

- **Lisa A. Skumatz, Ph.D., Principal.**

Dr. Skumatz is an economist and Principal of SERA, Inc. She has a nationwide reputation in integrated planning, program evaluation, rates and revenue options, economic and policy analysis, and scenario analysis/forecasting for solid waste agencies. Her interests include both quantitative and policy issues in solid waste. She is focused on how facilities and programs work *in the real world*. She maintains SERA's in-house database of programs, policies, costs, performance, and other data from more than 1,300 communities across the US, all 7000+ PAYT communities in the US, single stream MRFs, and solid waste initiatives and programs in all 50 states. The databases include information on facilities, rates, services, recycling and yard waste program design and performance, collection efficiencies, policies, demographics, tonnage, and participation data. She uses these data in work for clients to examine performance and "fit", estimate program impacts, identify innovative program options, evaluation of programs and collection / tonnage efficiencies, cost and performance benchmarking for programs and facilities, and to develop and assess solid waste system or collection changes for client communities and for "best practices" and case study applications.

*Integrated Planning/Evaluation and Zero Waste:* She has conducted scores of studies in integrated planning and quantitative analysis of programs and facilities at the national, state, and local level. These projects are designed to develop sustainable sets of programs, policies, incentives, facilities, and funding options to meet Zero Waste or other community goals. She has worked to identify the most appropriate short- and longer-term waste management options, examining program (demand-side) and facility (supply-side) options on an equal footing to identify the most cost-effective, sustainable methods of meeting agency goals. She uses a detailed spreadsheet model to conduct detailed studies of generation and material flows and to compute the impacts of more than 130 policy, program, and facility options to develop recommendations for cost-effective, fiscally-sound, integrated solid waste management systems. This includes work in Colorado, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, California, and elsewhere. She has conducted analyses of impacts (cost-effectiveness and program effects on tonnage, costs, and behavior); performance evaluation (identifying program activities and efficiency); and process evaluation (assessing program design and implementation / delivery effectiveness). These evaluations include transfer stations and landfills; recycling, yard waste, and diversion programs, education, MRFs; hazardous waste and SQG facilities and programs among other programs and facilities. She has taught solid waste integrated planning and evaluation workshops in California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, the UK and elsewhere.

*Tracking/benchmarking:* She has been very active in the area of program tracking, performance benchmarking, and reporting for programs and facilities, including solid waste and hazardous waste work in Fort Collins, Portland Metro, Seattle / King County, Oregon DEQ, and California Integrated Waste Management Board.

*Best Practices:* One of her key areas of work is in identifying “best practices” and “model programs/ facilities / systems”. Dr. Skumatz has conducted innovative work to identify the most effective – and cost-effective – program designs and facilities to reach 50% or other community goals. Her quantitative work analyzes detailed program, cost, and demographic/ characteristics data from several hundred communities or specific areas to estimate performance in communities based on real-world performance. She has estimated “cost curves” estimating the investment needed to reach higher diversion levels, and conducted statistical work to examine the most effective designs and options given local conditions. These "cutting edge" quantitative studies have been widely cited in the literature and used to estimate impacts for client communities, and have been used to modify best management practices (BMP) in several states. These studies were completed for clients in Massachusetts, Oregon, California, Hawaii, and several nationwide clients, among others.

*Rate Studies and PAYT:* Dr. Skumatz is best known for her work in PAYT / variable rates and has years of experience in rate studies (both PAYT and non-PAYT rates) for residential, commercial, and transfer station/landfill sectors. She has developed well-tested integrated rate models, incorporating demand, revenue requirements, cost allocation, and rate design modules. She has developed models that assess customer reactions to rate and program changes, and has served as an expert witness in rate proceedings. She has extensive experience in generation, disposal, and program tonnage forecasting models for communities. She conducted pioneering work in the concept and field testing of weight-based rates.

*Data Collection, Surveys, Composition:* Dr. Skumatz’s background in statistics and survey research has been applied in the design, conduct, and analysis of waste composition studies, residential and commercial surveys on attitudes, waste management behavior, set-outs surveys, focus groups and other work for numerous clients. Dr. Skumatz has written widely cited manuals and articles on these topics, as well as conducted multiple workshops across North America on solid waste issues.

Her clients include solid waste agencies from Alaska to Florida as well as international work. She is widely published and cited. Dr. Skumatz holds a Ph.D. in Economics (econometrics) from the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Skumatz is a member of National Recycling Coalition (and has served 10 years on the NRC Board), SWANA, WSRA (Washington, formerly on Board), CAFR (Colorado, and on Board), CRRRA and NCRA (California), AOR (Oregon), RAM (Minnesota), and other state recycling organizations, and numerous other professional economic and recycling organizations. Lisa is currently or has been on the Boards of the WSRA, CAFR, and NRC, Boulder County Resource Conservation Board, and King County Commission for Marketing Recyclable Materials. She has chaired the citizen solid waste advisory committees in Seattle and Superior, Colorado. She is active in several local civic and national environmental organizations, and is on the Board of several non-profit organizations. She is also an elected official in Colorado.

