#### WE'RE STUCK!



Strategies for Communities with Mature Recycling & Composting Programs

NERC, Burlington VT March 16, 2017 Lisa A. Skumatz, Ph.D., SERA Skumatz Economic Research Associates Inc. 303/494-1178

# OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION Residential options Commercial Mandates & Outreach Measurement "Now" options

Perspective - Quantitative, Best Practices, Implementable

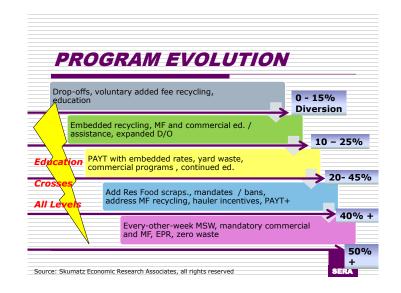
Research to advise communities

#### HIGH, BUT STUCK -PICKING WHAT WORKS

- ☐ Get more from existing programs
- □ Smart choices for next
- □ Impacts and cost-effectiveness
- □ Efficiencies -
  - More for the same OR The same for less...
  - Use stops / programs effectively Get more at every stop
  - What we can impact now
- ☐ ...Findings based on work for leading towns



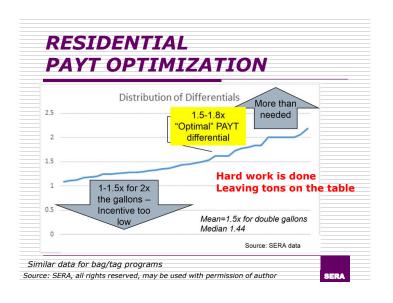


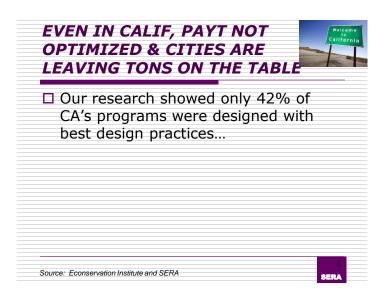


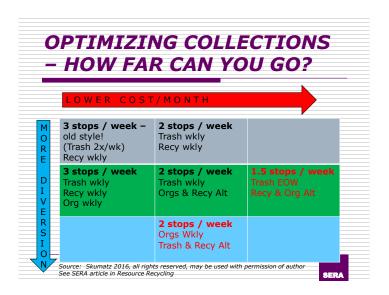
# SERA BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH TONS & COST ANALYSIS → □ Results from this presentation based on statistical analysis of SERA's database of 1,300 communities Source: SERA 1996-2015 (SKRA) all rights reserved

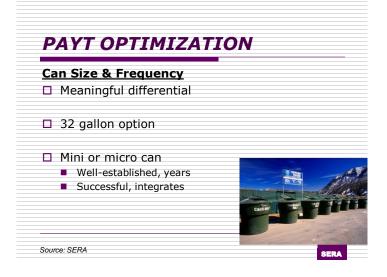














#### ALLOCATING TOTAL COLLECTIONS

- ☐ Add Organics by reducing other collection to EOW
  - EOW half as many trucks (& staff)...
  - Lose little in recycling (1-3% percentage points) -
  - Gain double digit stream (15% plus)
  - Nearly "free" only tip fee change (and large containers)
  - Cost / ton better & total tons better ... and it "keeps".
- □ Consider EOW Trash (& weekly organics)
  - Get more FW drives reluctant people to divert food
  - Vancouver (47%) optional EOW, Monthly (16% choose)
  - Portland (54%=>70%) citywide, trash down 38%
  - Renton- +25% R; +44%O; -20%G

Source: Skumatz Economic Research Associates, Inc. analysis



# CONSIDER ORGANIZING COLLECTION - NOT SPLITTING COLLECTION

- Our models show 10-25% savings if trash and recycling by same collector (city, hauler, whoever!). Efficiencies in:
  - Backup trucks
  - Staffing
  - Billing, bad debt, etc. etc.

EDA

#### CONSIDER ORGANIZING COLLECTION - OPTIONS

- ☐ Consider moving to...
  - Ordinance or
  - Contracting for collecting
- Economies of scale Control / mandates Fewer trucks... Substantial savings ... but...
- Moving from multiple haulers working in your town, you achieve;
  - Economies of scale
  - Better control over offering / design of recycling and organics programs
  - Fewer trucks, sometimes lower rates
- ☐ But pros and cons of course –political decision!

Source: SERA all rights reserved, may be used with permission of author

SERA

### OTHER ADVANCED RESIDENTIAL STRATEGIES

- □ "No bin no barrel"
- ☐ Higher rate if you DON'T set out recycling or organics

Source: SERA

SERA

#### INTEGRATED DECISIONS -AFFECTED BY...

- □ Are trucks flexible?
  - Fully-automated helps... easily shift between materials
  - Don't have to bring materials to same location like split trucks
- □ Recycling processing
  - Single stream (& large containers) helps... one collection, large containers that can wait
  - Can do dual stream by alternating material weeks
- □ Organics processing essential
- Education concerns
  - Which week? Very manageable
- □ Perception & containerization
- ☐ Health departments & regulators
  - For every other week collection
  - For food scraps composting





#### EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE OPTIONS FOR STEPPING IT UP NOW

	High Diversion Impact	Savings / C/E
Residential: PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection	V	1
Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery	V	√
Incentives, Mandates / bans	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
Education / Outreach	?	?
Metrics and goals  Source: Skuma	? tz Economic Research Asso	ciates, Inc. analysis

### KEY COMMERCIAL STRATEGIES

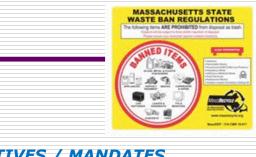
- □ #1 PAYT
  - Mandate recycling cost embedded in trash fee (50%-150% of trash size)
  - Organics embedded
  - Small commercial
  - Eliminates barrier of `recycling adds avoidable cost'
  - Space / screening issues

SERA

#### KEY COMMERCIAL STRATEGIES

- ☐ Tip Fee Incentives
  - Surcharges; tax forgiveness
  - SERA Research on uptake of programs
- ☐ ABC Law
- ☐ Invoicing / bidding improvements for recycling uptake & savings
  - Barrier
  - Invoice & contract issues
  - Encourage bidding / education / website





#### INCENTIVES / MANDATES READY NOW



#### EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE OPTIONS FOR STEPPING IT UP NOW

	High Diversion Impact	Savings / C/E
Residential: PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection	V	1
Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery	V	V
Incentives, Mandates / bans	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$
Education / Outreach	?	?
Metrics and goals	?	?
	PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection  Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery Incentives, Mandates / bans Education / Outreach  Metrics and goals	Impact  Residential:  PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection  Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery Incentives, Mandates / bans  Education / Outreach  Impact  Impact

#### BIG BANG EFFICIENCIES:

- □ Mandates and bans
  - Cost-effective & big tonnage impact
  - Addresses 'Chicken and egg'
  - Never first pick by stakeholder groups...
- □ Differential tip fees for incentives (cities, haulers)
- What's the barrier?
  - Political will
  - Spend political capital wisely





#### RECENT SERA STUDY - IMPACT COMPARISON

SERA analysis shows... SAME City Budget – 11-30 times more tons if you make sure bans / mandates are part of the solid waste plan – not just the "usual suspects" (focused on outreach) that many stakeholder groups want.

Spend your political capital where it will really deliver tons!

Source: ©SERA; all rights reserved; may be used with permission of author



#### MAKING EDUCATION & OUTREACH MORE EFFECTIVE

- ☐ Don't focus on traditional outreach (awareness focus).

  RECYCLING AT Y
- 1. Self-efficacy
- 2. Market what motivates
- 3. Social marketing ROI



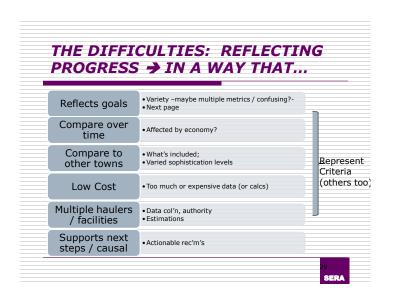


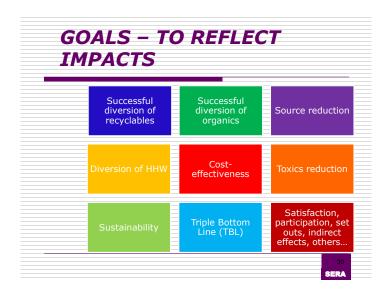
## FOR STEPPING IT UP NOW

	High Diversion Impact	Savings / C/E
Residential: PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection	V	1
Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery	√	<b>√</b>
Incentives, Mandates / bans	√	<b>√</b>
Education / Outreach	?	?
Metrics and goals	?	?

#### EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE OPTIONS FOR STEPPING IT UP NOW

	High Diversion Impact	Savings / C/E
Residential: PAYT enhancements, Coll'n optimization & Food scraps, Ordinances to get more Organized collection	V	√
Commercial: Barriers and Bidding PAYT with embedded recycling New delivery	V	√
Incentives, Mandates / bans		√
Education / Outreach	?	?
Metrics and goals	? z Economic Research Associa	?





# NEW METRIC □ PRR - Percent Recoverables Remaining (or "Good Stuff Left") ■ Data from 1 source / reporting issue ■ Tracks what you asked for ■ Tells you what to do next ■ Flexible □ PRR-G (GHG) □ PRR-V (\$) □ Add to list; measurement protocols... ■ See SERA article, Resource Recycling last summersers

