appropriate level of risk for the Company. The full Board of Directors participates in an annual enterprise risk management assessment, which is monitored and coordinated by the Audit Committee. In this process, risk is assessed throughout the business, focusing on five primary areas of risk: financial, legal, operational, strategic and information technology.

While the Board of Directors has the ultimate oversight responsibility for the risk management process, committees of the Board also have responsibility for certain aspects of risk management. In particular, the Audit Committee focuses on financial risk, including internal controls. In setting compensation, the Compensation Committee strives to create incentives and equity ownership programs that will align the interests of management with the interests of stockholders and encourage an appropriate level of risk-taking behavior consistent with the Company's business strategy. The Company conducts an annual assessment of the risk management process, which is monitored and coordinated by the Audit Committee; the findings of which are reported to the Board.

**Committees of the Board of Directors.** The three standing committees of the Board of Directors are the Audit, Corporate Governance and Compensation Committees.

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

*Audit Committee* The current members of the Audit Committee are Messrs. Fox and Sahlberg, and Ms. Dorton. Mr. Fox is the chairman. The Audit Committee, which met six times in 2016, has duties that include the following:

Reviewing the proposed plan and scope of the Company's annual audit, as well as the audit results, and reviewing and approving the selection of and services provided by the Company's independent registered public accountant and its fees;

Meeting with management to assure the adequacy of accounting principles, financial controls and policies;

Reviewing transactions, if any, that may present a conflict of interest on the part of management or individual directors;

Meeting at least quarterly to review financial results, discuss financial statements and SEC reporting and make recommendations to the Board;

Overseeing enterprise-wide approach to risk management;

Monitoring dividend policy and confirming that cash flows are legally sufficient to support dividend payments prior to declaration; and

Reviewing the independent registered public accountant's recommendations for internal controls, adequacy of staff and management performance concerning audit and financial controls.

The Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Fox and Sahlberg, and Ms. Dorton meet the independence requirements for Audit Committee service set forth in the applicable rules under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "*Exchange Act*"), and that each of Mr. Fox and Ms. Dorton qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" as defined in Item 407 of Regulation S-K. The written charter for the Audit Committee is available on the Company's website at [www.usecology.com](http://www.usecology.com).

*Corporate Governance Committee* The current members of the Corporate Governance Committee are Messrs. Colvin and Fox, and Ms. Dorton. Ms. Dorton is the chairperson. The Corporate Governance Committee, which met three times in 2016, fulfills the requirement of a nominating committee composed solely of independent directors as required by the applicable NASDAQ listing standards. The Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for identifying and recommending qualified and experienced individuals to fill vacancies and potential new director seats if the Board is expanded. On March 2, 2017, the Corporate Governance Committee recommended and the Board of Directors discussed and approved the six director nominees standing for election at the Annual Meeting, five of whom the Board of Directors has determined are independent as defined by the applicable NASDAQ standards.

The Corporate Governance Committee does not have a stated policy with regard to the consideration of diversity in identifying director nominees, but rather evaluates candidates based upon various factors, including, but not limited to:

Integrity;

Education and business experience;

Broad-based business acumen;

Understanding of the Company's business, industry and related regulatory environment; and

Expertise.





The Company believes that consideration of these and other factors leads to a Board consisting of individuals with viewpoints, professional experience, education, skills and other qualities that contribute to Board heterogeneity. The Corporate Governance Committee and Board evaluated the qualifications of the Board as a whole, considering a number of key skills. The Corporate Governance Committee concluded that the individuals nominated to stand for election at the Annual Meeting collectively offer a mix of skills, expertise and experience that is well suited to the Company's needs. The written charter for the Corporate Governance Committee is available on the Company's website at [www.usecology.com](http://www.usecology.com).

*Compensation Committee* The current members of the Compensation Committee are Messrs. Colvin, Fox and Sahlberg. Mr. Colvin is the chairman. The Board of Directors has determined that each of Messrs. Colvin, Fox and Sahlberg meets the independence requirements for Compensation Committee service set forth by the applicable rules under the Exchange Act and NASDAQ listing standards. The Compensation Committee, which met three times in 2016, oversees the Company's overall compensation policies, reviews and approves performance targets for the Company's incentive compensation programs, designs and administers the Company's equity compensation plans, and reviews and approves the compensation of each of the Named Executive Officers, including the amount of base salary, incentive compensation and equity compensation payable. The Compensation Committee also makes recommendations to the Board regarding compensation of the directors and performs other Board-delegated functions. The written charter for the Compensation Committee is available on the Company's website at [www.usecology.com](http://www.usecology.com).

**Board Leadership Structure.** Each year the Board selects a Chairman of the Board and a Chief Executive Officer. The Chairman of the Board is responsible for helping establish the Company's strategic priorities, presiding over Board meetings and communicating the Board's guidance to management. The Chief Executive Officer, on the other hand, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Company's operations and business and reports directly to the Board.

During the 2016-2017 Board year, the roles of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer were both held by Mr. Feeler. Mr. Feeler has been with the Company for over a decade, which has given him a unique understanding of the environmental services industry, market trends and the Company's strategic position, strengths and weaknesses, as well as day-to-day operational details. The Board believes that these attributes make Mr. Feeler uniquely qualified to serve in both positions and helps the Board and management operate in an efficient and effective manner.

The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines specify that when the Chairman of the Board also serves as an employee of the Company, the Chairman of the Corporate Governance Committee shall serve as "Lead Independent Director" and, among other things, serve as a liaison between the non-independent chairman and the independent directors; review and approve the schedule, agenda and materials for all meetings of the Board; chair executive sessions of the independent Board members at scheduled Board meetings without the non-independent chairman present; provide consultation and direct communication to major stockholders, if requested; and call special meetings of the independent directors if needed. From the date of Mr. Feeler's appointment as Chairman of the Board on May 27, 2015, Ms. Dorton has served as Lead Independent Director.

Although the Board believes the current leadership structure is in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders, the Board will, from time to time, reevaluate whether to separate the responsibilities of Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board.

#### **SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS**

In accordance with SEC rules and regulations, the Company must receive stockholder proposals submitted for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials and for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders ("*2018 Annual Meeting*") no later than December 13, 2017. Any such

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

proposals are requested to be submitted to Wayne R. Ipsen, Secretary, US Ecology, Inc., 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702 and should comply with the SEC rules governing stockholder proposals submitted for inclusion in proxy materials.

Stockholders may also submit recommendations for nominees for director to Wayne R. Ipsen, Secretary, US Ecology, Inc., 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702. Recommendations are requested no later than December 13, 2017 for consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee for the 2018 Annual Meeting. In considering any nominee proposed by a stockholder, the Corporate Governance Committee will apply the same criteria it uses in evaluating all director candidates. Nominees should reflect suitable expertise, skills, attributes and personal and professional backgrounds for service as a director of the Company.

Other stockholder communications to the Board of Directors may be sent at any time to US Ecology, Inc., c/o Wayne R. Ipsen, Secretary, 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702. Management intends to summarize and present all such communications to the Board of Directors.

The SEC has promulgated rules relating to the exercise of discretionary voting authority under proxies solicited by the Board of Directors. If a stockholder intends to present a proposal at the 2018 Annual Meeting without inclusion of that proposal in the Company's proxy materials and written notice of the proposal is not received by the Secretary of the Company by February 26, 2018 (the date that is forty-five (45) days before the one year anniversary on which the Company first sent its proxy materials for this Annual Meeting), or if the Company meets other requirements of the applicable SEC rules, the proxies solicited by the Board of Directors for use at the 2018 Annual Meeting will confer discretionary authority to vote on the proposal should it then be raised at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

#### PROPOSAL NO. 1

At the Meeting, the six director nominees receiving the greatest number of votes cast will be elected, provided, that each nominee receives a majority of the votes cast. Directors so elected will hold office until the 2018 Annual Meeting or until their death, resignation or removal, in which case the Board of Directors may or may not appoint a successor. It is the intent of the persons named in the proxy, Jeffrey R. Feeler and Wayne R. Ipsen, to vote proxies that are not marked to the contrary for the director nominees named below. If any nominee is unable to serve, the named proxies may, in their discretion, vote for any or all other persons who may be nominated.

The Corporate Governance Committee recommended six directors to stand for election to the Board of Directors. All nominees have agreed to serve if elected. During 2016, the Company did not receive any nominee recommendations from stockholders for consideration by the Corporate Governance Committee for this Annual Meeting.

#### Nominees for Directors

Name	Age	Position with Company	Residence	Director Since
Joe F. Colvin	74	Independent Director	Santa Fe, NM	2008
Katina Dorton	59	Independent Director	Raleigh, NC	2014
Jeffrey R. Feeler	47	Chairman, President and CEO	Boise, ID	2013
Daniel Fox	66	Independent Director	Phoenix, AZ	2010
Stephen A. Romano	62	Independent Director	Niwot, CO	2002
John T. Sahlberg	63	Independent Director	Boise, ID	2015

**Joe F. Colvin** joined the Board of Directors in 2008. He is a former senior executive with more than forty (40) years of experience in the nuclear energy field. Mr. Colvin serves on the Board of

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

Directors of The Club at Las Campanas, a private golf, tennis and equestrian country club in Santa Fe, New Mexico (2012) and on the Board of Directors of the School for Advanced Research, a non-profit organization whose mission is to conduct innovative research and public education focused on the study of human societies (2016). He previously served as a director of Cameco Corporation (1999-2015) and the American Nuclear Society (2007-2012), an organization in which he served as President from 2011-2012. He is also President Emeritus of the Nuclear Energy Institute, Inc. ("NEI"), serving since 2005 and previously served in various executive positions with the NEI, including President and Chief Executive Officer (1996-2005) and Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (1994-1996). Mr. Colvin previously held senior management positions with the Nuclear Management and Resources Committee and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations. Mr. Colvin served twenty (20) years as a line officer with the U.S. Navy nuclear submarine program.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Mr. Colvin is qualified to serve as a director because of his extensive senior management experience, deep knowledge of the nuclear industry and participation on the boards of large public and private organizations.*

**Katina Dorton** joined the Board of Directors in 2014. She is currently Chief Financial Officer of Immatics GmbH, a biotechnology company, a position she has held since 2015. From 2011-2015, Ms. Dorton was the principle owner of Doric LLC, an advisory firm, where she provided consulting services to public and private companies in the areas of M&A and strategic finance. She previously served as Managing Director at Needham & Co., Managing Director-Investment Banking at Morgan Stanley, and as an attorney in private practice at Sullivan & Cromwell. Ms. Dorton has more than twenty (20) years of investment banking experience advising corporate clients and their boards on capital markets, fund raising, mergers and acquisitions and other strategic transactions. Ms. Dorton holds a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, an M.B.A. from George Washington University, and a B.A. from Duke University.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Ms. Dorton is qualified to serve as a director because of her extensive knowledge of strategic finance, over twenty (20) years of investment banking experience, senior management experience and experience as a practicing attorney.*

**Jeffrey R. Feeler** joined the Board of Directors in 2013, was appointed Chairman of the Board in 2015 and is the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer. He joined the Company in 2006 as Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer, Treasurer and Controller. He was promoted in 2007 to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; positions he held until his promotion to senior executive in October 2012. Prior to 2006, Mr. Feeler held financial and accounting management positions with MWI Veterinary Supply, Inc. (a distribution company), from 2003 to 2005 with Albertson's, Inc. (a grocery retailer) and from 2002 to 2003 with Hewlett-Packard Company. From 1993 to 2002, he held various accounting and auditing positions, including the position of Sr. Manager, for PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Mr. Feeler is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a BBA of Accounting and a BBA of Finance from Boise State University.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Mr. Feeler is qualified to serve as a director because of his intimate knowledge of the Company's business operations and the industry in which it competes. Mr. Feeler also has an extensive knowledge of and experience in capital markets, mergers, acquisitions and strategic planning gained through his professional experiences.*

**Daniel Fox** joined the Board of Directors in 2010. He is a Certified Public Accountant and Faculty Associate in the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University where he develops and teaches undergraduate accounting courses (2016). Mr. Fox was a full-time lecturer in the College of Business and Economics at Boise State University from 2007 through May 2016 where he developed and taught graduate and upper division undergraduate accounting and finance courses. Mr. Fox held various management and leadership positions over a twenty-eight (28) year career at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, retiring as a senior partner and the firm's Global Capital Markets Leader

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

in Switzerland. During his public accounting career, Mr. Fox provided a wide range of services to a diverse mix of clients ranging in size from small privately held start-up companies to mature global public companies. He has been a frequent speaker on broad-ranging topics such as impacts of new or proposed auditing, accounting, reporting, regulatory and international financial reporting matters. Mr. Fox also served on a committee of the Idaho State Board of Accountancy.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Mr. Fox is qualified to serve as a director because of his wide-ranging experience working with audit committees, boards and senior management as well as his knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP") and SEC accounting and reporting gained through his career in public accounting and activities as a lecturer and speaker on auditing, accounting, finance, reporting and regulatory matters.*

**Stephen A. Romano** joined the Board of Directors in 2002. He was appointed President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company in October 2001, Chief Executive Officer in March 2002 and Chairman of the Board of Directors in February 2008, a position he held until May 2015. He was an employee of the Company for more than twenty (20) years prior to his retirement in December 2009. Mr. Romano is a consultant to the International Atomic Energy Agency on nuclear waste matters. Mr. Romano previously worked for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and as an independent consultant on hazardous and radioactive waste management.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Mr. Romano is qualified to serve as a director because of his knowledge and understanding of the Company's operations and his industry, regulatory and government relations experience. Mr. Romano has demonstrated his leadership abilities while serving in various positions with the Company including Chief Executive Officer.*

**John T. Sahlberg** joined the Board of Directors in 2015. He is currently Senior Vice President of Human Resources, General Counsel and Secretary for Boise Cascade Company, promoted from Vice President in 2012, a position in which he had served since 2008. Boise Cascade Company is one of the largest producers of plywood and engineered wood products in North America and a leading U.S. wholesale distributor of wood products. At Boise Cascade Company, Mr. Sahlberg is responsible for human resources, labor relations, environmental compliance, legal, government relations, communications and board administration. He was an integral part of the team that returned Boise Cascade Company to public ownership through its public offering in 2013. During his thirty-five (35) years with Boise Cascade Company and its predecessors, he has held numerous legal and human resource positions. From 2000 to the present, Mr. Sahlberg has served as a director and chairman (2014) of Vigilant, a non-profit employer association. He also serves as Management Trustee of Bledsoe Health Care Trust (2000) and served as Management Trustee of TOC/Carpenters Pension Trust from 2000-2009. Mr. Sahlberg is a member of the Idaho State Bar and holds a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University and a J.D. from Georgetown University.

*The Board of Directors concluded that Mr. Sahlberg is qualified to serve as a director because of his human resource and board governance knowledge and his experience in integrating acquisitions and in environmental matters gained through his professional experiences.*

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR each of the listed nominees.**

**RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT  
REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

**PROPOSAL NO. 2**

The Audit Committee has selected Deloitte & Touche LLP ("*Deloitte*") as the Company's independent registered public accountant for the 2017 fiscal year. A Deloitte representative plans to be present telephonically or in person at the Annual Meeting, will be available to answer appropriate questions and will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so.

While stockholder ratification of Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accountant is not required by the Company's Restated Certificate of Incorporation, Amended and Restated Bylaws or otherwise, the Board is submitting its selection of Deloitte for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection, the Board, in conjunction with its Audit Committee, will further evaluate whether to retain Deloitte. If the selection is ratified, the Board and the Audit Committee, in their discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent accounting firm at any time if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the votes cast is required to ratify the appointment of Deloitte. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted towards a quorum, but are not counted for any purpose in determining whether this proposal has been ratified.

**Audit, Audit-Related, Tax and Other Fees**

The aggregate fees billed or expected to be billed for the audit of the Company's financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 by the Company's principal accounting firm, Deloitte, were as follows:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Audit Fees	\$ 1,150,555	\$ 1,141,945
Audit-Related Fees <sup>(1)</sup>		300,000
Tax Fees	127,335	96,759
All Other Fees	2,600	2,600
<b>Total Fees</b>	<b>\$ 1,280,490</b>	<b>\$ 1,541,304</b>

---

(1) Amount due to services provided in connection with the Company's business development activities.

Deloitte prepared an annual engagement letter that was submitted to the Audit Committee for approval for the 2016 audit. The Audit Committee approved all of the non-audit services provided by Deloitte in fiscal year 2016 in advance of the services being performed. The engagement letter created a contract between the Company and Deloitte that specified the responsibilities of each party. It was signed on behalf of the Company by the Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Chief Financial Officer. The Company paid Deloitte a fixed amount for the annual audit and each quarterly review and for other services agreed to in the engagement letter and subsequent amendments. The Audit Committee believes that Deloitte's provision of non-audit services has been compatible with maintaining the firm's independence.

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR ratification of the appointment of Deloitte & Touche LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.**

#### ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

##### PROPOSAL NO. 3

As required by Section 14 of the Exchange Act, the Company is providing its stockholders with the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on the compensation of its named executive officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section and accompanying tables of this Proxy Statement. These individuals are referred to collectively in this Proxy Statement as the Company's "Named Executive Officers." The Board of Directors believes it is appropriate to seek the views of its stockholders on the design and effectiveness of the Company's executive compensation program.

The Company's goal for its executive compensation program is to attract and retain exceptional, highly motivated individuals as executive officers who will provide leadership for the Company's success in dynamic, highly competitive markets. The Company seeks to accomplish this goal in a way that is aligned with the long-term interests of the Company's stockholders. The Company believes that its executive compensation program achieves this goal with its emphasis on long-term equity awards and performance-based compensation.

As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding upon the Company. However, the Board of Directors values the opinions expressed by stockholders in their vote on this proposal and, to the extent that a significant percentage of votes are cast against the compensation of the Named Executive Officers, the Compensation Committee will evaluate potential changes for consideration by the full Board to address the concerns reflected in such votes. The Company expects to hold its next advisory vote on executive compensation at its 2018 Annual Meeting in accordance with the preference expressed by the majority of the Company's stockholders at the Annual Meeting with regard to Proposal No. 4.

Accordingly, the Company asks the stockholders to vote on the following resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's Named Executive Officers, as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion sections of this Proxy Statement, is hereby APPROVED."

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote FOR the resolution approving the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers.**

**SAY-ON-PAY FREQUENCY VOTE**

**PROPOSAL NO. 4**

As described in Proposal No. 3 above, the Company's stockholders are being provided the opportunity to cast a non-binding advisory vote on the Company's executive compensation program. The advisory vote on executive compensation described in Proposal No. 3 above is referred to as a "say-on-pay vote."

This Proposal No. 4 affords stockholders the opportunity to cast an advisory vote on how often the Company should include a say-on-pay vote in its proxy materials for future annual stockholder meetings (or special stockholder meeting for which the Company must include executive compensation information in the proxy statement for that meeting). Under this Proposal No. 4, stockholders may vote to have the say-on-pay vote every year, every two years or every three years.

The Board of Directors believes that an advisory vote on executive compensation is an effective way for stockholders to communicate with the Company about its compensation objectives, policies and practices, and values the input of the Company's stockholders on the frequency with which such a vote should be held. The Company believes that say-on-pay votes should be conducted **every year** so that stockholders may annually express their views on the Company's executive compensation program. Although the results of this vote will be considered by the Board, the results are not binding on the Company. The Board of Directors may decide, after considering such results, that it is in the best interests of the Company's stockholders to hold the advisory vote on executive compensation on a different schedule than the option approved by the Company's stockholders. Stockholders may cast a vote on the preferred voting frequency by selecting the option of one year, two years or three years (or abstain) when voting in response to the resolution set forth below:

"RESOLVED, that the Company hold a non-binding stockholder advisory vote to approve the compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers as disclosed pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis, compensation tables and narrative discussion, with a frequency of once every year, once every two years or once every three years, whichever receives the highest number of votes cast with respect to this resolution to be considered the recommendation of the stockholders."

**The Board of Directors unanimously recommends a vote to hold say-on-pay votes "ONCE EVERY YEAR" (as opposed to every two years or every three years).**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*The information contained in this report shall not be deemed to be "soliciting material" or "filed" or incorporated by reference in future filings with the SEC or subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates it by reference into a document filed under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act.*

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the Company's audited financial statements with management. The Audit Committee has also discussed with Deloitte, the Company's independent registered public accountant for fiscal year 2016, the matters required to be discussed by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (the "PCAOB") and the SEC. These include, among other items, the audit of the Company's financial statements. The Audit Committee has reviewed with the independent registered public accountant its judgment as to the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles, as well as its opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.

The Audit Committee has received written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte required by the PCAOB Ethics and Independence Rule 3526 relating to the registered public accountant's



## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

independence from the Company and its related entities and has discussed with Deloitte the registered public accountant's independence from the Company. The Audit Committee has considered whether the provision of services by the registered public accountant, other than audit services and review of Forms 10-Q, is compatible with maintaining the registered public accountant's independence.

In fulfilling its oversight responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed with management the Company's earnings releases and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, June 30, and September 30, 2016, and the fiscal year earnings release and audited financial statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. This included discussion of the quality, not just the acceptability, of the Company's accounting principles, the reasonableness of significant judgments and the clarity of disclosures in the financial statements.

Based on the review of the Company's audited financial statements and discussion with management and the independent registered public accountant described above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Company's audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

In addition, the Audit Committee, in consultation with executive management, has selected Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. The Board has recommended to the stockholders that they ratify and approve the selection of Deloitte as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017.

While the Audit Committee has provided oversight, advice and direction regarding the Company's financial reporting process, management is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Company's internal controls, the preparation, presentation and integrity of financial statements and for the appropriateness of the accounting principles and reporting policies used by the Company. It is the responsibility of the independent registered public accountant, not the Audit Committee, to conduct the audit and opine on the conformity of the financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, to opine on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and to review the Company's unaudited interim financial statements. The Audit Committee's responsibility is to monitor and review these processes. It is not the Audit Committee's duty or responsibility to conduct auditing or accounting reviews or procedures.

This report is respectfully submitted by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors:

***AUDIT COMMITTEE***

Katina Dorton  
Daniel Fox, Committee Chairman  
John T. Sahlberg

### **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes the Company's compensation program for the Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2016. The Company's executive compensation program is performance-based and otherwise designed to ensure that the interests of its executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, are closely aligned with those of stockholders. The Board believes this program is effective in allowing the Company to attract and motivate highly qualified senior talent capable of delivering outstanding business performance. The following discussion presents the Company's executive compensation program and policies. The Compensation Committee has provided oversight on the design and administration of the Company's executive compensation program and policies, participated in the preparation of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and recommended to the Board that it be included in this Proxy Statement. The Company's stockholders overwhelmingly approved the Company's executive compensation program at the last annual meeting.

Of the shares voted, 97.39% voted for approval, 2.41% voted against and .19% abstained. Although this vote is non-binding, the Compensation Committee viewed this strong endorsement of the Company's executive compensation decisions and policies as an additional factor supporting the Compensation Committee's conclusion that the Company's existing approach to executive compensation has been successful for the Company and its stockholders.

The Company's Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2016 were Jeffrey R. Feeler (President and Chief Executive Officer), Eric L. Gerratt (Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer), Steven D. Welling (Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing), Simon G. Bell (Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer) and Mario Romero (former Executive Vice President of Operations, Field and Industrial Services), who resigned from his position with the Company effective August 5, 2016.

#### **Oversight of the Executive Compensation Program**

The Compensation Committee, which is composed entirely of independent directors, administers the Company's executive compensation program. Committee membership is determined by the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee has direct responsibility to review and recommend corporate goals and objectives relevant to the compensation of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, evaluate his performance in light of such goals and objectives, and make recommendations regarding his compensation based on this evaluation. The Compensation Committee also reviews the evaluation process and compensation structure for the Company's other Named Executive Officers and makes recommendations regarding their compensation and that of the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee also administers the Company's programs for incentive cash and equity payments.

#### **Objective of the Executive Compensation Program**

The Company's long-term goal is to increase stockholder value. The objective of the executive compensation program is to attract, motivate, reward and retain highly qualified executive officers with the ability to help the Company achieve this goal. The executive compensation program is designed to provide a foundation of fixed compensation and a significant portion of performance-based compensation to align the interests of the Company's executive officers, including the Named Executive Officers, with those of the Company's stockholders.

#### **Principles**

The Company believes that in order to meet its goal of increasing stockholder value, compensation must be both reasonable and competitive with what the Named Executive Officers would otherwise obtain if employed elsewhere in a similar position with similar responsibilities. The Compensation Committee believes performance-based executive compensation should reflect value created for stockholders consistent with the Company's strategic goals. The following principles are among those applied by the Compensation Committee:

Executive compensation programs should support short and long-term strategic goals and objectives;

Executive compensation programs should reflect the Company's overall value and business growth and reward individuals for outstanding contributions; and

Short and long-term executive compensation programs are critical factors in attracting and retaining well-qualified executive officers.

The Compensation Committee seeks to apply best practices in developing and administering compensation and benefit programs and has taken steps to enhance its ability to effectively carry out its

responsibilities and to ensure that the Company maintains strong links between pay and performance. Examples of actions the Compensation Committee has taken to accomplish this include:

Periodically rotating Compensation Committee members and the Compensation Committee Chairman;

Reviewing publicly available data on compensation for executive officers in peer group companies;

Establishing minimum stock ownership requirements for directors and Named Executive Officers; and

Establishing incentive programs for Named Executive Officers.

### **Role of Executive Officers and Consultants**

While the Compensation Committee determines the Company's overall compensation philosophy and independently recommends the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer to the full Board, it consults with the Chief Executive Officer with respect to both overall compensation policy and specific compensation decisions for the other Named Executive Officers. As part of this process, management gathers compensation data for public and sometimes private companies. The Compensation Committee then evaluates this and other information and discusses it with the Chief Executive Officer before presenting recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Compensation Committee has the authority to retain independent compensation consultants to provide advice relating to market and compensation trends and to assist with data gathering and analysis. As it did in 2014 and 2015, the Compensation Committee engaged Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC ("*Meridian*") in 2016 to assist the Committee in its review of executive and director compensation matters.

Meridian has no other business relationships with the Company and provides no other services to the Company. The Compensation Committee adopted a written policy to review the independence of any compensation consultants it uses for executive compensation matters. The Compensation Committee considered Meridian in light of the six independence factors mandated by SEC rules and related NASDAQ listing standards and concluded that Meridian is independent.

### **Relevance to Performance**

The executive compensation program emphasizes performance measured by goals or equity vehicles that align the interest of executives with those of the Company and its stockholders. For the Named Executive Officers to earn cash-based incentive payments, the Company must meet or exceed specified performance targets based on achievement of operating income, health and safety, and environmental compliance targets, each determined by the Compensation Committee to align with the creation of stockholder value. The Compensation Committee may also approve other equity-based compensation such as restricted stock and/or options to purchase the Company's common stock based on the Company's performance and the performance of executives and other employees considered for such grants. The Compensation Committee evaluates the financial impact of such grants on the Company, including the effect of dilution on earnings per share. The performance-based incentive programs for fiscal year 2016 are addressed in detail under the "Elements of Compensation" section in this Proxy Statement.

### **Competitive Considerations**

The Company reviews relevant compensation market data, from time to time, in order to determine appropriate overall compensation for the Named Executive Officers. It does so to balance the need to compete for talent with the need to maintain a reasonable and responsible cost structure and to better align the Named Executive Officers' interests with stockholders' interests. Peer group-

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

based compensation market data and Named Executive Officer pay history data are provided to the Compensation Committee by Meridian. The Chief Executive Officer makes recommendations to the Compensation Committee with respect to Named Executive Officer compensation other than for himself. The Compensation Committee makes recommendations for Named Executive Officer compensation, including for the Chief Executive Officer, to the Board of Directors, which then discusses and acts upon such recommendations for base salary.

In 2015, the Compensation Committee, with advice from Meridian, approved a peer group for benchmarking 2016 executive compensation consisting of eighteen (18) companies; fourteen (14) of which were in the environmental and facilities services industry and four of which were from other industries (collectively referred to as the "2015 Industry Peer Group"). The 2015 Industry Peer Group companies generally ranged from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 times the size of the Company and the Company was positioned very close to the median of the group in terms of both assets and revenue when selected. The companies in the 2015 Industry Peer Group are as follows:

Casella Waste Sys Inc.	Horsehead Holding Corp.	Progressive Waste Solutions
CECO Environmental Corp.	Matrix Service Co.	Stericycle Inc.
Clean Harbors Inc.	Newalta Corp.	Team Inc.
Covanta Holding Corp.	North American Energy Partners	Tetra Tech Inc.
Ecology and Environment Inc.	Nuverra Environmental Solutions	TRC Cos Inc.
Heritage-Crystal Clean Inc.	Perma-Fix Environmental Services	Waste Connections Inc.

The median of revenue, total assets and market capitalization of these companies when selected in 2015 were respectively, in millions, \$527, \$757 and \$614. At the time the 2015 Industry Peer Group was considered by the Compensation Committee, the Company was positioned at approximately the median of the group in revenue or asset terms, and at approximately the 66<sup>th</sup> percentile in market capitalization terms.

The 2015 Industry Peer Group was reviewed again in 2016 during the Compensation Committee's annual review of executive compensation and, as a result, four companies were removed due to bankruptcy or acquisition activities with the remaining fourteen (14) companies retained as the new peer group ("2016 Industry Peer Group"). The companies removed were Horsehead Holding Corp., Nuverra Environmental Solutions, Waste Connections and Progressive Waste Solutions. The Compensation Committee reviewed the base salary, annual short-term incentive opportunity, annual equity-based/long-term incentive award and total compensation data from the 2016 Industry Peer Group, which was provided by Meridian. The Company does not target a particular peer or market percentile when making compensation decisions. Instead, total compensation for the Named Executive Officers is reviewed to determine whether the Company is generally competitive in the market in which it operates, taking into consideration, among other things, (i) the relative size of the Company; (ii) geographical location; (iii) the performance of the Company and the contributing roles of individual Named Executive Officers; (iv) each Named Executive Officer's experience and responsibilities; (v) the performance of each Named Executive Officer; (vi) internal pay alignment; and (vii) executive compensation at peer group companies, taking into account the relative size of those companies. The Compensation Committee does not assign a particular weight to any of these factors.

## Elements of Compensation

Executive compensation is based primarily on three components: base salary, annual short-term incentive opportunities and long-term equity-based awards. The Compensation Committee regularly reviews each element of the compensation program to ensure consistency with the Company's objectives. The Compensation Committee believes that each compensation element complements the others and that together they serve to achieve the Company's compensation objectives. The Compensation Committee does not require that a particular component comprise a set portion of the total compensation mix. The Compensation Committee believes that a significant portion of the compensation should be performance-based and at-risk, and that the performance-based (incentive) compensation should align an executive's interests with those of stockholders. While the Compensation Committee reviews total direct compensation (the sum of base salary, incentive opportunities and equity awards) for the Named Executive Officers, it does not have a fixed target with respect to such total direct compensation.

*Base Salary* The Company provides competitive base salaries to attract and retain executive talent. The Compensation Committee believes a competitive base salary provides a degree of financial stability for the Named Executive Officers. Salaries may also form the basis for other compensation. For example, annual short-term incentive opportunities are calculated as a percentage of base salary.

Base salaries for the Named Executive Officers as of January 1, 2016, are set forth in the table below:

Name and Principal Position	Initial Base Salary for 2016 (\$)
Jeffrey R. Feeler <i>President &amp; Chief Executive Officer</i>	485,000
Steven D. Welling <i>Executive Vice President of Sales &amp; Marketing</i>	340,000
Simon G. Bell <i>Executive Vice President &amp; Chief Operating Officer</i>	316,500
Eric L. Gerratt <i>Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer &amp; Treasurer</i>	316,500
Mario Romero <i>Executive Vice President of Operations, Field &amp; Industrial Services</i>	316,500

With the exception of Mr. Bell, whose base salary was increased to \$340,000 effective November 13, 2016 to coincide with his appointment to Chief Operating Officer, the base salaries of the Named Executive Officers remained unchanged during 2016. Mr. Romero resigned from his position with the Company effective August 5, 2016.

*Annual Short-Term Incentives* Consistent with its commitment to performance-based compensation, the Company has established plans under which the Named Executive Officers and other employees are eligible to earn annual incentive cash payments based on Company performance compared to established operating income and other targets (the "*Cash Incentive*"). Each Named Executive Officer has an annual target Cash Incentive that is established as a percentage of annual base salary. These percentages are developed by the Compensation Committee according to such employee's duties, level and range of responsibility and other compensation. Upon the availability of audited financial statements, Cash Incentives are determined and paid for the prior fiscal year.

On November 18, 2015, the Compensation Committee recommended and the Board of Directors approved the 2016 Management Incentive Plan ("*2016 MIP*") for all Named Executive Officers and

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

certain other key employees. Under the 2016 MIP, each Named Executive Officer was eligible to receive an incentive payment for fiscal year 2016 based upon the achievement of four independent objectives: (1) financial; (2) individual performance (3) health and safety; and (4) compliance (each a "*Plan Objective*"); as established by the Compensation Committee. The payout available for achievement of 100% of each Plan Objective was a percentage of the Named Executive Officer's annual base salary ("*Target Cash Incentive*"). The Target Cash Incentive for each of the Named Executive Officers for 2016 is set forth in the following table:

Named Executive Officer	Target Cash Incentive
Jeffrey R. Feeler	90%
Steven D. Welling	65%
Simon G. Bell	60%
Eric L. Gerratt	60%
Mario Romero	60%

The amount available for achievement of each Plan Objective was weighted as a percentage of a Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive and could be earned even if the threshold performance was not met for another Plan Objective.

The portion of a Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive based on financial performance was scalable beginning with every percentage point over 79% of the Company's Board-approved consolidated operating income target ("*Base MIP Target*") and was weighted at up to 50% of the Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive ("*Finance Target Incentive*"). If actual consolidated operating income is less than 80% of the Base MIP Target, no bonuses are paid for the financial Plan Objective. For every percentage point achievement over 79% of the Base MIP Target, up to and including 89% (rounded to the nearest percentage), such Named Executive Officer would earn 2.33% of his respective Finance Target Incentive. For every percentage point achievement over 89% of the Base MIP Target, up to and including 100% (rounded to the nearest percentage), such Named Executive Officer would earn 6.98% of his respective Finance Target Incentive. Upon 100% achievement of the Base MIP Target, 100% of the respective Finance Target Incentive (or 50% of the Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive) would be awarded to the Named Executive Officer. The Named Executive Officers were eligible for an additional incentive payment in an amount calculated by multiplying their respective base salaries by an additional 4.5% for every 1% increase over the Base MIP Target and multiplying the resulting product by 50%. The additional incentive was capped at one times the participant's Target Cash Incentive. For purposes of the 2016 MIP, as approved by and in the discretion of the Compensation Committee, "consolidated operating income" excluded certain extraordinary expenses and was further adjusted to add back the 2016 MIP expense and associated payroll taxes.

Bonuses in excess of 100% of a participant's Target Cash Incentive opportunity can only be earned based on the financial Plan Objective. Payouts under the other Plan Objectives are capped at 100% of the portion of the Target Cash Incentive allocated to each of those Objectives.

Up to an additional 30% of a Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive could have been earned based on the Compensation Committee's assessment of individual performance, including through achievement of established annual priorities, effective use of Company resources and other evaluative factors as determined by the Compensation Committee. The metric was independent and mutually exclusive of achievement of any other Plan Objective.

The three metrics for the health and safety objective (as enumerated below) were weighted cumulatively at up to 10% of the Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive and individually at up to 3.33% of each Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive. Each metric was independent and mutually exclusive of the other two metrics so that a percentage of the Target Cash Incentive

Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

related to one of the health and safety metrics could have been earned independent of achievement of the other two health and safety metrics. The health and safety metrics included (i) total recordable incident rates or "TRIR" (number of safety incidents that meet OSHA recordable criteria), (ii) days away restricted time or "DART" (safety incidents that result in the employee being placed on restricted duty or time away from work) and (iii) lost time incidents or "LTI" (number of safety incidents that result in an employee having to spend time away from work or be re-assigned to another job function to recover from a work related injury).

Up to 10% of a Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive was based on compliance. The metric for the compliance objective was subjective based on the Company's overall compliance program effectiveness and considered the avoidance of "notices of violation or enforcement" with monetary penalties, among other compliance goals and objectives. The corresponding incentive was earned based on a determination by the Compensation Committee taking into consideration, among other things, the dollar amount of a monetary penalty paid (or accrued under GAAP) in fiscal year 2016, the nature of the notices of violation or enforcement, the regulatory basis for any such penalty and the respective fact patterns.

A summary of the 2016 MIP targets is provided below:

Objective/Weight	Target
<b>Financial (50%)</b> Consolidated Operating Income	\$86,780,000
<b>Individual Performance (30%)</b>	Achievement of Established Priorities
<b>Health and Safety (10%)</b>	
TRIR (3.34%)	=<1.75
DART (3.33%)	=<0.95
LTI (3.33%)	=<0.38
<b>Compliance (10%)</b>	Subjective Based On Actual Results

The Company's 2016 consolidated operating income, adjusted by adding back the 2016 MIP expense, associated payroll taxes and results of acquired business units and excluding certain extraordinary expenses, was \$71,856,987, or 82.8% of the Base MIP Target. The Company awarded the Named Executive Officers 9.3% of their respective Finance Target Incentive for this achievement.

The Company did not achieve the 2016 MIP targets for TRIR, DART or LTI. Therefore, the Cash Incentive earned for achievement of the health and safety objective was reduced from 10.0% to 0.0% of the Named Executive Officer's Target Cash Incentive.

The Cash Incentive earned by each Named Executive Officer for compliance was 5% out of the 10% allowable, reflecting the Compensation Committee's view of the success of the overall compliance program at various operating divisions.

A summary of the 2016 MIP actual results compared to the applicable targets is provided below:

Objective/Weight	Target	Actual	Comment
<b>Financial (50%)</b>	\$86,780,000	\$ 71,856,987	Achieved 82.8% of the Target Amount
<b>Individual Performance (30%)</b>	Achievement of Individual and Team Objectives	Individual and Team Priorities	Substantially Achieved
<b>Health and Safety (10%)</b>			
TRIR (3.34%)	=<1.75	2.88	Not Achieved
DART (3.33%)	=<0.95	1.57	Not Achieved
LTI (3.33%)	=<0.38	0.59	Not Achieved
<b>Compliance (10%)</b>	Compliance Program Effectiveness	Program Goals Were Determined to Have Been Achieved at 5%	

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

The amount paid to each Named Executive Officer under the 2016 MIP is set forth in the "Summary Compensation Table" of this Proxy Statement.

**Long-Term Incentives** The Company uses equity awards to provide long-term incentive opportunities to the Named Executive Officers and may grant performance stock units ("*PSU*"), options to purchase common stock and shares of restricted stock as part of their total compensation package pursuant to the Company's Omnibus Incentive Plan. These awards align the Named Executive Officers' interests with the interests of the Company's stockholders because the ultimate value of the stock options and stock depends on the Company's future success to which each Named Executive Officer must contribute over a period of years in order to ultimately vest in or be entitled to exercise such grants. The Company's long-term incentive program is based on the following three vehicles:

Restricted stock (approximately 50% of total value)

PSUs linked to relative Total Stockholder Return ("*TSR*") (approximately 30% of total value)

Stock options (approximately 20% of total value)

**Restricted Stock Awards** Restricted stock granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2016 vests in its entirety on the third anniversary of the grant date. The value of restricted stock is tied to the market price of the Company's common stock and further aligns the Named Executive Officers' interests with the interests of the Company's stockholders, while also providing the Company with a significant retention tool.

**PSU Awards** PSU awards are designed to link a portion of a Named Executive Officer's compensation with increases in stockholder value relative to an established index and peer group. The total number of PSUs granted in 2016 that each Named Executive Officer is eligible to earn ranges from 0% to 200% of the target number of PSUs granted (for each Named Executive Officer, the "*Target PSUs*"), based on the Company's TSR relative to the TSR of the S&P 600 (50% of Target PSUs) and the TSR of certain companies in the environmental and facilities services industry ("*Peer Group*") (50% of Target PSUs) over the three-year performance period beginning January 1, 2016. The Peer Group includes those companies in the 2015 Industry Peer Group, plus Waste Management, Inc. and Republic Services, Inc. The performance measures and potential payouts for the PSUs awarded in 2016 are set forth in more detail in the following table:

Three-year Company TSR Relative to S&P 600 (50% of Target PSUs)	Resulting PSUs Earned (% of Target)	Three-year Company TSR Relative to Peer Group (50% of Target PSUs)	Resulting PSUs Earned (% of Target)
Percentile Rank		Percentile Rank	
90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or Higher	200%	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or Higher	200%
50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	100%	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	100%
35 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50%	35 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	50%
Below 35 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	0	Below 35 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	0

**Stock Option Awards** Stock options granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2016 vest in equal annual installments over three years. The Company believes that, because the option holder will not realize value from a stock option unless the value of our stock increases after the grant date, stock options are performance-based awards that directly align the interests of the option holder with those of our stockholders. In addition, the long-term vesting of the awards provides a key retention tool while providing a long-term focus on driving increased stockholder value.



## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

Equity Awards Granted in 2016 The equity awards granted to the Named Executive Officers in 2016 are set forth in the table below:

Named Executive Officer	Performance Stock Units Granted (Target) (#)	Restricted Stock Granted (#)	Stock Options Granted (#)
Jeffrey R. Feeler	6,400	10,700	18,800
Steven D. Welling	2,400	3,900	6,900
Simon G. Bell	2,400	3,900	6,900
Eric L. Gerratt	2,400	3,900	6,900
Mario Romero	2,400	3,900	6,900

*Discretionary Bonuses* The Company may, from time to time, grant discretionary bonuses to Named Executive Officers in order to achieve defined objectives. Discretionary bonuses were not paid to the Named Executive Officers in 2016.

*Other Compensation* The Company provides employee benefits that are intended to meet current and future health and financial security needs for its employees, including the Named Executive Officers, and their families. Such employee benefits include medical, dental and life insurance benefits, short-term disability pay, long-term disability insurance, flexible or health savings accounts for medical expense reimbursements and a 401(k) retirement savings plan that includes a partial Company match, which are provided to the Named Executive Officers on the same terms and conditions that apply to all other full-time regular employees.

### Equity and Security Ownership Guidelines

The Company has a Board approved Share Ownership Policy in which target share ownership levels (set forth below) were established for the Named Executive Officers and non-employee directors (each a "Participant") based on a multiple of annual salary in the case of Named Executive Officers and the annual cash retainer in the case of directors ("*Target Ownership Level*").

Chief Executive Officer 4 times base salary

Other Named Executive Officers 2 times base salary

Outside Directors 3 times annual cash retainer

The following forms of equity interests are included in determining the ownership value held:

Common shares of the Company owned directly by the Participant or owned through the Company retirement or savings plans;

Restricted stock or restricted stock units held pursuant to the Company's equity plans; and

Vested performance stock or PSUs held pursuant to the Company's equity plans.

For purposes of evaluating degree of attainment with the guidelines, the following definitions of "value" are used:

For common shares owned outright, the value is equal to the greater of the cost of acquisition and the market value as of the date of measurement;

For unvested restricted stock or restricted stock units, the value is equal to the greater of the grant date value and the market value as of the date of measurement; and

For vested performance stock or PSUs, the value is equal to the market value at the date of measurement.



Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

Under the Share Ownership Policy, a Participant must retain the net after-tax proceeds from exercised stock options or vested shares received until the Target Ownership Level is met. A Participant who wishes to sell shares and who is under the Target Ownership Level must obtain the written permission of the Compensation Committee. *All the Named Executive Officers and non-employee directors were in compliance with the Share Ownership Policy as of December 31, 2016.*

The following table summarizes equity holding requirements applicable to the current Named Executive Officers, as set forth in the Share Ownership Policy, and the value of eligible equity awards granted in 2016 as approved by the Board.

Named Executive Officer	Minimum Equity Holding Requirement 12/31/16 (\$)	2016 Restricted Stock Award (\$) <sup>(1)</sup>	2016 Stock Option Award (\$) <sup>(2)</sup>	2016 Performance Stock Units Award <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)
Jeffrey R. Feeler	1,940,000	375,000	150,000	225,000
Steven D. Welling	680,000	137,500	55,000	82,500
Simon G. Bell	680,000	137,500	55,000	82,500
Eric L. Gerratt	633,000	137,500	55,000	82,500

(1) Amounts are based on the dollar value of shares, options and performance stock units granted as approved by the Board. The 2016 grants of restricted stock vest in their entirety on the third anniversary of the grant date and stock options vest in equal annual installments over three years. Equity grants in 2016 were, and future grants will be, determined based on a variety of measures including Company performance, individual performance, compensation surveys and other measures.

## Severance Arrangements

In 2016 the Company entered into new employment agreements with each of the Named Executive Officers ("*2016 Employment Agreements*"); replacing the prior employment agreements. In addition to establishing salaries, paid time off and cash incentive opportunities, the 2016 Employment Agreements established the executives' rights to receive severance benefits in the event of certain qualifying terminations of employment or under certain circumstances related to a change of control. Change-of-control payments are subject to a termination by the Company "without cause" or by the executive for "good reason," as those terms are defined in the 2016 Employment Agreements, in either case, within twenty-four (24) months after the applicable change of control. The Compensation Committee believes these severance protections are an effective tool for attracting and retaining key employees and are reasonably similar to those of other comparable companies. For more information on potential severance payments and change-of-control benefits in 2016, refer to the "Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change of Control" section of this Proxy Statement.

## Risk Considerations

The Compensation Committee considers, in establishing and reviewing the executive compensation program, whether the program encourages unnecessary or excessive risk taking and has concluded that it does not. Base salaries are fixed in amount and thus do not encourage risk-taking. While the performance-based Cash Incentive awards focus on achievement of annual goals, the Company's Cash Incentive program is only one element of the Named Executive Officers' total compensation. The Compensation Committee believes that the Cash Incentive program appropriately balances risk and the desire to focus the Named Executive Officers on specific short-term goals important to the Company's success, and that it does not encourage unnecessary or excessive risk taking. Further, the Company grants equity awards that focus the attention of Named Executive Officers on long-term strategic goals through multi-year vesting formulas. Moreover, the Named Executive Officers are required to own and hold a significant amount of stock in the Company. Such long-term equity awards and stock ownership interests further reduce the incentive for the Company's Named Executive Officers to engage in actions designed to achieve only short-term results. The Company has reviewed its compensation policies and practices for all employees, including the Named Executive Officers, and concluded that any risks arising from the policies and programs are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

## Tax and Accounting Considerations

U.S. federal income tax generally limits the tax deductibility of compensation the Company pays to its President and Chief Executive Officer and certain other highly compensated executive officers to \$1.0 million in the year the compensation becomes taxable to such executive officers. There is an exception to the limit on deductibility for performance-based compensation that meets certain requirements. Although deductibility of compensation is preferred, tax deductibility is not a primary objective of the Company's executive compensation program. Rather, the Company seeks to maintain flexibility in its executive compensation program as to the objectives of the program described above and, accordingly, the Company may be limited in its ability to deduct amounts of compensation from time to time. Accounting rules require the Company to expense the cost of equity grants. Because of equity expensing and the impact of dilution on the Company's stockholders, the Compensation Committee carefully considers the type of equity awards that are granted and the number and value of the shares underlying such awards.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this Proxy Statement with the Company's management and, based on such review and discussion, the Compensation Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement and incorporated by reference in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

This report is respectfully submitted by the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors:

***COMPENSATION COMMITTEE***

Joe F. Colvin, Committee Chairman

Daniel Fox

John T. Sahlberg

23

---

## SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth information regarding the compensation of the Named Executive Officers for the years ended December 31, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Option Awards <sup>(3)</sup> (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive		Total (\$)
						Plan Compensation <sup>(4)</sup> (\$)	All Other Compensation <sup>(5)</sup> (\$)	
Jeffrey R. Feeler	2016	486,865		638,843	150,400	160,021	21,759	1,457,888
<i>President &amp; Chief Executive Officer</i>	2015	473,904		408,187	240,149	295,416	17,511	1,435,167
	2014	381,250	30,000			358,606	17,236	787,092
Steven D. Welling	2016	341,308		235,623	55,200	84,334	14,481	730,946
<i>Executive Vice President of Sales &amp; Marketing</i>	2015	356,481		187,028	110,019	134,973	13,089	801,590
	2014	295,821	10,000			280,554	12,634	599,009
Simon G. Bell	2016	320,881		235,623	55,200	73,188	14,373	699,265
<i>Executive Vice President &amp; Chief Operating Officer</i>	2015	315,831		170,062	100,555	123,090	13,125	722,663
	2014	252,688	10,000			183,030	12,970	458,688
Eric L. Gerratt	2016	317,727		235,623	55,200	71,516	14,367	694,433
<i>Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer &amp; Treasurer</i>	2015	315,831		170,062	100,555	123,090	13,095	722,633
	2014	245,327	10,000			175,695	12,916	443,938
Mario Romero <sup>(1)</sup>	2016	221,453		235,623	55,200		12,578	524,854
<i>Executive Vice President of Operations, Field &amp; Industrial Services</i>	2015	301,408		170,062	100,555	123,090	10,815	705,930
	2014	142,211	60,000	47,630	45,240		3,703	298,784

(1) Mario Romero resigned from his position with the Company effective August 5, 2016.

(2) The amounts listed represent the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock and PSUs determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The values of restricted stock are determined by multiplying the closing stock price on the date of grant by the number of stock awards. The 2016 grants of restricted stock vest in their entirety on the third anniversary of the grant date. The PSU grant date fair values were determined based on a Monte Carlo simulation (which probability weights multiple potential outcomes). The amounts may not be indicative of the realized value of the awards if and when they vest. See the "Grants of Plan Based Awards" table of this Proxy Statement for details on the stock awards granted to the Named Executive Officers during 2016. Assuming that the highest level of performance conditions will be achieved with respect to the PSUs (and thus the maximum number of shares will be issued under the PSUs), using the closing stock price of the Company's common stock on the grant date for such shares, the 2016 stock awards would be as follows: \$902,651 for Mr. Feeler and \$334,551 for each of Messrs. Welling, Bell and Gerratt. The performance measures and potential payouts for the PSUs are described in more detail in the "Elements of Compensation Long-Term Incentives" section of this Proxy Statement. Additional information regarding the awards are disclosed in Note 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016.

(3) The amounts listed represent the aggregate grant date fair value of stock options granted during the applicable year, as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The assumptions made in determining the grant date fair values of the options are disclosed in Note 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. The 2016 grants of stock options vest in equal annual installments over three years.

(4) Represents the amount awarded for performance under the 2014 MIP, 2015 MIP and 2016 MIP and, in the case of Mr. Welling, his executive sales incentive plan in 2014.

(5) Includes contributions the Company made on behalf of each Named Executive Officer under the Company sponsored 401(k) plan, dividends paid on unvested restricted stock (\$12,024 in the case of Mr. Feeler) and the dollar value of insurance premiums paid by the Company with respect to life and disability insurance. Certain perquisites provided to certain of our Named Executive Officers are not required to be disclosed in the "Summary Compensation Table" because the amount of such benefits do not exceed the applicable disclosure thresholds.

## GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS

The following table sets forth information for each Named Executive Officer regarding the equity and non-equity awards granted during the year ended December 31, 2016.

Name	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(5)</sup>			All Stock Awards; Number of Shares of Stock or Underlying Units <sup>(6)</sup>	All Other Option Awards; Number of Shares of Underlying Options <sup>(7)</sup>	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards <sup>(8)</sup>	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards <sup>(8)</sup>
	Threshold <sup>(2)</sup>	Target <sup>(3)</sup>	Maximum <sup>(4)</sup>	Threshold	Target	Maximum	(#)	(#)	(\$/Sh)	(\$) <sup>(8)</sup>
Jeffrey R. Feeler	14,535	436,500	873,000	3,200	6,400	12,800	10,700	18,800	35.05	789,243
Steven D. Welling	7,359	221,000	442,000	1,200	2,400	4,800	3,900	6,900	35.05	290,823
Simon G. Bell	6,387	191,793	383,586	1,200	2,400	4,800	3,900	6,900	35.05	290,823
Eric L. Gerratt	6,324	189,900	379,800	1,200	2,400	4,800	3,900	6,900	35.05	290,823
Mario Romero <sup>(1)</sup>	6,324	189,900	379,800	1,200	2,400	4,800	3,900	6,900	35.05	290,823

(1) Mr. Romero resigned from his position with the Company effective August 5, 2016 and did not qualify for a payout under equity or non-equity awards. Rights to restricted stock and stock option awards were forfeited.

(2) Represents the minimum amount to which the Named Executive Officers were entitled based on achieving the 2016 MIP target with the lowest weighted percentage of the Target Incentive.

(3) Represents the amount to which the Named Executive Officers would have been entitled to receive based on achieving each of the 2016 MIP targets. For the amount actually paid, please refer to the "Summary Compensation Table" in this Proxy Statement. For additional details regarding the 2016 MIP, please refer to the "Elements of Compensation Annual Short Term Incentives" section of this Proxy Statement.

(4) The Company established a maximum payout level under the 2016 MIP equal to two times the participant's Target Incentive.

(5) On January 4, 2016, each of the Named Executive Officers received awards of performance-based restricted stock units that will vest on December 31, 2018 based on the Company's TSR relative to the TSR of the S&P 600 (50% of Target PSUs) and the TSR of the Peer Group (50% of Target PSUs) over the three-year performance period beginning January 1, 2016. The performance measures and potential payouts for the PSUs are described in more detail in the "Elements of Compensation Long-Term Incentives" section of this Proxy Statement. These columns show the potential number of shares to be paid out to the Named Executive Officers under the PSU grant at threshold, target or maximum performance. The award date fair value is included in the "Stock Awards" column of the "Summary Compensation Table" in this Proxy Statement.

(6) These restricted stock awards, awarded with an effective date of January 4, 2016, vest in their entirety on the third anniversary of the grant date.

(7) These stock options, awarded January 4, 2016, vest in equal annual installments over three years.

(8) The amounts listed represent the aggregate grant date fair value of restricted stock, stock options and PSUs (assuming target performance) granted during 2016, as determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718.

## OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

The following table sets forth information for each Named Executive Officer with respect to (i) each option to purchase the Company's common stock that had not been exercised and remained outstanding as of December 31, 2016; (ii) each award of restricted stock that had not vested and remained outstanding as of December 31, 2016; and (iii) each award of PSUs that had not vested and remained outstanding as of December 31, 2016.

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#)	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested <sup>(7)</sup> (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares or Other Rights That Have Not Vested <sup>(10)</sup> (\$)
Jeffrey R. Feeler	10,280	20,560 <sup>(1)</sup>	25.25	3/4/2023				
	4,120	8,240 <sup>(2)</sup>	27.97	3/4/2023				
	6,767	13,533 <sup>(3)</sup>	49.97	3/9/2025				
		18,800 <sup>(4)</sup>	35.05	1/3/2026				
					4,800 <sup>(5)</sup> 10,700 <sup>(6)</sup>	235,920 525,905	2,559 <sup>(8)</sup> 6,400 <sup>(9)</sup>	125,775 314,560
Steven D. Welling	1,042		15.36	3/8/2020				
	1,025		16.18	3/10/2021				
	5,717		19.71	2/21/2022				
	6,117	12,080 <sup>(1)</sup>	25.25	3/4/2023				
	3,100	6,200 <sup>(3)</sup>	49.97	3/9/2025				
		6,900 <sup>(4)</sup>	35.05	1/3/2026				
				2,200 <sup>(5)</sup> 3,900 <sup>(6)</sup>	108,130 191,685	1,172 <sup>(8)</sup> 2,400 <sup>(9)</sup>	57,604 117,960	
Simon G. Bell	13,773	13,320 <sup>(1)</sup>	25.25	3/4/2023				
	2,834	5,666 <sup>(3)</sup>	49.97	3/9/2025				
		6,900 <sup>(4)</sup>	35.05	1/3/2026				
				2,000 <sup>(5)</sup> 3,900 <sup>(6)</sup>	98,300 191,685	1,066 <sup>(8)</sup> 2,400 <sup>(9)</sup>	52,394 117,960	
Eric L. Gerratt	857		23.48	12/6/2017				
	6,600		20.63	1/2/2019				
	2,392		16.18	3/10/2021				
	4,478		19.71	2/21/2022				
	13,496	11,480 <sup>(1)</sup>	25.25	3/4/2023				
	1,560	1,560 <sup>(2)</sup>	27.97	3/4/2023				
	2,834	5,666 <sup>(3)</sup>	49.97	3/9/2025				
		6,900 <sup>(4)</sup>	35.05	1/3/2026				
				2,000 <sup>(5)</sup> 3,900 <sup>(6)</sup>	98,300 191,685	1,066 <sup>(8)</sup> 2,400 <sup>(9)</sup>	52,394 117,960	

(1)



## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

These stock options, awarded on March 5, 2013, vest in equal annual installments over five years. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.

(2)

These stock options, awarded on September 7, 2013, vest in equal annual installments over five years consistent with the terms of the stock options awarded on March 5, 2013. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.

(3)

These stock options, awarded March 10, 2015, vest in equal annual installments over three years. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

- (4) These stock options, awarded January 4, 2016, vest in equal annual installments over three years. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.
- (5) These restricted stock awards, awarded with an effective date of March 10, 2015, vest in their entirety on or after the third anniversary of the grant date. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.
- (6) These restricted stock awards, awarded with an effective date of January 4, 2016, vest in their entirety on or after the third anniversary of the grant date. Vesting is generally subject to the Named Executive Officer remaining employed through the applicable vesting date.
- (7) Market Value was calculated by using \$49.15, the Company's common stock price on December 30, 2016.
- (8) These PSUs, awarded on May 27, 2015 have a three-year performance period commencing at the beginning of 2015 and concluding on December 31, 2017.
- (9) These PSUs, awarded on January 4, 2016 have a three-year performance period commencing at the beginning of 2016 and concluding on December 31, 2018.
- (10) Market value was calculated by using the \$49.15, Company's common stock price on December 30, 2016 and the target shares underlying the PSUs.

**OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED**

The following table sets forth information for each Named Executive Officer with respect to the exercise of options to purchase shares of the Company's stock during the 2016 fiscal year and the vesting of restricted stock during the same period.

Name	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting <sup>(1)</sup> (\$)
Jeffrey R. Feeler			4,799	194,983
Steven D. Welling			1,966	79,879
Simon G. Bell			2,166	88,005
Eric L. Gerratt			2,132	86,623
Mario Romero			333	15,298

(1) Reflects the product of (i) the number of shares acquired upon vesting of restricted stock awards; and (ii) the closing price of the Company's common stock on the vesting date.

**POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE OF CONTROL**

The 2016 Employment Agreements established a minimum annual base salary and provided for participation in the Company's employee benefit plans, including any Cash Incentive plans. In addition, the 2016 Employment Agreements require the Company or its successors to pay or provide certain compensation and benefits to the respective executive in the event of termination of employment or termination of employment following a change of control. The following discussion describes the potential payments upon termination of employment or termination of employment following a change of control with respect to the 2016 Employment Agreements. Under the terms of the 2016 Employment Agreements, upon a termination of employment, the Company would have been obligated to pay the Named Executive Officers:

1. Any unpaid base salary through the termination date and any accrued paid-time off;
2. Any unpaid Cash Incentive earned for the fiscal year in which the termination of employment occurs, prorated for the number of days employed during such fiscal year;
3. Any un-reimbursed business expenses incurred through the termination date; and
4. All other payments or other benefits the Named Executive Officer may be entitled to under the terms of any applicable compensation arrangement or benefit, equity or fringe benefit program or grant.

These payments are referred to below as the "Accrued Obligations."

**Termination** Under the terms of the 2016 Employment Agreements the amount and types of compensation due to a Named Executive Officer in the event of termination of employment with the Company was dependent upon the basis for such termination.

*For Cause or Without Good Reason* If a Named Executive Officer's employment had been terminated by the Company for cause or by a Named Executive Officer without good reason the Company would have paid such Named Executive Officer the Accrued Obligations only (other than the pro-rata Cash Incentive earned in the applicable fiscal year).

*Without Cause or for Good Reason* Had a Named Executive Officer's employment been terminated by the Company without cause or by the executive for good reason, in addition to the Accrued Obligations, such Named Executive Officer would have been entitled to the following:

1. An amount equal to the sum of two years' base salary and two times the Target Cash Incentive (payable in bi-weekly installments);
2. Continued vesting of granted stock options and the continued right to exercise such stock options following the termination date for the shorter of one year or the original expiration date of such options;
3. Continued vesting of restricted stock grants and restricted stock units for a period of one year following the termination date (and with respect to such awards that "cliff" vest, the number of shares or units in which the executive will vest will be calculated based on the period from the start of the vesting period to the first anniversary of the termination date, as a percentage of the total vesting period);
4. Continued vesting of performance stock units for a period of one year following the termination date (with payment to be prorated based on the period from the start of the performance period to the termination date, as a percentage of the total performance period); and
5. Continued medical, hospitalization, life insurance and disability benefits to which the executive was entitled at the termination date for a period of the lesser of twenty-four (24) months following the termination date or the date the Named Executive Officer receives similar or comparable coverage from a new employer.



## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

A Named Executive Officer's right to receive the additional severance benefits described above is subject to such Named Executive Officer's compliance with applicable confidentiality, work product assignment, return of property, and non-competition/non-solicitation covenants contained in the 2016 Employment Agreements and the execution of a release of claims in favor of the Company.

The definition of "good reason" includes, among other things, a material diminution of duties and responsibilities, a material diminution in compensation arrangements or employee benefits or any material breach by the Company of the provisions of the applicable 2016 Employment Agreement, or a relocation of the executive's primary place of employment outside a 50-mile radius. "Cause" is defined as a determination by two-thirds of the members of the Board voting that the Named Executive Officer has (i) engaged in willful neglect (other than neglect resulting from his incapacity due to physical or mental illness) or willful misconduct in the performance of his duties; (ii) engaged in willful conduct the consequences of which are materially adverse to the Company; (iii) materially breached the terms of his employment agreement and such breach persisted after notice thereof from the Company and a reasonable opportunity to cure; or (iv) been convicted of (or has plead guilty or no contest to) any felony other than a traffic violation.

*Death or Disability* Had a Named Executive Officer's employment been terminated by the Company due to death or disability, the Company would have paid such Named Executive Officer, or his estate, the Accrued Obligations. In addition to the Accrued Obligations, a Named Executive Officer terminated due to disability would have been eligible to participate in the Company's disability plans on a basis no less favorable to the executive than other senior executives of the Company.

*Retirement* Had a Named Executive Officer's employment been terminated by retirement in 2016, such Named Executive Officer would have been paid the Accrued Obligations only.

Based on a hypothetical termination of employment on December 31, 2016, and assuming no event occurred causing the forfeiture of amounts due under an incentive plan, the Named Executive Officers

Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

would have been entitled to the amounts set forth in the following table, depending on the basis for termination identified in the first column:

Basis for Termination	Base Salary/ Accrued Paid-Time Off (\$)	Unreimbursed Expenses (\$)	Accrued Incentive/ Bonus (\$)	Medical, Hospital, Life Insurance and Disability (\$)	Value of Continued Vesting of Equity Awards Following Termination (\$)	Total (\$)
<b>Jeffrey R. Feeler</b>						
For cause or w/o good reason	70,885	748	160,021			231,654
W/o cause or for good reason	1,040,885 <sup>(1)</sup>	748	1,033,021 <sup>(2)</sup>	108,735 <sup>(3)</sup>	1,075,600 <sup>(5)</sup>	3,258,989
Death	70,885	748	160,021			231,654
Retirement	70,885	748	160,021			231,654
Disability	70,885	748	160,021	7,575 <sup>(4)</sup>		239,229
<b>Steven D. Welling</b>						
For cause or w/o good reason	47,077	4,533	84,334			135,944
W/o cause or for good reason	727,077 <sup>(1)</sup>	4,533	526,334 <sup>(2)</sup>	83,416 <sup>(3)</sup>	443,868 <sup>(5)</sup>	1,785,228
Death	47,077	4,533	84,334			135,944
Retirement	47,077	4,533	84,334			135,944
Disability	47,077	4,533	84,334	5,997 <sup>(4)</sup>		141,941
<b>Simon G. Bell</b>						
For cause or w/o good reason	53,615	3,786	73,188			130,589
W/o cause or for good reason	733,615 <sup>(1)</sup>	3,786	456,774 <sup>(2)</sup>	93,463 <sup>(3)</sup>	445,994 <sup>(5)</sup>	1,733,632
Death	53,615	3,786	73,188			130,589
Retirement	53,615	3,786	73,188			130,589
Disability	53,615	3,786	73,188	5,997 <sup>(4)</sup>		136,586
<b>Eric. L. Gerratt</b>						
For cause or w/o good reason	48,084	1,958	71,516			121,558
W/o cause or for good reason	681,084 <sup>(1)</sup>	1,958	451,316 <sup>(2)</sup>	83,247 <sup>(3)</sup>	440,526 <sup>(5)</sup>	1,658,131
Death	48,084	1,958	71,516			121,558
Retirement	48,084	1,958	71,516			121,558
Disability	48,084	1,958	71,516	4,350 <sup>(4)</sup>		125,908

(1) Includes accrued base salary, accrued paid-time off and two-times base salary.

(2) Includes accrued incentive bonus and two-times target incentive amount.

(3) Assumes continued payment of medical, life insurance, and disability insurance premiums for twenty-four (24) months.

(4) Assumes continued payment of disability insurance premiums for three months.

(5) Includes the value of restricted stock determined based on the number of shares vesting in the year following termination multiplied by the December 30, 2016 closing market price of \$49.15; value of stock options determined based on the options vesting in the year following termination multiplied by the amount (if any) by which the December 30, 2016 closing market price of \$49.15 exceeded the applicable exercise price; and value of two-thirds of the performance stock units granted in 2015 assuming a TSR equal to the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of both the S&P and Peer Group (100% of target PSUs) and a December 30, 2016 closing market price of \$49.15.





## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

**Change of Control** Change-of-control benefits are intended to encourage cooperation and minimize potential resistance of Messrs. Feeler, Welling, Bell and Gerratt and other key managers to potential change-of-control transactions that may be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

For purposes of the 2016 Employment Agreements, "change of control" is defined to include any of the following events:

A merger or consolidation of the Company with or into another entity or any other corporate reorganization, if more than 40% of the combined voting power of the continuing or surviving entity's securities outstanding immediately after such merger, consolidation or other reorganization is owned by persons who were not stockholders of the Company immediately prior to such merger, consolidation or other reorganization; provided, however, that a public offering of the Company's securities shall not constitute a corporate reorganization; or

The sale, transfer, or other disposition of all or substantially all of the Company's assets; or

Any transaction as a result of which any person is the "beneficial owner", directly or indirectly, of securities of the Company representing more than 25% of the total voting power represented by the Company's then outstanding voting securities; or

A change in the composition of the Board in any two-year period as a result of which fewer than a majority of the directors are incumbent directors.

Under the 2016 Employment Agreements, if both a change-of-control event *and* a subsequent termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the executive for good reason within twenty-four (24) months after such change of control occurred, the executive would have been entitled to the following severance benefits, subject to compliance with certain covenants and execution of a release of claims in favor of the Company:

1. In lieu of the base salary and target bonus severance described above, a lump sum payment equal to two times the sum of (i) base salary; and (ii) the greatest of (a) any earned but unpaid amount due under any Cash Incentive plan; (b) the executive's target incentive amount under a Cash Incentive plan; and (c) the Cash Incentive plan payment received (if any) for the fiscal year immediately preceding the Cash Incentive plan year in which the termination occurs; and
2. All other benefits due the executive as if his employment was terminated by the Company without cause or by the executive for good reason (in the absence of any change of control), except that all unvested stock options and restricted stock shall become fully vested upon the termination date; provided, however, that if unvested stock options and restricted stock held by the executive are not continued, substituted for or assumed by the successor company in connection with a change of control, such awards shall immediately vest upon the change of control.

Based on a hypothetical change-of-control event and subsequent termination of employment by the Company without cause or by the executive for good reason on December 31, 2016, the Named Executive Officers would have been entitled to Accrued Obligations and the amounts set forth in the table below. The Named Executive Officers would also have been entitled to continued medical, hospitalization, life insurance and disability benefits in the amounts set forth in the table above based on a termination by the Company without cause or by the Named Executive Officer for good reason.

Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

	<b>Base Salary/Cash Incentive (\$)</b>	<b>Options<sup>(1)</sup> (\$)</b>	<b>Restricted Stock<sup>(2)</sup> (\$)</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
Jeffrey R. Feeler	1,843,000	930,987	761,825	3,535,812
Steven D. Welling	1,122,000	386,002	299,815	1,807,817
Simon G. Bell	1,063,586	415,638	289,985	1,769,209
Eric. L. Gerratt	1,012,800	404,703	289,985	1,707,488

(1) Represents the value of all unvested stock options vesting on December 31, 2016, based on the amount (if any) by which the December 30, 2016 closing market price of \$49.15 exceeded the applicable exercise price.

(2) Represents the value of all unvested restricted stock vesting on December 31, 2016, based on the December 30, 2016 closing market price of \$49.15.

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

In the event that the severance and other benefits provided for in the 2016 Employment Agreements or otherwise payable to the Named Executive Officers had constituted "parachute payments" within the meaning of Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code and would have been subject to the excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, then the executive would have received either the full amount of such severance benefits or such lesser amount as would result in no portion of such severance benefits being subject to excise tax under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, whichever amount would have resulted in the executive receiving the greatest amount of severance benefits on an after-tax basis.

### COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS

Effective September 12, 2014, directors who are not employees of the Company or its subsidiaries are entitled to an annual fee of \$50,000. A non-employee Chairman of the Board is entitled to receive an additional fee of \$60,000. Chairmen of each of the standing committees are each entitled to receive an additional fee of \$20,000. Audit Committee members are entitled to a cash retainer of \$7,000, Corporate Governance Committee members are entitled to a cash retainer of \$5,000 and Compensation Committee members are entitled to a cash retainer of \$5,000. A non-employee director who does not complete his or her annual service term, upon which the payment of an annual cash retainer was paid, is required to reimburse the Company a pro-rata portion of any such retainer.

Non-employee directors also receive an equity award issued in the form of restricted stock or options to purchase the Company's common stock worth \$75,000 at the time of election or re-election to the Board at the annual meeting of stockholders. Equity awards granted to non-employee directors vest over one year with vesting contingent on attending at least 75% of the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board between the grant date and the vesting date. All directors met the meeting attendance requirement during the 2016-2017 Board year. All directors are reimbursed for their reasonable travel and other expenses incurred in attending Board and committee meetings.

Effective May 27, 2015, the Share Ownership Policy requires that each non-employee director hold Company stock equal to three times his or her annual cash retainer. For shares owned outright, the value is measured by the greater of the cost of acquisition and the market value at the date of measurement. For unvested restricted stock the value is measured by the greater of grant date value and market value. Director compensation for the year ended December 31, 2016 for the Company's non-employee directors is set forth in the following table:

Name	Fees Earned in Cash (\$)	Stock Awards <sup>(2)</sup> (\$)	Total (\$)
Joe F. Colvin	80,000	75,648	155,648
Katina Dorton	82,000	75,648	157,648
Daniel Fox	87,000	75,648	162,648
David Lusk <sup>(1)</sup>	12,500		12,500
Stephen A. Romano	50,000	75,648	125,648
John T. Sahlberg	62,000	75,648	137,648

(1) Mr. Lusk elected not to stand for re-election at the Company's 2016 Annual Meeting.

(2) This amount represents the aggregate grant date fair value of the restricted stock award granted in fiscal year 2016 determined in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718. The assumptions made in determining the grant date fair value of the grant are disclosed in Note 18 of Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016. The number of shares awarded each of the non-employee directors in 2016 was 1,600, equivalent to \$75,000 divided by the fair market value of the stock on June 3, 2016 rounded to the nearest 100 shares. The fair market value of the Company's common stock on the award date was \$47.28 on June 3, 2016.

## Edgar Filing: US ECOLOGY, INC. - Form DEF 14A

At its March 2, 2017 meeting, the Board approved, as set forth in the table below, the non-employee director compensation for the 2017-2018 Board service period (May 24, 2017 to the 2018 Annual Meeting), unchanged from the 2016-2017 Board service period.

Annual Cash Retainer	\$ 50,000
Dollar Value of Equity Award <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 75,000
Non-employee Chairman of the Board	\$ 60,000
Committee Chairman Annual Fee:	
Audit Committee	\$ 20,000
Corporate Governance Committee	\$ 20,000
Compensation Committee	\$ 20,000
Committee Cash Retainer, payable quarterly:	
Audit Committee	\$ 7,000
Corporate Governance Committee	\$ 5,000
Compensation Committee	\$ 5,000

---

(1)

The type of equity award issued will be selected by the non-employee director and can be in the form of restricted stock or options to purchase the Company's common stock. Equity awards will vest over one year with vesting contingent on the non-employee director attending at least 75% of the regularly scheduled Board meetings and meetings of committees of which a director is a member. Stock options will have a term no greater than ten (10) years with an exercise price equal to the fair value of the Company's stock on the grant date.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF  
CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

The following tables set forth, as of March 29, 2017, the beneficial ownership of the Company's common stock by (i) each person, or group of affiliated persons, who is known by the Company to beneficially own more than 5% of the Company's common stock; (ii) each of the Company's directors, director nominees and executive officers; and (iii) all directors, director nominees and executive officers of the Company as a group. Unless otherwise noted, to the knowledge of the Company each beneficial owner identified has sole voting and investment power for the shares indicated. The information provided in the tables below is based on our records, information filed with the SEC and information provided to the Company. Except as otherwise indicated, the address of each of the persons identified in the tables below is as follows: US Ecology, Inc., 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with SEC rules. Shares of the Company's common stock subject to options exercisable within sixty (60) days of March 29, 2017 are deemed outstanding for calculating the percentage of outstanding shares of the person holding such options, but are not deemed outstanding for calculating the percentage ownership of any other person. Percentage of beneficial ownership is based upon shares of common stock outstanding on March 29, 2017.

(a)

**Beneficial Owners**

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Number of Shares Beneficially Owned	Percent of Class
BlackRock, Inc. 55 East 52 <sup>nd</sup> Street New York, NY 10055	2,407,101 <sup>(1)</sup>	11.0
Silvercrest Asset Management Group LLC  1330 Avenue of the Americas, 38 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10019	1,433,473 <sup>(2)</sup>	6.6
Franklin Resources, Inc.  One Franklin Parkway San Mateo, CA 94403	1,081,194 <sup>(3)</sup>	5.0

(1) Information obtained solely from Schedule 13G/A filed on January 17, 2017, wherein BlackRock, Inc. is identified to possess sole voting power of 2,361,777 shares and sole dispositive power of 2,407,101 shares.

(2) Information obtained solely from Schedule 13G/A filed on February 14, 2017, wherein Silvercrest Asset Management Group LLC is identified to possess the shared power to vote and dispose of 1,433,473 shares together with Silvercrest L.P. and Silvercrest Asset Management Group Inc.

(3) Information obtained solely from Schedule 13G/A filed on February 8, 2017, wherein the shares are reported to be beneficially owned by one or more open or closed-end investment companies or other managed accounts that are investment management clients of investment managers that are direct or indirect subsidiaries of Franklin Resources, Inc. Franklin Resources, Inc. reported that it or its direct or indirect subsidiaries possess sole voting and dispositive power with respect to 1,081,194 shares.

(b)

**Directors, Director Nominees and Executive Officers**

	Shares Owned	Right to Acquire <sup>(1)</sup> (Exercisable within 60 days of Record Date)	Total	Percent of Class
<b>Directors and Director Nominees</b>				
Joe F. Colvin	13,600		13,600	*
Katina Dorton	4,400		4,400	*
Jeffrey R. Feeler	55,496	34,360	89,856	*
Daniel Fox	6,040		6,040	*
Stephen A. Romano	29,895		29,895	*
John T. Sahlberg	3,200		3,200	*
<b>Executive Officers</b>				
Jeffrey R. Feeler	55,496	34,360	89,856	*
Steven D. Welling	21,281	28,441	49,722	*
Simon G. Bell	28,143	28,400	56,543	*
Eric L. Gerratt	30,590	43,870	74,460	*
All directors, director nominees and executive officers as a group	192,645	135,071	327,716	1.5

(1) Represents options held that were exercisable within sixty (60) days of the Record Date. Does not include PSUs. PSUs are awards granted by the Company and payable, subject to vesting requirements, in common stock of the Company.

\* Represents less than 1%.

## CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

The Company had no relationships or related transactions with its officers, directors or securities holders of more than 5% that would require disclosure under Item 404 of Regulation S-K under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Corporate Governance Committee is charged with reviewing and approving or ratifying all transactions with related persons required to be disclosed under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

### SECTION 16(A) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("*Section 16*") requires that reports of beneficial ownership of common stock and preferred stock, and changes in such ownership, be filed with the SEC by Section 16 "reporting persons" including directors, certain officers, holders of more than 10% of the outstanding common stock or preferred stock, and certain trusts for which reporting persons are trustees. The Company is required to disclose in this Proxy Statement each reporting person whom it knows failed to file any required reports under Section 16 on a timely basis.

Based solely on review of Section 16 reports furnished to the Company and written statements from the reporting persons confirming that no other reports were required, to the Company's knowledge all Section 16 reports applicable to known reporting persons were timely filed throughout the year.

### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION

During 2016, no member of the Compensation Committee was an officer or employee of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or had any other relationship requiring disclosure by the Company under Item 404 of Regulation S-K. During 2016, no executive officer of the Company served as:

A member of the Compensation Committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of an unrelated entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Compensation Committee of the Company;

A director of an unrelated entity, one of whose executive officers served on the Compensation Committee of the Company;  
or

A member of the Compensation Committee (or other board committee performing equivalent functions) of another entity, one of whose executive officers served as a director of the Company.

### HOUSEHOLDING

Some banks, brokers and other nominee record holders may be participating in the practice of "householding" proxy statements and annual reports. This means that only one copy of the Company's proxy statement or annual report may have been sent to multiple stockholders in your household. The Company will promptly deliver a separate copy of either document to you if you request one in writing to the following address: Wayne R. Ipsen, Secretary, 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702; Telephone: (208) 331-8400. If you want to receive separate copies of the annual report and proxy statement in the future or if you are receiving multiple copies and would like to receive only one copy for your household, you should contact your bank, broker or other nominee record holder.

**OTHER MATTERS**

Management and the Board of Directors of the Company know of no other matters that may come before the Meeting. However, if any matters other than those referred to above should properly come before the Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote all proxies in accordance with their best judgment.

A copy of the Company's Annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2016, as filed with the SEC, excluding exhibits, may be obtained by stockholders without charge by written request addressed to Investor Relations, 251 E. Front St., Suite 400, Boise, Idaho 83702 or may be accessed on the Internet at: [www.usecology.com](http://www.usecology.com).













QuickLinks

[PROXY SOLICITATION AND VOTING INFORMATION](#)

[OUTSTANDING SHARES AND VOTING RIGHTS](#)

[CORPORATE GOVERNANCE](#)

[SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS AND DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS](#)

[ELECTION OF DIRECTORS PROPOSAL NO. 1](#)

[RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM PROPOSAL NO. 2](#)

[ADVISORY VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION PROPOSAL NO. 3](#)

[SAY-ON-PAY FREQUENCY VOTE PROPOSAL NO. 4](#)

[AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT](#)

[COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS](#)

[COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT](#)

[SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE](#)

[GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS](#)

[OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END](#)

[OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED](#)

[POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE OF CONTROL](#)

[COMPENSATION OF DIRECTORS](#)

[SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS](#)

[CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS](#)

[SECTION 16\(A\) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE](#)

[COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION](#)

[HOUSEHOLDING](#)

[OTHER MATTERS](#)