

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, INC.
Senior Managing Consultant

San Francisco, CA

Sierra Spencer joined E3 in 2019 and works in E3's Integrated System Planning practice area. Her work focuses on utilities' renewables integration efforts and long-term resource planning with an emphasis on meeting emission reductions goals while maintaining system reliability at the lowest cost. Sierra leads analyses that evaluate utility-scale energy resource selections and energy-related costs. Sierra's work often incorporates an evaluation through the lens of equity and affordability. Prior to joining E3, Sierra conducted research on managed charging for electric vehicles and utilizing biofuels for central heating. In addition to her master's degree, Sierra received a M.S. in civil and environmental engineering from University of California, Berkeley and a B.S. in engineering and B.A. in environmental studies from Swarthmore College.

Notable E3 projects include:

- **California Public Utilities Commission, Integrated Resource Plan (2019-ongoing).** Serves as the Project Manager, overseeing all contract administration and preparing contractual materials such as budget management, monthly Milestone Trackers and invoices, and Conflict of Interest disclosures. Managed E3's RESOLVE modeling and ruling and decision support for 25-26 TPP, managed E3's support for the CPUC's AB 1373 Needs Determination for centralized procurement of long lead-time resources, and also managed E3's RESOLVE modeling, cost-benefit analysis, and ratepayer risk analysis of offshore wind in over 100 scenarios of future cost, resource potential, and policy scenarios.
- **Customer Energy Affordability studies for electric utilities (2020-ongoing).** Analyzed the impact of customer adoption decisions on electrified building appliances, EVs, rooftop solar, and behind-the-meter storage on customers' monthly energy costs. Also evaluated the impact of rate design and achievement of system-level GHG emissions reductions on customer energy costs and affordability.
- **Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) Renewable Energy Permitting Playbook (2024-Present).** Managing E3's assessment of key challenges and barriers that local jurisdictions in California are facing in the renewable energy permitting process and areas in which GO-Biz-provided resources can support these jurisdictions with the goal of accelerating permitting of these resources in the state. Managing outreach to local jurisdictions, developers, community groups, trade associations, and advocacy organizations throughout the state to develop an understanding of pain points and gather feedback on resources and best practices that can be provided in a Playbook to be published on GO-Biz's website.
- **Clean Air Task Force, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Assessment of Renewable Energy Siting and Permitting Policies (2023-2024).** Developed recommendations for renewable siting and permitting processes that can support deployment of renewable energy projects at scale while ensuring positive social and environmental impacts. Evaluated siting and

permitting policy and renewable development in eight states including California and conducted over a dozen interviews with key stakeholders involved in renewable energy siting and permitting.

- **PowerUpNYC Grid Readiness Evaluation (2022-2023).** Evaluated the ability for New York City's electric grid to accommodate incremental building and transportation electrification required to support New York City and New York State's climate targets. Citywide electrification forecasts were geospatially allocated at the distribution network level using E3 and Integral Analytics' Forecasting Anywhere model to assess interactions of incremental electrification with existing loads and grid infrastructure. Results from the grid readiness evaluation were used to inform near-term actions for the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice.
- **EV Infrastructure Assessment for California's Proposition 30 (2022).** Assessed the geospatial allocation of EV chargers throughout California at a census-tract level from Proposition 30 funding for EV chargers proposed in California's November 22 consolidated general election. The analysis used Forecasting Anywhere, a model developed in collaboration between E3 and Integral Analytics. Geospatial allocation results were used to assess Proposition 30's ability to fill the gap in EV infrastructure needed to support California's climate goals and to increase EV charger buildout in California's disadvantaged communities.
- **Xcel Energy Cost-Benefit Analysis of Proposed EV Programs (2022-2023).** Led a cost-benefit analysis of vehicle electrification in Xcel's Minnesota and Wisconsin service territories to understand the economic implications of proposed EV charging and school bus purchase programs on Xcel's Minnesota and Wisconsin drivers, ratepayers, and society as a whole. The cost-benefit analysis and written report supported the regulatory filing of Xcel's proposed EV programs.
- **Pacific Northwest RESOLVE for BPA study on the replacement of Lower Snake River dams (2022).** Led RESOLVE modeling to determine the value of the Lower Snake River dams under different clean energy policy, load growth, and emerging technology availability scenarios. RESOLVE modeling assessed the resources needed to replace the energy and reliability services provided by the dams and the costs associated with those resources.
- **Electrification Strategy for confidential North American electric utility (2021-ongoing).** Conducted a cost-benefit analysis of transportation electrification, including the electrification of light-duty vehicles, parcel trucks, and transit buses, in the utility's service territory. Findings from the transportation electrification cost-benefit analysis were evaluated alongside a building electrification analysis to create a comprehensive electrification strategy for the utility.
- **Black Hills Colorado Clean Energy Plan (2021-2022).** Led analysis in E3's RESOLVE capacity expansion model to assess the cost and reliability implications of options for long-term resource portfolios. Capacity expansion modeling results were used to inform the preferred resource portfolio in Black Hills' Clean Energy Plan.
- **California Public Utilities Commission Net Energy Metering (NEM) proceeding (2021).** Conducted a cost-effectiveness analysis of party proposals for reforms to California's NEM policy. The cost-effectiveness analysis informed the California Energy Commission's proposed decision on the state's NEM reform.
- **New York Power Authority Transit Bus Electrification Master Plan (2021).** Evaluated the cost implications of electrifying New York state's five largest transit agencies outside of New York City by 2035. Findings were used to inform electrification roadmaps for each transit agency.

- **EV load shape modeling for utilities and automakers (2019-present).** Developed electric vehicle (EV) charging profiles under different charge management strategies using E3's EV Load Shape Tool for a variety of utility and automaker clients. Charging profiles are used to understand implications of charge management strategies, electric rate designs, and technological innovations on additional load from EV charging.
- **Hawaiian Electric Company EV charging rates and DCFC program expansion regulatory filings (2021).** Conducted cost-benefit analyses to support HECO's filings for Hawaii Public Utilities Commission approval of EV-specific electric rates and public charging infrastructure programs.
- **California Public Utilities Commission Residential Energy Cost Calculator (2020-2021).** Worked to develop the Residential Energy Cost Calculator (RECC) as part of California's integrated resource planning (IRP) process. The RECC provides 10-year forecasts of customer energy bills and affordability metrics for two dozen types of households in California. The RECC will be used in the IRP process to assess implications of long-term planning decisions, such as emissions reduction targets, on residential customer energy costs and affordability. The RECC can also be used to compare the impacts of electrification and rate design on household energy costs.
- **Sacramento Municipal Utility District 2030 Zero Carbon Plan (2020-2021).** Utilized E3's RESOLVE capacity expansion tool to assess the resource build and cost implications of different scenarios that comply with SMUD's 2030 zero emissions goals. Sierra helped to identify optimal resource portfolios under different carbon accounting methodologies and technology availability scenarios.
- **Confidential renewable developer (2020).** Worked on a team that analyzed expected renewable resource needs in utilities throughout the US and coal plant operating data to make projections on coal plants with retirement dates likely to be accelerated. This information was useful to the client in identifying locations for renewable project development opportunities.
- **Confidential transit agency in US (2019).** Helped determine the most economic renewable energy procurement option to meet a large U.S. transit agency's long-term sustainability targets. Led development of load shapes for the transit agency's end uses and helped calculate the emissions and cost implications of different procurement strategies.

TRANSPORTATION SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH CENTER

Graduate Student Researcher

Berkeley, CA

August 2018 – August 2019

- Analyzed electric vehicle (EV) driver behavior and charging data from BMW's ChargeForward pilot program
- Assessed the effectiveness of BMW's optimizations of intra-locational charging sessions for producing economic and energy savings across different use cases

PRESIDENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Research Fellow

Swarthmore, PA

August 2017 – May 2018

- Researched logistical, cost, and sustainability components of biofuels as a replacement for natural gas in Swarthmore College's central heat plant
- Presented research findings and a pilot proposal for biofuel made from waste cooking oil, including to the President and two Vice Presidents of the College

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Swarthmore, PA

Student Researcher

November 2017 – May 2018

- Conducted a life-cycle assessment of a biofuel produced from waste cooking oil used in Swarthmore College's central heat plant
- Compared results of waste vegetable oil to those of natural gas to make recommendations for Swarthmore's heating fuel choice
- Presented results to key Swarthmore stakeholders and at ASME's 2018 IMECE Conference

CLIMATE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS GROUP

Cape Town, South Africa

Student Researcher

January 2017 – June 2017

- Conducted a study titled "The Implications of 1.5 Degrees Celsius Warming on Grapes in the Western Cape"
- Analyzed global climate model temperature data to find that global average warming of 1.5°C will be reached by 2030

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Swarthmore, PA

Student Researcher

June 2016 – August 2016

- Conducted an experiment to compare shower times of college dorm residents with regular versus low-flow showerheads
- Used the results of this experiment to persuade the College's Facilities to purchase low-flow showerheads for all dorm showers and personally changed 242 showerheads, saving 1 million gallons of water (60% of previous usage) per semester

THE PHILADELPHIA ZOO

Philadelphia, PA

Environmental Education and Animal Behavior Intern

May 2015 – August 2015

- Conducted research on the activity levels of Amur tigers and African lions based on weather and time of day to inform guests on optimal viewing conditions for these animals

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

M.S., Civil and Environmental Engineering (Energy, Civil Infrastructure, & Climate)

2019

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, PA

B.S., Engineering and B.A., Environmental Studies

2018

Publications

1. Olsen, A., Burdick, A., Zohrabian, A., Spencer, S., Kramer, S., Moore, J. "BPA Lower Snake River Dams Power Replacement Study," July 2022. <https://www.bpa.gov/-/media/Aep/power/hydropower-data-studies/e3-bpa-lower-snake-river-dams-power-replacement-study.pdf>.

2. Spencer, S., Fu, Z., Apostolaki-Iosifidou, E., Lipman, T. "Evaluating smart charging strategies using real-world data from optimized plugin electric vehicles," September 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2021.103023>.