The Outlet

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Powering The Center of What's Possible

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Silicon Valley Power's Quarterly Newsletter for Business

Powering The Center of What's Possible

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Is California Ready for Summer Energy Demand?

As a region, last summer was mild and typical for the Bay Area, warm during the day, cooling at night - a stark contrast to the summer of 2020. If you recall in 2020 there were rolling blackouts due to extreme weather events that impacted most of California. Even during the extreme heat events that impacted most of the West in 2021, the Bay Area was spared rotating power outages. So, what will happen in the Summer of 2022? Who knows? Silicon Valley Power (SVP) and the State of California have different roles during extreme heat events and together we work to minimize disruptions to customers.

SVP has a diverse portfolio of energy resources to support Santa Clara loads. However, grid conditions can become strained if there are wildfires or the threat of wildfires near generation or power lines, extreme heat events or other unforeseen issues that can limit the power delivered to the City or even within the City. When events like these happen, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) may ask utilities to reduce loads. SVP has created a rotating outage block plan that minimizes impacts to many customers. If your business may be impacted, SVP will provide more details in the next few months.

The State of California, through investor-owned utilities and community choice aggregators, has secured additional energy resources to help fill energy gaps that may occur during the summer. It has created new demand response programs for residential customers, increased microgrid projects tied to the grid, encouraged new energy efficiency programs to achieve peak-time savings and added additional battery storage projects. When there are significant energy constraints, the State will issue Flex Alerts through the CAISO to warn the community when to conserve energy.

To stay informed and up to date on the latest energy emergencies, sign up and participate in State Flex Alerts. Flex Alerts are issued by the CAISO when they forecast grid conditions are likely to become strained. Visit www.flexalert.org for more information and to sign up for alerts. When Flex Alerts are issued, remember to turn off and unplug unnecessary equipment, increase your thermostat setting to 78 degrees, pre-cool when possible and avoid using energy-intensive equipment.

To learn more about ways you can save energy through more efficient lighting and equipment, visit SiliconValleyPower.com for information on our energy efficiency rebates or to sign up for a free energy survey. You may also contact one of our energy engineers at savemoney@siliconvalleypower.com or 408-615-6650.

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Inside this Issue:

Would you like to read about a specific energy topic? Let us know by email at: savemoney@svpower.com

Building Automation: 5 Signs That You Should Upgrade continued

- **Ensure against system failure.** Use distributed controllers so failure of one is minimized. Perform regular database backups.
- **Take measures to enhance cybersecurity.** Separate monitoring and control functionality. Limit some users' rights to read only.
- **Update your system regularly.** Don't wait until system support becomes limited or replacement parts are no longer available. Follow a clearly defined system update process.

With an updated and well-maintained building automation system, you can save energy and keep your operations running smoothly.

Add Value to Your Parking Lot

Electric vehicles (EV) have grown in popularity as a smart transportation choice that costs less to operate than gas-powered cars. This is especially true with the large price increase in gasoline. A fully electric vehicle produces zero tailpipe emissions, dramatically lowering smog and greenhouse gas emissions. Switching your gasoline-powered fleet to electric can help lower your operating costs. It also demonstrates your commitment to the community to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and asthma-inducing pollution associated with gas-powered cars.

With over one million EV sales in California and over 87 models available today, your employees and customers will look for EV charging options. Offering workplace EV charging is an added benefit and can help to retain employees. By offering a convenient location for customers to charge their electric car, you can attract more customers and increase the amount of time they spend in your business by up to 50%. Adding EV chargers to your property will increase your property value and help increase the convenience and affordability of driving electric cars for employees and customers. Business owners or property managers can offset the costs of installing and operating EV chargers by applying for financial incentives, participating in the California Air Resource's Board Low Carbon Fuel Standard Program and by collecting charging fees from users.

Adding electric vehicle chargers to your property will require site evaluation, planning, selecting charging equipment and installation. Silicon Valley Power is ready to support you every step of the way from project planning through permitting and installation. For businesses and property owners who are committed to installing EV chargers, Silicon Valley Power is launching a technical assistance program to provide an EV charging site evaluation report, installation support and rebate assistance. There are many factors to consider when planning an EV charging project. Depending on the site layout and existing electric service, your project may require an electric panel upgrade, new wires to the charging equipment and new electric service from the utility. This program provides personalized free technical assistance to owners and managers of schools, non-profits, multifamily properties and small to medium sized businesses.

Through our partnership with CLEAResult, a skilled team will meet with you to assess the site's electrical capacity and infrastructure for EV charging. EV charging experts will consider your goals and budget to recommend one or more installation options. This valuable service is offered free of charge to multifamily properties with less than fifty

dwelling units where up to three electrical meters are evaluated. It is also free to small business customers whose maximum annual electric demand is less than 200 kW. Large multifamily properties with more than fifty dwelling units or over four electrical meters that need to be evaluated may receive a site assessment with a $250 copayment. Large business customers whose maximum annual electric demand is more than 200 kW may also receive a site assessment with a $250 copayment.

EV project experts will provide a report outlining all aspects of the project and design that aims to minimize cost and maximize value. After a site evaluation and load analysis, you will receive an EV charging evaluation report with a site layout and installation recommendations. If you choose to move forward with the project, our team will help obtain bids for installation from qualified local contractors, provide permit support, and oversee the installation process. They will also help you find and apply for financial incentives to offset the cost of your EV charging project.

If you want to learn more about EV charging, Silicon Valley Power is offering a free online overview of workplace charging stations for businesses interested in offering EV charging for employees, customers, and the public. Join us on June 16, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. PDT to learn about types of charging stations (L1, L2, DCFC), what you need to think about for placement in your parking lot, collecting fees for charging station use and much more! Registration is required at SiliconValleyPower.com/Workshops.

Building Automation: 5 Signs That You Should Upgrade

Building automation systems allow you to monitor and control lighting, HVAC and other building equipment, but they don't last forever. You can update and troubleshoot your system, but when is the right time to replace it? Consider a system upgrade if you see these telltale signs of trouble.

1. **System performance is poor**
   A legacy system makes it more difficult to achieve your building management strategy. If temperature and airflow are regularly drifting off set point and simultaneous heating and cooling occurs too often, your energy spending will rise accordingly. Complaints from occupants will rise, as well.

2. **Software is obsolete**
   Your system software should support open protocols, and these protocols should be present in products on the market. Proprietary protocols confine you to one supplier, resulting in higher life-cycle expenditures. Open protocols allow you to choose the best performing equipment in a competitive market.

3. **Support is limited**
   As legacy systems age, the number of people familiar with these systems dwindles. If you find it increasingly difficult to find people who will service this system, the cost to service your system will increase, too. Corporate knowledge lost from retirement and turnover could be irreplaceable.

4. **Replacement parts are scarce**
   Can you still purchase replacement devices and controllers? Parts scarcity makes maintenance and servicing difficult and frustrating and results in more system downtime, which can paralyze your operations. The law of supply and demand will drive prices of replacement parts higher.

5. **You have limited visibility**
   A legacy system will give you little real-time performance information. An upgraded system will provide you with a better graphical interface, customizable reports, prioritized alerts and alarms, and increased cybersecurity options. Tools like fault detection and diagnostics and predictive analytics also become available.

Optimizing system performance
Once you've got your new building automation system in place, take these measures to save energy and ensure system performance.

- **Tailor schedules and leverage data.** Set different schedules for individual spaces or zones. Use trends data to troubleshoot your system and look for potential system issues.

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Employee Profile:

Nick van Haeften

Division Manager of Generation

Background: Nick van Haeften has worked in Power Generation for 15 years, starting as an engineer before transitioning into management. Prior to joining Silicon Valley Power (SVP), Nick worked as a Maintenance Manager in the Independent Power Producer sector. In his current role as the Division Manager of Generation at SVP, he has direct responsibility for the utility's seven power generating assets. Nick oversees Santa Clara's combined cycle, peaker and co-gen plants, as well as four different hydroelectric facilities.

Comment: "Working at SVP keeps me on my toes. It's broadened my horizons for power generation. I've always been in charge of multiple facilities, but to be in charge of multiple technologies spanning several hundred miles, that's definitely an interesting challenge."

Favorite pastime: Nick loves anything and everything automotive. When he's not working, he likes to race his customized Mazda Miata on the racetrack. He also enjoys hiking, camping and spending time with his kids.

Working at SVP: Nick appreciates seeing power generation from a new perspective to serve the customers of Santa Clara. He enjoys leveraging the talents and expertise of his colleagues and the variety in his work that makes each day unique.