

[Silicon Valley Clean Energy's](#) 'Watts for Lunch' workshop was jointly held with [San Jose Clean Energy](#) on February 27th at Cadence Design Systems in San Jose.

This workshop series was commissioned for SVCE's and SJCE's commercial and industrial customer community, providing a setting for peer-to-peer learning, networking and collaboration. Our February workshop was focused on Building Electrification and featured speakers from the Building Decarbonization Coalition and Google.

Future events will continue to be constructed around SVCE's mission of strategic electrification in the built environment and transportation sector. Feedback and suggestions are always welcomed for future topics! Presentations and discussions from the February workshop are summarized below:

Reach Codes Across Santa Clara County – John Supp, Account Services Manager SVCE

- Reach Codes go above and beyond Title 24 building codes and encourage new construction to limit use of gas, encourage all-electric with some gas use, or require all-electric
- Includes EV Infrastructure for new construction to upgrade conduit for EV readiness and provide faster charging when appropriate
- Majority of cities in Santa Clara County have passed some iteration of reach codes
- SVCE, SJCE, & Peninsula Clean Energy will provide technical support on how cities can implement reach codes
 - SJ to provide technical assistance to builders specifically focused on high-rise buildings
- Question: Are there any rebates for new commercial construction?
 - SJCE and SVCE do not provide rebates because previous studies show that building all electric is already cheaper than building with gas

Policy & Practice of Electrification- Panama Bartholomy, Director at Building Decarbonization Coalition

- PG&E is in support of stopping expansion of gas network
- Local governments already have climate plans to address GHG in the built environment and transportation
- UC Carbon Neutral Buildings Cost Study stated that building electrification is cheaper and safer
- Gas prices are increasing faster than electricity prices
 - PG&E just approved for a 26% rate increase
 - Electricity rates are increasing too, largely in response to fires.
- State incentives are shifting from efficiency programs to GHG reduction programs
 - CPUC has started a proceeding about the future of natural gas
 - Get in front of being on the backend of natural gas price increases
- Question: Will these dynamics affect commercial tariffs?
 - Residents subsidize every other class of customer.
 - CPUC proceeding will likely have great impacts on rate of change for gas prices and transition off the system.
- Question: Do you see the chance of a carbon tax on natural gas?

- Cap and Trade already operates as a carbon tax in CA
- Nationally, TBD
- Question: Do you see directed biogas or agricultural sources entering the system/existing natural gas infrastructure?
 - Methane is incredibly power super pollutant, must capture methane from dairies and other sources.
 - With in-state supplies, we couldn't support more than 10-15% for total natural gas demand. With nation-wide resources, not more than 30%.
 - Simply extends lifetime of fossil natural gas system. (E3 Pathways to a Renewable Energy Future)

Innovative All-Electric Construction- Asim Tahir, District and Renewable Energy Lead at Google

- Google Bayview Project
 - 4MW of integrated PV
 - Electrified heating and cooling which shapes load seasonally via 2,000+ geothermal piles
 - Integrated restoration of wetlands in the area
- Questions: Replicable lessons from PV development?
 - Panels on current building were designed to follow architecture.
 - Innovation to put PVs on building cladding facing E/W; carbon value of solar greater even through net energy production less; if beautiful enough, could you subtract the value of the cladding replaced?
- Questions: What solutions were tied to specifics of building design?
 - Geographical needs footprint- building design allowed for majority heating/cooling from heat transfer.

Programs Overview- Don Bray, Director of Account Services and Communications at SVCE

- CALeVIP will cover majority of South Bay territory and will cross with SJCE and PCE service territory
 - SJCE and SVCE awarded 10M-12M in funds for expansion of EV infrastructure
- GreenPrime Direct (SVCE Program)
 - Large commercial customers can participate in a PPA sleeve which will allow customers to procure their own power contracts
- Eco-Invest program (SVCE Program)
 - Commercial customers can invest a portion of their generation bill amount into an SVCE account which SVCE will match for an electrification projects or demand flexibility projects

Next SVCE "Watts for Lunch" Workshop

- Planned for Fall 2020
 - Announcements will be made via email
- Questions or suggestions – please contact Peyton Parks
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