

EDITH MAKRA

630-327-4193 – emakra@att.net – linkedin.com/in/edithmakra

SUMMARY

Weaves powerful coalitions to take effective climate action. Envisions and executes successful strategies that empower local governments to leverage their strengths for optimal climate solutions. Demonstrates effective leadership, innovation, and resourceful problem-solving.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Chicago, IL

Director of Environmental Initiatives, 2012 to present

Created the Greenest Region Compact (GRC), an innovative consensus sustainability program to enable communities of all sizes and strengths to take effective, strategic climate actions that are aligned with regional, state, and national priorities; and to optimize investment in a shared vision of resilient, thriving communities. Secure formal support for GRC goals from 159+ diverse municipalities, ***creating the largest regional municipal sustainability collaborative*** in the United States. Created the companion GRC Framework tool, enabling communities to easily plan, then accelerate actions to strengthen their communities, benefitting some 6.7 million diverse Chicago-area residents.

Foster regional collaboration to accelerate equitable sustainability. Addressing the decarbonization goals of the GRC, ***led the nation's largest cohort of communities to earn SolSmart*** designation for streamlining codes and policies, leading to as much as 24,500% growth in local solar development. Amplified this powerful policy approach to drive investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure by designing and securing \$810,000 to ***launch the EV Readiness Program*** and mentor 31 municipalities to become the first EV Ready Communities. ***Created and led the Greenest Region Corps*** in partnership with AmeriCorps to support sustainability planning and action in 16 municipalities including 5 environmental justice communities.

Empower diverse and inclusive municipal sustainability leadership by facilitating the Environment Committee and Energy Sub Committee and GRC collaborative. ***Cultivate partners*** from academia, philanthropy, civic groups, and state and federal government to ***support local government innovation***.

Mentor and inspire diverse, talented team members -- including mayors, sustainability practitioners, staff, and 30 Greenest Region Corps (AmeriCorps) members in a culture of inclusion that fosters individual and team success. Continually grow and ***diversify financial support to raise \$19,537,000*** to support sustainability initiatives through grants, contracts, and revenue from philanthropic, private, state, and federal sources. Demonstrate creative problem solving to manage organizational operations and change with integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Pioneered a regional approach to climate action and co-authored the Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region (CAP) that leverages the unique strengths and capabilities of local government. Collaborated with the European Union, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to demonstrate regional climate action planning as one of three pilot regions in the U.S. ***Led stakeholder engagement*** involving 125 organizations, and CAP development involving 51 advisors including climate scientists, policymakers, and community leaders. Co-authored the CAP with ambitious ***mitigation*** and sensible ***adaptation goals that are rooted in equity***. ***Authored the Priority Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region*** to position the region to compete for implementation funding through US EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants.

The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL
Community Trees Advocate, 2002 to 2011

Created and led the Community Trees Program to become influential and effective in nature-based climate action, raised \$2.9 million to support its work, and built a cohesive, high-functioning team.

Instigated emerald ash borer (EAB) planning in Illinois and led a cohesive, coordinated statewide response to this invasive pest threat; assembled agency and industry leaders into the *EAB Readiness Planning Team* and led them to quickly draft the *Illinois EAB Readiness Plan* which has been a model for 5 other states; and secured \$320,000 in public funds for research and education and \$1.1 million for municipal tree-planting grants.

Formed a new coalition, the Illinois EAB Wood Utilization Team, by convening natural-resource, wood product, and green building professionals and by securing \$240,000 to **champion utilization of felled ash trees**. Developed and implemented scientific methods to assess the urban wood resource and potential markets. Presented *Rising From Ashes*, a show of furniture built from reclaimed ash lumber to **demonstrate artistic circularity**.

Encouraged and supported some 300 local governments and diverse civic groups in becoming effective stewards of the urban forest through strategic advocacy, education, and communication. **Enthusiastically and comfortably communicated key messages** through frequent appearances on TV and radio, interaction with reporters, and presentations to diverse and expansive audiences – from donors to policymakers to activists and more. Actively studied constituent culture, resources, and limitations by listening intently, and by collaboratively working to strengthen their capacity to sustain urban forests and green infrastructure.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Boston, MA
Urban Forestry Coordinator, 1999 to 2002 and Mass ReLeaf Development Director, 1996 to 2001

Built coalitions and raised funds to support their success such as winning \$250,000 in the first-ever appropriation from the Massachusetts legislature and \$325,000 from the Department of Transportation for *Mass ReLeaf* tree-planting grants to local governments by advocating for robust urban forests.

City of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Director of Environmental Services, 1992 to 1993 and Special Assistant to the Mayor, 1989 to 1991

Launched Mayor Daley's GreenStreets program and led systemic civic changes to embrace supportive tree policies and help **institutionalize a sustainability ethic for the new city administration**. Established the first regular maintenance program for trees, reversed a policy that annually removed 10,000 healthy trees, and revised traffic safety designs to make space for trees on Lake Shore Drive, pioneering beautiful median planting in Chicago. Drafted a plan for increasing the city's urban forest by 500,000 trees through partnerships, policies, and public education.

Proposed the Chicago Urban Forest Climate Project to the US Forest Service to **study and quantify the effects of Chicago's urban forest on climate, energy conservation, and air quality**. Worked to secure a \$900,000 congressional appropriation for its implementation and facilitated community engagement for the federal research team. The project became the prototype for the *i-Tree* program that has since modeled green infrastructure benefits of urban forests in hundreds of cities worldwide and is cited in the book, *Urban Forests, a Natural History of Trees and People in the American Cityscape*, by Jill Jonnes.

AWARDS

Leadership Award- Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation
Sunny Award for Equitable Community Solar – US Department of Energy Office of Solar Energy Technologies
Public Recognition Award – American Society of Landscape Architect, Illinois Chapter
Strategic Plan Award – Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association
Notable Leader in Sustainability – Crain’s Chicago Business
Award for Excellence in Sustainability – American Planning Association Sustainable Communities Division
Climate Leadership Award, Innovative Partnership Certificate – Center for Climate and Energy Solutions & The Climate Registry
Partnership Award - Chicago Regional Trees Initiative
Chicago River Silver Ribbon Award – Friends of the Chicago River
SolSmart Innovation Award – International City/County Management Association
3i Award, State/Local Achievement of the Year – Interstate Renewable Energy Council
Exceptional Performance Award, Sustainability - American Public Works Association
Force of Nature Award – Chicago Wilderness
Illinois Governor’s Sustainability Award – for the Illinois Wood Utilization Team
Special Recognition – Illinois Arborist Association
TREE Award – Massachusetts Urban Forestry Council
Chicago’s Secret Power Elite – Inside Chicago magazine
Project Award – National Arbor Day Foundation
Gold Leaf Award – International Society of Arboriculture

SELECTED AFFILIATIONS

America in Bloom – Board Member and Fundraising Committee Chairman, 2012 – 2018
Climate Reality Project Leadership Corps – since 2017
Community Research on Climate and Urban Systems (Argonne National Lab) – Partner, since 2022
Illinois Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Readiness Planning Team – Founder and Chair, 2003 to 2006
Illinois EAB Wood Utilization Team – Founder and Chair, 2006 to 2016
Illinois Sustainable Technology Center – Advisory Group, member, since 2014
The Solar Foundation (now IREC) – Sol Smart Advisor, 2017-2018 and Technical Advisor, since 2022

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

Certified Climate Change Professional – Association of Climate Change Officers, 2023
International Society of Sustainability Professionals – Sustainability Excellence Professional, 2019
Executive Sustainability Leadership Certificate – Harvard University, 2017
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign – B.S. in Forestry, 1984

LANGUAGES

English, native speaker; **Hungarian**, conversational

PUBLICATIONS

2021 Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and NOAA, 2021
EV Readiness Checklist, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, 2022
Greenest Region Compact and GRC Framework, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, 2016
The Role of Our Urban Forest in Chicago Metropolitan Region’s Future, CMAP, 2010



Zac Adelman has been the Executive Director of LADCO since September 2017. He works at the interface of air quality modeling, ambient monitoring, and air quality planning. Before joining LADCO, he worked for 15 years as an air quality researcher and project manager at the University of North Carolina.

Zac holds degrees from the UNC Dept of Environmental Sciences and Engineering. He is an atmospheric scientist with expertise in air pollution modeling and ozone chemistry.



A few of Zac's interests include improving the representation of emissions sources in air quality models; long-range transport of air pollution; streamlining the analysis and distribution of big data and developing effective approaches for teaching the practice of air quality modeling, data analysis, and air quality planning.

Education

M.S., Environmental Science, University of North Carolina, 1999

Carolina Business Institute, Summer 1997

B.S.P.H., Environmental Science, University of North Carolina, 1997

Professional Experience

September 2017 – Present: Executive Director of The Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium

2002 – 2017: Senior Research Associate at the Center for Environmental Modeling for Policy Development, University of North Carolina Institute for the Environment

1999 – 2002: Environmental Scientist at the North Carolina Supercomputing Center, Microelectronics Center of North Carolina, Research Triangle Park, NC

Affiliations

American Geophysical Union

Air & Waste Management Association

Interests

Emissions and air quality modeling

Long-range transport of air pollution
Multi-pollutant cost-benefit analysis
Data visualization
Science communication and education

Publications

Zhang, Yuqiang, J. H. Bowden, Z. Adelman, V. Naik, L. W. Horowitz, S. J. Smith, J.J. West, 2016: Co-benefits of global and regional greenhouse gas mitigation on U.S. air quality in 2050. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, 16, 9533-9548.

Silva, R.A., Z. Adelman, M. Fry, J. West, 2016: The impact of individual anthropogenic emissions sectors on the global burden of human mortality due to ambient air pollution. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 124: 1776-1784.

Ran, L., Loughlin, D. H., Yang, D., Adelman, Z., Baek, B. H., Nolte, C. G., 2015: ESP v2.0: enhanced method for exploring emission impacts of future scenarios in the United States – addressing spatial allocation, *Geosci. Model Dev.*, 8, 1775-1787.

West, J.J., S. Smith, R. Silva, V. Naik, Y. Zhang, Z. Adelman, M.M. Fry, S. Anenberg, L.W. Horowitz, J-F. Lamarque (2013) Co-Benefits of Mitigating Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions for Future Air Quality and Human Health, *Nature Climate Change*, 3, 885-889, doi:10.1038/nccclimate2009.

Fry, M. M., M. D. Schwarzkopf, Z. Adelman, and J. J. West (2014) Air quality and radiative forcing impacts of volatile organic compound emissions from ten world regions, *Atmospheric Chemistry & Physics*, 14, 523-535, doi: 10.5194/acpd-14-523-2014

Fry, M.M., M.D. Schwarzkopf, Z. Adelman, V. Naik, W.J. Collins, J.J West (2013) Net Radiative Forcing and Air Quality Responses to Regional CO Emissions Reductions, *Atm. Chem. Phys.*, 13, 5381-5399, doi:10.5194/acp-13-5381-2013.

Aneja, V. P., A. Aiyyer, A. Hanna, U. Shankar, Z. Adelman, S. Arunachalam, S. T. Rao, R. Mathur, J.D. Mobley, V. Ramaswamy, V.M. Krishna, V. Manickam, M.P. Singh, J. Biswas and E. Upadhyay (2012) U.S.-India Collaboration on Air Quality and Climate Research and Education, *Environmental Manager*, Publication Date (Web): 01 Mar 2012.

Woody, M., Baek, B.H., Adelman, Z., Omary, M., Lam, Y-F., West, J.J., Arunachalam, S. 2011. An Assessment of Aviation's Contribution to Current and Future Fine Particulate Matter in the United States, *Atmospheric Environment*, 45(20):3424-3433.

Rodriguez, M.A., M.G. Barna, K.A. Gephart, J.L. Hand, Z.E. Adelman, B.A. Schichtel, J.L. Collett, W.C. Malm, 2011: Modeling the Fate of Atmospheric Reduced Nitrogen During the Rocky Mountain Atmospheric Nitrogen and Sulfur Study (RoMANS): Performance Evaluation and Diagnosis Using Integrated Process Rate Analysis. *Atmospheric Environment*, 45, 223-234.

Binkowski, F.S., S. Arunachalam, Z. Adelman, and J.P. Pinto, 2007: Examining Photolysis Rates with a Prototype Online Photolysis Module in CMAQ. *J. Appl. Meteor. Climatol.*, 46, 1252–1256

Presentations

Shankar, U., D. McKenzie, J. H. Bowden, K. Talgo, L. Ran, B.H. Baek, Z. Adelman, A. Xiu, M. Omary, E. A. Adams, and D. Yang, 2015: Reconciling scales for modeling the effects of climate change on wildfire. *Presented at the American Geophysical Union 2015 Joint Assembly*, Montreal, Canada, May 3-7, 2015.

Adelman Z., et al., “Recent updates to spatial surrogates for modeling U.S. emissions sources”, *Presented at the 21st International Emission Inventory Conference*, April 14-16, 2015 – San Diego, CA.

Adelman, Z., Omary, M., Yang, D., “Air Pollutant Emissions Modeling and Analysis for the Three-State Air Quality Study”, *Presented at the 21st International Emission Inventory Conference*, April 14-16, 2015 – San Diego, CA.

De Souza, L., Z. Adelman, N.O. Moraes, R.M. Da Silva, L. Landau, L. Pimentel, 2011: Initial Application of the MM5-MEGAN-SMOKE-CMAQ System for Simulating Air Quality in Brazil, *Presented at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting*, San Francisco, CA., December 2011.

Adelman, Z., M. Fry, J.J West, P. Dolwick, C. Jang, 2011: Background Air Quality in the United States Under Current and Future Emissions Scenarios, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Fry, M., Z. Adelman, J.J West, P. Dolwick, C. Jang, 2011: Global and regional air quality responses to regional CO and NMVOC reductions, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Adelman, Z., J. Boylan, M. Omary, Q. He, J. Zhao, D. Yang, 2011: A Detailed Approach for Improving Continuous Emissions Monitoring Data for Regulatory Air Quality Modeling, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Silva, R., Z. Adelman, M. Fry, S. Anenberg, J.J. West, 2011: The contribution of anthropogenic emissions sectors to the global burden of human mortality due to ozone and particulate matter air pollution, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Werner, C., B.H. Baek, M. Omary, Z. Adelman, S. Arunachalam, J.J. West, 2011: U.S. Air Quality Impacts of Nationwide Extension of the California Air Resources Board (CARB) In-Use Off-road Diesel Vehicle Regulations, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Xiu, A., Z. Adelman, F. Binkowski, A. Hanna, R. Mathur, J. Pleim, D. Wong. 2011: Comparison of the CAM and RRTMG radiation schemes and their impacts on air quality and regional climate applications, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Boulton, W., J. Lundgren, R. Barrowcliffe, M. Gauthier, Z. Adelman, S. Arunachalam, A. Xiu, M. Omary, 2011: Impacts of Proposed Oil Exploration on Near Surface Ozone Concentration in the Caspian Sea Region, *Presented at the 10th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC., October 2011.

Adelman, Z., G. Arora, B.H. Baek, M. Houyoux, A. Eyth, M. Strum, 2010: Development and Preliminary Results for a Residential Wood Combustion Emissions Model, *Presented at the 19th International Emissions Inventory Conference*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Sept. 27-30, 2010, San Antonio, TX.

Adelman Z., 2009: Overview of Meteorology, Emissions, and Air Quality Modeling. Presented at the 3rd *International Engineering Seminar*, National University of Colombia, June 16 – July 10, 2009, Bogota, Colombia.

Arunachalam, S., U. Shankar, Z. Adelman, A. Xiu, N. Davis, L. Adams, B. Wang, M. Yoshitomi, and A. Hanna (2009a): Multipollutant Modeling for the Middle East – An Initial Assessment of Outdoor Air Quality in the U.A.E., *Presented at the 9th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC, October 2009.

Arunachalam, S., M. Woody, B.H. Baek, Z. Adelman, M. Omary, S. Wu and Y.F. Lam (2009c): An Investigation of the Impacts of Aviation Emissions on Future Air Quality, *Presented at the 9th Annual CMAS Conference*, Chapel Hill, NC, October 2009.

Silva De Souza, L., Adelman, Z., Landau, L., Pimentel, L., 2009: Creating an Emissions Modeling Framework for Studying Air Quality in Brazil with the System MM5-SMOKE-CMAQ: The Scenario of Different Datasets. Presented at the 2009 *GEIA-ACCENT Open Conference*, October 26-28, 2009, Oslo, Norway.

Adelman Z, M. Omary, L. Ran, U. Shankar, D. Streets, 2009: Developing Emissions for Multipollutant Air Quality Modeling in the Middle East. Presented at the 18th *International Emissions Inventory Conference*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, April 14-16, 2009., Baltimore, MD.

Adelman, Z., L. Ran, A. Zubrow, and T. Sfetsos, 2008: Converting Gridded Inventories to ORL Format for Processing with SMOKE. Presented at the 17th *International Emissions Inventory Conference*, United

States Environmental Protection Agency, June 2-5, 2008, Portland, OR.

Adelman, Z., C. Seppanen, and F. Binkowski, 2005: Modeling In-Flight Aircraft Emissions. Presented at the 14th *International Emissions Inventory Conference*, United States Environmental Protection Agency, April 11-14, 2005, Las Vegas, NV.

Adelman, Z. Emissions Modeling Quality Assurance Protocol, *Presented at and in Proceedings of the 13th Annual Emissions Inventory Conference: Clean Air in Clearwater*, Clearwater Beach, FL, June, 2004.

Adelman, Z., R. Imhoff, A. Hanna, M. Houyoux, A. Eyth, R. Mathur, K. Hanisak. The Community Modeling and Analysis System (CMAS) Center as a Resource for Supporting Models-3. *Presented at The 13th Annual Emissions Inventory Conference: Applying New Technologies*, San Diego, CA, April, 2003.

Arunachalam, S., Z. Adelman, R. Mathur, and J. Vukovich. The Impacts of Biogenic Emissions Estimates from BEIS-3 on Ozone Modeling in the Southeastern US, *In Proceedings of the 11th Annual Emissions Inventory Conference: Emission Inventories – Partnering for the Future*, Atlanta, GA, April 2002.

Arunachalam, S., Z. Adelman, K. Hanisak, A. Holland, and R. Mathur. Estimating Future-Year Ozone Design Values with Two Regional-Scale Modeling Systems in North Carolina, *In Proceedings of the 95th Annual Meeting of the Air and Waste Management Association*, Baltimore, MD, June 2002.

Arunachalam, S., Z. Adelman, R. Mathur, D. Olerud, Jr., and A. Holland. A Comparison of the Models-3/CMAQ and MAQSIP Modeling Systems for Ozone Modeling in North Carolina, *In Proceedings of the 94th Annual Meeting of the Air and Waste Management Association*, Orlando, FL, June 2001.

Adelman, Z. and M. Houyoux. Processing the National Emissions Inventory 96 (NEI96) version 3.11 with SMOKE. *Presented at the Emission Inventory Conference: One Atmosphere, One Inventory, Many Challenges*, Denver, CO, May, 2001

Houyoux, M. R. and Z. Adelman. Quality Assurance Enhancements to the SMOKE Modeling System. *Presented at The Emission Inventory Conference: One Atmosphere, One Inventory, Many Challenges*, Denver, CO, May, 2001.

Scott Grams

Scott Grams has served as the Executive Director of the [Illinois Landscape Contractors Association \(ILCA\)](#) since 2008. ILCA is the leading non-profit trade association for landscape, lawn care, nursery, and allied trades professionals in Illinois. Since 1959, ILCA has provided landscape contractors with the resources needed to enhance their performance and ensure continued growth and success. The Association's mission is to enhance the professionalism and expertise of members by providing leadership, education, representation, and services while advancing environmental awareness and the value of the landscape industry. ILCA employs a wide variety of means to fulfill its mission including; seminars, workshops, publications, trade shows, awards, networking, scholarship grants and social events. ILCA is based in Oak Brook, IL. Scott has been involved in trade association management for his entire career. He graduated from Purdue University and holds a Master's Degree from Northwestern University.



JOY M. HINZ

PROFILE

Environmental professional with extensive experience across multiple disciplines including; regulatory, legislative, recycling, sustainability and grant management. Consistently works with other stakeholders to develop goals, identify resources and implement actions that support environmental protection.

EXPERIENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS MANAGER — 2000-PRESENT
DUPAGE COUNTY, WHEATON, IL

General responsibilities - Under DuPage County's Delegation Agreement, conduct non-hazardous waste inspections for the Illinois EPA. Issue notices of violation and oversee the site's remediation and compliance, when applicable. Advise and support internal and external departments in varying areas of sustainability. Develop and implement strategic planning for the county's environmental initiatives. Manage appropriate projects within waste, energy efficiency and recycling including the \$4.6 million ARRA Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant for DuPage County 2009-2012. Plan and oversee recycling events, electronics and textile recycling programs and household hazardous waste events. Coordinate initiatives with other stakeholders including; utilities, nonprofits and other local governments. Draft and implement DuPage County's Solid Waste Management Plan Five-Year Updates as required. Manage the Environmental Division and oversee the County's Environmental Education Agreement, Regional HHW Intergovernmental Agreement and other contractual services as needed.

Policy responsibilities - Serve as staff liaison to County Board's Environmental Committee. Review legislation and provide input and impacts. Develop recommendations for policies and programs that protect the environment.

Budget responsibilities - Complete annual IEPA financial assistance budget and reimbursement documents. Annually draft and oversee the Environmental Division budget.

WASTE ANALYST, WILL COUNTY; JOLIET, IL — 1996-2000

Certified delegated inspector for the Illinois EPA. Conducted inspections and non-hazardous waste permitted and unpermitted facilities. Determined compliance and when necessary, managed the enforcement. Provided input on permit applications upon request. Planned and oversaw household hazardous waste collection events, as needed.

EDUCATION

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY; MT. PLEASANT, MI — B.S. ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES & CONSERVATION, DEC. 1995

CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

40-Hour HAZWOPER; SWANA IL Chapter At-Large Member; DuPage Local Emergency Planning Committee Member; IL Recycling Foundation & IL Food Scrap Coalition Member

Neil C. James

913 Westchester Boulevard, Westchester, Illinois 60154 Phone: 708-275-3572 Email: njames913@aol.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ▶ **Compassionate Leader and Motivator.** Provide innovative management and support that galvanizes team members to sustain the organization's mission and goals.
- ▶ **Visionary Leader.** Adept at forecasting, quality assurance, and strategic planning.
- ▶ **Goal Driven, Dependable, and Accountable Professional.** Noted for nearly 25 years of professional excellence in team building, leadership development, project execution and completion, and member care and satisfaction.
- ▶ **Creative and Innovative.** Able to create and implement ideas to improve and bring success to organizational goals.
- ▶ **Strong Communication and Organizational Skills.** A proven track record of collaborative communication to varying audiences, industries, and all management levels.
- ▶ **Agile and Adaptable Manager.** Able to adjust to, and manage, high volume work environments without diminishing efficiency.
- ▶ **Policy Implementer.** Analytical adept at policy development and implementation.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Leadership & Team Development ◆ Relationship Building ◆ Organizational Development ◆ Member Relations ◆ Communications and Public Relations ◆ Diversity Awareness ◆ Administration ◆ Team Building ◆ Policy

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Executive Director

2022 - Present

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Chicago, Illinois

- Guiding advocacy efforts and providing support while building consensus within the 275 MMC member communities to continue a record of regional collaboration.
- Working closely with metropolitan area local government structure and understanding the operations of legislative and regulatory affairs; thereby leveraging resources that will enhance the work of the MMC and its members by working and building relationships with state and federal officials to effectively advocate on behalf of MMC legislative efforts.
- Communicating effectively with state and local regional organizations to build alliances that advance and implement MMC initiatives, goals, and objectives.
- Identifying and seeking additional revenue streams to support MMC current and future initiatives.
- Maximizing regional efforts and partnerships of MMC members.

Executive Director

2015 - 2022

West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, River Grove, Illinois

- Manage, plan and provide for the efficient and environmentally sound collection, transportation, processing, treatment, storage, disposal, recovery and reuse of 35 municipal member's waste.
- Manage a \$2.5 million operating budget and the recruiting, hiring, and supervising of all Agency personnel.
- Implementing and ensuring the successful operation of all Agency programs, such as the Regional Disposal Project and Keep West Cook County Beautiful.
- Overseeing the Legislative Program and assist the Board in formulation of Agency policy and execute same at their direction.
- Communicating with the membership through preparation of agendas, reports, and briefings.
- Representing the Agency before various state, regional, municipal, and other organizations.
- Fostering cooperation among the Agency membership and with other units of local government, a climate suitable for positive intergovernmental cooperation.

Deputy Director**2002 – 2015***West Central Municipal Conference and West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, River Grove, Illinois*

- Assist in the management activities and services of a multi-jurisdictional regional council of governments and the regional solid waste agency by coordinating the interests of 51 member cities, villages, and townships.
- Independent, goal directed, and able to visualize, organize and implement approaches to problem solving.
- Assist the Executive Director in numerous duties which included: recruiting, hiring, and supervising of all Conference and Agency personnel.
- Implementing and insuring the successful operation of all Conference and Agency programs
- Overseeing the Legislative Program and assists the Board in formulation of Conference and Agency policy and executes same at their direction.
- Managed the Intergovernmental Committee of WCMC Managers and Administrators.
- Communicating with the membership through preparation of agendas, reports, and briefings.
- Representing the Conference and Agency before various state, regional, municipal, and other organizations.
- Fostering cooperation among the Conference and Agency membership and with other units of local government, a climate suitable for positive intergovernmental cooperation.
- Acting as the Executive Director in their absence.

Policy Analyst**1999 – 2015***West Central Municipal Conference and West Cook County Solid Waste Agency, River Grove, Illinois*

- Performs analysis and administration of public policy issues.
- Responsible for the professional management of the activities of the WCMC Intergovernmental, Legislative, Building and Codes, Homeland Security and Public Safety Committees.
- Provides staff support to member communities, performs research functions, and assists in implementing new member services.
- Implementing and insuring the successful operation of all Conference and Agency programs.
- A thorough knowledge of Illinois legislative and local government matters with the ability to manage multiple projects.
- Able to effectively communicate with numerous local governments, legislators, and other organizations.

Issue Development and Program Specialist**1992 – 1998***Illinois House of Representatives, Office of the Speaker, Chicago and Springfield, Illinois*

- Senior Staff to the Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives.
- Assisted numerous members of the Illinois House with various legislative duties that included researching and drafting legislation that had a direct impact on statewide and local issues.
- Analyzed and tracked legislation that was introduced in various Legislative Committees.
- Created and developed newsletters, press releases and speeches. Camera Training and Field Production.
- Experienced in various areas of administrative theory and behavior as well as exposure to all fields of legislative government.
- Ability to work independently and with civic organizations to develop grass roots support for legislation.

PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS & DEVELOPMENT

Chicago Area Public Affairs Group (Member)

Association Forum of Chicagoland (Member and Founding Diversity Committee Member)

Solid Waste Association of North America, Land of Lincoln Chapter (Board Member)

Illinois Recycling Foundation (Member)

National Forum for Black Public Administrators (Member)

Illinois Task Force on Reducing Recycling Contamination (Co-Chair)
Keep Illinois Beautiful (Secretary/Treasurer)
Illinois Counties Solid Waste Association (Member)
Registered State of Illinois Lobbyist (Since 1999)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

West Suburban Chamber of Commerce (Former Board Member and Legislative Committee Chair)
Community Memorial Foundation (Former Executive Board Secretary and Grants Committee Chair)
Village of Westchester Plan and Zoning Commission (Chair)
Westchester Girls Softball (Former Coach)

EDUCATION

Roosevelt University

1992

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
Minor: Chemistry, History
Post Graduate Studies in Public Policy, Leadership and Diversity

Mark Janssen

Emissions Director/System Administrator

P: 847-720-7882

@: janssen@ladco.org

Mark Janssen has been the Emissions Director at LADCO for over 25 years. He helped implement the first emissions models at LADCO for the LMOS project and was a lead emissions inventory developer for the Ozone Transport Assessment Group(OTAG) and Regional Haze process. He currently leads the Marine and Rail groups of the inventory 2016 Emissions Inventory Collaborative. He received his BS in Geography from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

Education

BS Geography – University of Wisconsin – Madison

Professional Experience

February 1991 – August 1993 – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

August 1993 – Present Emissions Director, LADCO

Affiliations

Air & Waste Management Association

Interests

- Emissions Modeling
- Freight impacts on air quality
- Onroad motor vehicle emissions
- Linux administration and Amazon Web Services for scientific computing
- Electric Utility Emissions controls and projection
- Emissions and Air Quality Mapping and visualization

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (U of I) – Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC)
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (U of I) – Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS)

1995 – Present
2019 - Present

February 2018 – Present

Associate Director – Technical Assistance Program

ISTC and ISWS are Divisions of the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois. ISTC is an environmental research, technical and compliance assistance agency focusing on assisting businesses and citizens in the implementation of pollution prevention and sustainable business practices. The Lake Michigan Coastal Management Program (LM-CMP) provides guidance, technical support in order to protect and enhance natural, cultural and historical coastal resources, and to foster coordination and partnerships among local, state and federal agencies, and local organizations.

Ms. Jacobson's responsibilities include:

- Leading strategy and direction of services provided by the Technical Assistance Program, and the PRI Coastal Management Program;
- Managing and directing professional and technical staff;
- Collaborating with other units of the Prairie Research Institute and U of I at large;
- Providing technical and environmental compliance assistance to entities subject to significant environmental regulation;
- Identification of site-specific regulatory compliance issues and assistance with implementation of projects to reduce waste and pollutant profiles;
- Coordinating with state and local regulatory agencies and special interest groups;
- Managing the development of environmental and safety compliance records, reports, and permitting documents;
- Managing the development of manuals, fact sheets, and case studies on environmental and safety compliance requirements, many of which are regionally and nationally distributed as precedent;
- Coordination of teams of professionals in the development of technical, environmental and safety compliance and pollution prevention resources and training materials;
- Managing the development of specialized web sites that provide resources on sustainability, environmental and technical issues;
- Managing ongoing grant-funded projects including regional and national technical and outreach programs;
- Coordination of communications with project and program contacts;

2018 – Present	Associate Director – ISTC Technical Assistance and Outreach Program
2017 – 2020	Prairie Research Institute Fellow
2012 – 2018	Senior Operations Manager – Technical Assistance Program
2008 – 2012	Regional Operations Manager – Technical Assistance Program
1999 – 2008	Environmental Engineer & Executive Director – Great Lakes Regional Pollution Prevention Roundtable
1999 – 2015	Environmental Engineer & Director – Printer's National Environmental Assistance Center
1995 – 1999	Environmental Engineer & Program Manager - Printer's National Environmental Assistance Center

8/2017 – 1/2020

Prairie Research Institute Fellow – University of Illinois – Prairie Research Institute (PRI)

In July 2019 PRI established the Institute's Fellows Program to develop a pool of talented and well-prepared leaders at all levels. The Fellows Program is designed to both develop and leverage leadership and administrative skills. Fellows participate in mentoring and learning opportunities; collaborate with colleagues in the U of I PRI Office of the Executive Director, Office of Vice Chancellor for Research, and other academic and administrative offices across campus; and assume leadership roles on critical PRI strategic initiatives and projects. Ms. Jacobson was among five professionals from the PRI Scientific Surveys to assess the resources, services and talents within the Institute, and to help identify and pursue strategic relationships and initiatives of importance to the Institute in order to leverage existing assets and to expand and grow the organization as well as increase awareness and utilization of the organization.

1993 - 1995

Environmental Manager - Dopaco, Inc.

Dopaco, now owned by Pactiv Corp., is the world's largest printer/manufacturer of paperboard packaging for the quick food service industry. Responsibilities included:

- Managing environmental compliance issues throughout the Illinois manufacturing facilities. This included managing all EPA permit compliance requirements and OSHA compliance issues. Other responsibilities included coordinating communication between local and state regulatory reporting and emergency agencies, i.e., fire department, police department, LEPC, IEPA, etc.

1992 - 1993

Assistant to the Chicago Branch Manager - Resolution Trust Corporation (Chicago Region)

RTC resolved insolvent Savings and Loans (largest real estate corporation worldwide - over \$400 billion in assets).

Coordinated operations status reports covering both real estate assets and personnel.

1991 – 1993

Technical Research/Marketing Support/Office Manager - Geological and Water Resources Consultants, Inc.

Conducted research on water filtration products and evaluated performance variances in targeted contaminant removal.

1991 – 1992

Research Assistant - Northeastern Illinois University - Professor Musa Qutub, Ph.D.

Education

Masters Degree in Business Administration & Project Management Certificate, Keller Graduate School of Management

Bachelor Degree in Environmental Science, Northeastern Illinois University

Special Training & Certifications

HAZMAT 40 Hour Emergency Response, HAZMAT 8 Hour Refresher

DOT Compliance Training

Statistical Process Control Management

Lock Out Tag Out

ISO 14000 Basics

Industrial Process Mapping

Metal Finishing Technology

Metals Joining Training

OSHA 40 Hour Construction Standards Training - OSHA Institute

OSHA Machine Guarding Training - OSHA Institute

EPA Toxic Release Inventory Management & Reporting – U.S. EPA

Certified Sustainable Green Printer Auditor – Sustainable Green Printing Partnership (SGP)

Certified Sustainability Practitioner – Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment (IEMA) Approved

Certified ISO 14000-2015 Lead Auditor

Human Resources for Supervisors and Managers Certificate – University of Illinois

Leadership Mastery Certificate - Parkland College Business Training & Community Education

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in the Work Place Certificate – University of South Florida

Honors & Awards

Perry Fisher Award for Distinguished Service to the Air & Waste Management Association – Lake Michigan Section (2009)

Distinguished Environmental Professional – Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group (2022)

Outstanding Collaboration Award – Prairie Research Institute (2023)

Professional Organizations

Air & Waste Management Association Lake Michigan State Section – Member since 1992

Chairman of the Board 2001-2002

Board of Directors 1997 – 2002, 2007 – present

IL Counties Solid Waste Management Association

National Pollution Prevention Roundtable

Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group

Illinois Recycling Association

City Club of Chicago

Illinois Association of Environmental Professionals

Publications:

D. Jacobson, D. Kraybill (2000). Illinois Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Manual

E. Aloia, D. Jacobson, T. Wallin. (1997) Illinois Environmental Compliance Guide for Printers

S. Hemingway, D. Jacobson, N. Singelis (2008) EPA Storm Water Regulatory Compliance Guide

D. Jacobson, D. Monteleone (2004) Environmental Compliance in the Flexographic Printing Plant – Virtual Plant

R. Hartwig, D. Jacobson, G. Jones (2005) Environmental Compliance in the Lithographic Printing Plant – Virtual Plants

D. Jacobson, D. Monteleone (2002) Flexographic Printing Environmental Compliance Guide

D. Jacobson (2012) US DOT Site Security Plan Fact Sheet

D. Jacobson (2005) Environmental Compliance in Digital Printing Fact Sheet

D. Jacobson (1998) Environmental Compliance in Gravure Printing Fact Sheet

D. Jacobson (2001) Environmental Compliance Issues for Lithographic Printers

D. Jacobson (2005) EPA Emergency Planning & Community Right To Know Reporting Requirements Fact Sheet

D. Jacobson (2005) EPA Universal Waste Compliance Fact Sheet

D. Jacobson (2005) EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Compliance at Printing Facilities

D. Jacobson (2004) PCB's and DEH in Lighting Ballasts Compliance Fact Sheet

S. Feher, D. Jacobson, J. Richardson, J. Turner (2020) Illinois Salvage Yard Environmental Guidebook & Self Audit Checklist

CHERYL SCOTT

442 Itasca St., Wood Dale, IL 60191 | 708-203-6765 | cscott@mayorscaucus.org | [linkedin.com/in/scottcheryla](https://www.linkedin.com/in/scottcheryla)

EXPERIENCE

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Chicago, IL

Sept 2020–Present

SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST

- Launch and help run nation's first [EV Readiness Program](#), after convening 70 advisors to prepare program
- Provide technical assistance to cohort communities in EV Readiness Program, which led to 12 graduating so far
- Research, prepare materials and presentations for EV Readiness Program cohort and other meetings
- Deliver presentations, serve on national [Charging Smart Program](#) Advisory Council
- Plan quarterly building energy efficiency meetings, which prepare communities to adopt stretch code, BPS
- Help to launch 70-student Energy Academy class for governments, manage meetings, create and update [webpage](#)
- Create communications toolkit materials and assist with project management for [residential energy initiative](#)
- Help plan and coordinate monthly Environment Committee meetings, conduct outreach to keep attendance high
- Manage inquiries, documents from communities participating in the Caucus' residential community solar program

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Chicago, IL

Oct 2019–Sept 2020

GREENEST REGION CORPS (GRCORPS) MEMBER

- Created an EV Readiness Checklist with Caucus team to prepare communities for the future increase in EVs, EVSEs
- Coordinated 17 listening sessions in the region to gather input from stakeholders for EV Readiness Checklist
- Wrote and designed content for webpages in WordPress and newsletters in Constant Contact
- Participated in biweekly racial equity discussion meetings, which helped to shape inclusive policies

Green Community Connections/One Earth Film Fest, Oak Park, IL

Aug 2017–March 2020

WRITER/COPY EDITOR/MARKETING TEAM

- Wrote articles, took pictures, edited content, and shot video on sustainability topics for monthly e-newsletter
- Assisted with social media strategy, campaign management and content creation for environmental film fest

Village of River Forest, River Forest, IL

Oct 2015–March 2019

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

- Assisted Finance Director with preparation of the annual financial report, budget and tax levy
- Created and frequently updated easy-to-understand training guides for staff on finance procedures

Village of Frankfort, Frankfort, IL

Dec 2010–Oct 2015

ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR

- Assisted in budget and annual financial report preparation by compiling information and statistics, writing content
- Evaluated backflow prevention device program in grad school capstone project to ensure clean water in Village
- Conducted research, analyzed data and wrote reports on a variety of government topics, presented at meetings

Beloit Daily News, Beloit, WI

Dec 2006–July 2009

COPY EDITOR/DESIGNER/REPORTER

- Wrote articles and shot photos for local government, news and features stories
- Copy-edited and designed news pages, the features section and special sections

EDUCATION

Northern Illinois University

Dec 2012

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

CHRISTINA SEIBERT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SOLID WASTE AGENCY OF NORTHERN COOK COUNTY

P 847.243.4710

E christina@swancc.org

A Wheeling, Illinois

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Expert in solid waste planning, data analysis, and program implementation in Illinois and across the U.S. Leader in achieving cost-effective, environmentally sound management of waste and recoverable resources. Collaborative team member advancing solid waste, recycling, and waste reduction policy.

EXPERIENCE

Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC)

Executive Director

January 2022 - Present

Aptim Environmental & Infrastructure, LLC

Senior Project Manager / Solid Waste Planner

February 2001 - January 2022

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANS / STRATEGIC PLANS

- More than 20 plans completed on behalf of units of government and private waste companies, including SWANCC's 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Update
- Regulatorily-required plans / plan updates and self-driven strategy development, including components such as:
 - Analyses of waste flows, management methods, material stream composition, and quantities
 - Market analysis to identify service providers and/or competitors, available capacity and material outlets, and contracting practices
 - Cost analyses considering capital investments, resource and staffing requirements, annual and life-cycle operational costs, and funding alternatives
 - Near-term and long-term strategies and recommendations

REGULATORY & LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT

- Core team member contributing to drafting and advancement of the Illinois Packaging and Paper Products Stewardship Act, including its revision and passage as the Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Act (SB1555 / PA103-0383)

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

August 1997 - December 2000

B.S., Environmental Science

KEY SKILLS

- Solid waste planning
- Regulatory and legislative support
- Public agency coordination
- Public outreach, education, and engagement
- Team / personnel management
- Operations, budgeting, and financial management
- Procurement

LEADERSHIP ROLES

- Statewide Recycling Needs Assessment Advisory Council chair, 2024-Present
- SWANA Land of Lincoln Chapter Board Member, 2005-Present; current Vice President
- Illinois Electronics Recycling Task Force chair, 2022-Present
- Illinois Recycling Contamination Solutions Task Force co-chair, 2022-Present

- Lead author of the Portable and Medium Format Batteries Stewardship Act introduced in 2024 and pending passage (SB3686 / HB5348)
- Contributor to the Illinois Material Management Advisory Committee (MMAC) as an ad-hoc member of the Local Government Subcommittee, including development of revised solid waste management plan update format elements and feedback to waste generation and facility development / needs analyses elements of the report to the Illinois General Assembly
- White papers and legislative analyses related to proposed legislation and policy for initiatives including flow control, electronics waste management, facility inspections and fee programs, and facility development limitations

COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF & ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Consultation and collaboration with public works, environmental management, municipal manager, and related department staff for execution of consulting and planning engagements
- Reporting to departmental staff and municipal managers to communicate project status, obtain project input and feedback, and develop implementation strategies
- Leader of visioning workshops, update presentations, and presentations of final plans and implementation strategies to appointed commissions, public works and environmental committees, and city councils / county boards
- Expert at presenting technical information to diverse audiences in a manner and at a level appropriate for their understanding, including through written and oral means

PUBLIC OUTREACH, EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT

- Stakeholder and advisory group leadership to build consensus as part of nearly every planning engagement, including advisory groups comprised of 10-60+ stakeholders
- Author of local and national waste-related training for recycling coordinators, solid waste staff, and other industry professionals
- Lead instructor to more than 300 professionals on recycling, integrated waste management, and zero waste topics

WASTE DIVERSION PLANNING & PROGRAMMING

- Analyses of waste diversion alternatives, including emerging technologies (gasification / pyrolysis / waste-to-fuel), traditional recycling and composting options, anaerobic digestion, and mixed waste processing for public and private sector clients
- Evaluation of diversion performance to document progress towards high diversion and zero waste goals

CERTIFICATIONS

- TRUE Advisor, Green Building Council International
- SWANA, Zero Waste Principles & Practices (certified & faculty)
- SWANA, Managing Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems (certified, principal author & faculty)

KEY COLLEAGUES & RELATIONSHIPS

- Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)
- Kane County, Illinois
- DuPage County, Illinois
- Cook County, Illinois
- City of Chicago, Illinois
- Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Association
- Illinois Recycling Foundation
- City of Ann Arbor, Michigan
- City of Austin / Austin Resource Recovery, Texas
- City of Indianapolis, Indiana
- Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO)
- Los Angeles Department of Sanitation
- City of Boulder, Colorado
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)
- Waste Connections / Groot Industries
- GFL Environmental
- Republic Services
- LRS

PERSONNEL & TEAM MANAGEMENT

- Responsible for staff management, oversight, training, and work product review for project staff ranging from 1 to 8+ personnel depending on project needs
- Direct oversight and training of junior solid waste planning staff
- Leadership and management of multi-disciplined teams of engineers, geologists, land use planners, traffic consultants, economists, facilitators, and attorneys

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

- Planning for landfills, transfer stations, recycling facilities, compost facilities, HHW facilities
- Regulatory and permitting analyses and support, including local zoning, local siting, and state environmental agencies
- Project and team management for planning, design, siting, and/or permitting of 10 facilities serving northeastern Illinois
- Team member supporting planning, siting, and permitting of 15 landfills and transfer stations

OPERATIONS, BUDGETING & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- Responsible for SWANCC's budget reporting and financial performance of approximately \$15M in Agency operations annually
- Prior consulting sales goal of \$1M revenue and \$400K contribution margin annually
- Key contributor to APTIM's solid waste consulting and engineering business line budget process for annual \$40M+ budget
- Solid waste / waste diversion subject matter expert for APTIM's corporate ESG Council

PROCUREMENT SUPPORT

- Experience advising on all types of contracts, including collection, recyclables processing, waste transfer, disposal, composting, facility development and/or operation, and host agreements
 - Contract reviews to support renegotiation, modifications, and extensions
 - Public sector client support: RFP development, draft contract development, proposal reviews and analyses, contract negotiations, award recommendations
 - Private sector client support: proposal development, economic pro forma and proposal pricing assistance, interview presentations, negotiation support
-

Alexandra Sossa

Originally from Colombia, Alexandra Sossa has dedicated more than 35 years of experience performing community outreach and education for very low-income Latine immigrants. Alexandra has a long history of public service dating back to her work with coffee plantation workers in her native Country, where she also worked for nearly a decade with the Attorney General's Office. She has educated low-income workers on their rights in the United States, Spain, and Colombia. While in Spain, Alexandra helped citizens of Mexico navigate through the Spanish legal system via the Mexican Embassy. Ms. Sossa's commitment isn't just professional, it's personal! Her father, an attorney, fought valiantly for low-income workers and specifically for farmworkers' rights. His memory lives on through Alexandra's tireless work; her mother, who is a retired judge; and also, along with her whole family. A great supporter of low-income workers, each combined legacy inspires Alexandra's firm dedication.

Ms. Sossa graduated from the University of Medellin School of Law, Colombia, and is certified as a bilingual Mediator at the Center for Conflict Resolution in Chicago, Illinois (2008). She is alumni of the Center for Leadership Innovation who in collaboration with its Latine Co-training partner Latino Policy Forum gave her a certification from the Chicago-Illinois Latino Nonprofit Leadership Academy (2009-2010) and holds a Non-Profit Management certification from the University of Illinois at Chicago (2011). Alexandra attended several conflict resolution trainings at the Association for Conflict Resolution Chicago-Area Chapter, including Conflict Resolution in our Schools (2008). In 2010, the Language Certification Institute recognized her Proficiency in the Spanish Language for Business. She also attended DePaul University Values-Centered Leadership offered by the School of Public Service and Vincent on Leadership: The Hay Project in 2011.

In 2011, the Legal Assistance Foundation of metropolitan Chicago (today Legal Aid Chicago) awarded her a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her volunteer efforts and commitment to LAF clients. In March of 2019, Alexandra received the Foundation Award from the Illinois Human Rights Commission (IHRC), honoring her commitment in promoting and cultivating women's rights, freedom, and achievement in Illinois. In 2020, Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health publicly recognized her as an Illinois **COVID-19** Ambassador for her efforts to prevent the spread of **COVID-19** by promoting and sharing critical information and resources, thereby keeping communities across Illinois safe during these challenging times. In early September 2021, FLAP awarded Ms. Sossa its highest honor, the Beckman Farmworker Advocate of the Year Award, for her more than two decades of leadership at FLAP. Additional recognitions include Champion of Change Award from the Latino Policy Forum, Illinois Association of Agencies and Community Organizations for Migrant Advocacy (IACOMA, 2016), Illinois Migrant Education Program Service Award presented in 2021 for more than 20 years of dedicated service to migratory children, youth, and families, and the Pioneer Community Advocate presented from Mano a Mano Family Resource Center (2023) in recognition of her exceptional dedication, leadership and unwavering commitment to the immigrant community. She presently sits on the Steering Committee of the Chicago Region Food System Fund, which responds to hunger and business disruption by bolstering the region's communities and local food system.

Alexandra is an extraordinary force in the non-profit world, and her impact is felt on deeply personal level. She doesn't merely engage with FLAP from the administrative standpoint; instead, she dives into the trenches, working directly with everyone involved. Alexandra's journey with the organization is nothing short of remarkable. She started as a volunteer in summer 2001, dedicating herself to the organization's mission. Over time, her commitment led to promotions from an outreach worker to

various roles, including Director of Operations and Outreach in 2009. It was in 2011, when Alexandra reached a pivotal moment becoming the Bilingual Executive Director of FLAP. Alexandra has played an instrumental role in the success of the non-profit's continued growth. Throughout her years of service with FLAP, she has educated low-income immigrants about their rights in the United States, developed working relationships with more than **450** organizations, including no-profits, consulates, law firms and foundations, in the USA, and has supported attorneys providing legal assistance to a countless number of very low-income immigrants, migrant and seasonal workers in the Illinois area. Her passion for addressing the needs of these workers, fighting human labor trafficking, wage theft and helping families stay together in the event of deportation by facilitating the process of getting dual citizenship for their children is immediately apparent when she speaks. She is a strident advocate for the very low-income population. Alexandra is not just behind the scenes, she has written for newspapers in Illinois, Spain, and Colombia, she's been interviewed by the media and invited to speak at events and panels, amplifying the voices of low-income immigrant workers. Her commitment goes beyond theory. She recalls helping a young farmworker woman escape sexual abuse by the farm owner. Today, that survivor is an attorney in California, a testament to Alexandra's unwavering dedication!

Under Alexandra's leadership, FLAP has made a remarkable impact on the Illinois low-income community. During the pandemic the organization secured more than **\$2.5** million dollars in financial assistance to very low-income individuals in Illinois benefiting more than **26,000** family members. These distributions paid for families' bills, groceries, housing, and utilities so workers could stay in their homes and keep their families fed. FLAP distributed technology and educational supplies, so low-income Latine immigrant children could participate effectively in distance learning.

Alexandra is dedicated to her craft and is truly committed to improving the working conditions for low-income workers across Illinois and the USA. She is a native Spanish speaker and is fluent in English.

Walter S. Willis
580 W. Meadowdale Circle
Hampshire, IL 60140
630/621-0736
Willisws531@outlook.com

EDUCATION

Masters in Public Administration
Southern Illinois University, 1986

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
Southern Illinois University, 1982

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, Executive Director, 2007 – present

Executive Director of a Municipal Joint Action Agency representing 41 Lake County municipalities and the County of Lake (nearly 700,000 people). Supervises four employees with an annual budget of nearly \$1.2 million. Oversees the operation of SWALCO's permanent household chemical waste transfer facility. Other duties include: 1) updating and implementing the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan, 2) providing solid waste consulting services to SWALCO members and assisting them with residential and commercial hauling franchises, 3) implementing a comprehensive public education program, and 4) developing and implementing programs to divert more materials from final disposal.

Shaw Environmental, Inc., Senior Project Manager, 2004-2007

Duties included: Managing multi-discipline teams of planners, engineers and geologists on solid waste planning and facility development projects, including solid waste planning studies, public education and outreach, facility and hauler procurement, host community agreement negotiations, market research studies for facility acquisitions, and facility siting.

Significant projects included: 1) the first siting of a pollution control facility (transfer station in Crystal Lake) in McHenry County, IL including the negotiation of four host community agreements, public education and consensus building, and expert witness testimony for local siting hearing; 2) alternative technology (MSW conversion technologies) procurement and project implementation for the City of Orlando, FL; and 3) multi-discipline training project for the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, including development of manuals and conducting workshops on recycling, composting, public education, and finance and administration.

Lee County, IL, Solid Waste Coordinator, 1997-2004

Duties included: Implementation of the Lee County Solid Waste Management Plan and plan updating; overseeing the privately owned and operated Lee County Landfill and the Solid Waste

Management Agreement with Allied Waste Industries; developing and administering a drop-off recycling program; planning for and implementing one-day collection events for used oil, tires, household hazardous waste, and electronics; performing public education activities; and responding to citizens' questions and concerns.

Engineering Solutions, Senior Planner, 1996-1997

Duties included: Managing and executing studies related to solid waste generation, collection, management and recycling; preparing reports for landfill and transfer station siting applications and providing expert witness testimony at siting hearings; assisting local units of government review siting applications, assisting with questions for expert witnesses and preparing findings of fact; developing public education/public involvement programs, business plans and waste audit reports; assisting in host community contract negotiations, and hauler/facility procurement (i.e., bid specs and analysis); and assisting with the preparation of local ordinances and grant writing. Also was responsible for human resource duties, including the development of hiring guidelines, employee recruitment, employee development, employee review procedures and employee benefit programs.

Patrick Engineering, Inc., Senior Planner and Branch Office Manager, 1988-1996

Duties included: Developing and implementing solid waste management plans in 38 counties in Illinois; negotiating host community agreements for eight units of local government with total expected revenues exceeding \$100 million; developing local siting studies, including working with interest groups to select and rank siting criteria for ultimate site selection; and developing need and plan consistency reports for siting applications, providing expert witness testimony, and assisting units of local government review siting applications (worked on approximately 20 siting cases under Illinois' SB 172 siting process).

Opened Springfield, IL branch office in 1989 and was assigned branch manager. By 1996 the office had grown from 3 employees to 9, with annual revenues exceeding \$1 million. As branch manager I was responsible for all personnel, marketing and budgeting decisions.

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Project Manager, 1986-1988

As project manager in the Solid Waste Management Section, Bureau of Land, responsible for evaluating solid waste planning and enforcement grant applications and subsequent planning and enforcement efforts. Assigned to task force to update SB 172 siting decisions and prepared report documenting siting efforts in Illinois. Assisted with preparation of first annual disposal capacity report. Section expert on municipal waste incineration, and helped research and prepare report on IEPA's guidelines on municipal waste incineration.