



## Karen Buxbaum

**ESC Consultant Since:** 2013

**Education:**

Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering, Duke University  
B.S., Biology, Tufts University

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE:** Coaching, team development, strategic planning, long term program planning, short and long term project planning, supervision and personnel development

**PRIVATE SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE:** Karen Buxbaum has 25 years of experience in a variety of leadership and management positions at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Before that, she worked in the private sector for two major computer companies—Hewlett-Packard in Canada and Digital Equipment Corporation in the US, where she was also involved in account planning, sales and marketing.

At JPL, Karen worked on planetary exploratory missions and coordinated with other NASA centers and institutions doing related work. In addition, as a manager, Karen developed and led a multidisciplinary and geographically distributed team. She and her team had to negotiate, allocate and make effective use of scarce resources — from observing time to research dollars — for competing initiatives.

When she moved to the Mars Program, Karen led JPL's program in strategic planning, advocacy and implementation in her specialty area of planetary protection. Karen created and executed a planetary protection strategy, considering necessary infrastructure, future mission requirements and the coordination of technology infusion. She was responsible for a multi-million dollar budget including planning, reporting, reviews and trade studies.

**NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:** Karen served on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Educational Governing Board for a synagogue. She also served on her neighborhood association board and in recent years has volunteered with Compassion and Choices.

**EXAMPLES OF ESC CLIENTS:** Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, Coalition for Responsible Community Development, Sustainable Claremont, Rabbit Rescue Inc., Burbank Temple Emanu El

**INTERESTS:** Hiking, ceramics, fitness, volunteerism