



MELISSA WHITED

Synapse Energy Economics

Melissa Whited is vice president of consulting with Synapse Energy Economics where she specializes in issues related to utility regulation and rate design, particularly in response to fundamental changes in the electricity industry spurred by electrification and adoption of distributed energy resources. She consults on the tools which effectively address these changes, including performance-based regulation, revenue decoupling mechanisms, distribution system planning, and innovative rate design. She has testified before eleven state public utility commissions, two Canadian utility commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Her rate design work focuses on the development of rate designs that effectively balance the fundamental principles of revenue sufficiency, fair apportionment of costs, and efficiency of use. She has authored numerous reports and testimonies regarding the impacts of fixed charges and demand charges on low-income customers and customers with distributed generation and on the ability of states to achieve their energy policy goals. Recently, Melissa's work has focused on the use of time-varying rates and strategic electrification. This work includes rate designs for electric vehicles (EV), including light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EVs. She has been an invited panelist at annual meetings of both the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. Melissa holds an M.A. in agricultural and applied economics and an M.S. in environment and resources, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is also a frequent guest lecturer.