

SERA Solid Waste Bios

Dr. Lisa Skumatz, Principal / President SERA: Lisa is an economist with more than 30 years of experience in solid waste policy and program design, evaluation, and modeling. Lisa is widely known for her expertise in “best practices” and quantities policy, program, and funding work, designed to identify effective and cost-effective sustainability initiatives at the local, regional, national, and international level. Lisa is the recognized national leader in Pay As You Throw (PAYT), and has conducted extensive work in metrics, and in rates and funding. Her contributions to the field include regression based quantitative analysis of the incremental tonnage and cost impacts of programs; innovative measurement of source reduction programs; cutting-edge metrics development, and measurement of outreach/social marketing campaigns. Her work experience includes multiple Comprehensive Master Plans and Zero Waste Plans for cities, counties and States, and major program planning work for new city/county initiatives in residential and commercial recycling and organics and PAYT. Lisa has published more than 150 well-cited papers and articles in solid waste, and has won two national “Lifetime Achievement” awards for her innovative work in solid waste (from SWANA and NRC).

Gary Horton: Senior Associated Consultant, SERA: Mr. Horton is a seasoned solid waste professional with 34 years of experience working for a leading Colorado waste hauler providing residential and commercial garbage and diversion services (trash, recycling, and organics / food waste). He managed introduction of innovative programs, transition to a CNG fleet, and has overseen operation of landfills, processing of commercial recyclables, dump-and-pick operations, and processing of residential and commercial compost. His expertise in performance statistics and “costing” is exceptional, and he understands program design and delivery from “soup to nuts”. He is an expert in the design and implementation of PAYT, including roll-out, rate design, and the special requirements to successfully conduct PAYT under contract in communities. He brings extra credibility with haulers, and makes sure recommendations are as ‘unburdensome’ as possible to haulers.

Dana D’Souza, Senior Analyst / Project Manager, SERA: Ms. D’Souza has more than 9 years of detailed experience with data collection and analysis on solid waste topics with SERA. She has conducted program review, case study, and benchmarking interviews with solid waste program staff across the country, including data on program design, costs, infrastructure, and diversion. She has collected data on the wide variety of recycling and solid waste programs across the US – including recycling, yard waste, source reduction, electronics, single stream recycling, education / outreach programs, and others. Dana recently completed a project to assess the potential and the job effects from food waste recovery in the State of Illinois, and managed the evaluation of a specialized food waste / social marketing project. She has extensive experience in social marketing and behavioral programs, including work for Colorado CDPHE, Philadelphia, and others. Dana manages SERA’s periodic nationwide community surveys – gathering data from more than 1000 communities nationwide on programs, demographics, costs, facilities, and tonnages.

Michael Santulli, Sustainability Analyst / LEED Associate: Mr. Michael Santulli is a quantitative analyst with SERA. While with SERA he has developed Excel models to analyze stakeholder information from Colorado sub-regions to support work on the State's Comprehensive Materials Management Plan. He leads SERA's work on job creation computations, providing input-output model expertise for assessing the job and economic development effects of recycling, organics / food, and energy projects at the county, state, and national level. He conducted this work for a food waste program in Illinois, and other projects. He conducted PAYT surveys around the country, including work with the largest communities in the US. He conducted case study work on PAYT, opt-in and opt-out yard waste and food scraps programs, and urban vs. rural / private vs. public collection efficiencies and performance statistics. He has extensive experience analyzing residential and commercial trash / recycling surveys for clients. Mr. Santulli programs and analyzes SERA's "clicker" presentations used for our Appreciative Inquiry stakeholder meetings. Mr. Santulli is a LEED Certified Green Associate.