

Q&A from June 5, 2024 BayREN Regional Forum - Commercial Conundrums and Successes in Building Decarbonization

Disclaimer: We have removed duplicates and edited for readability and to remove personal information but have not fact-checked the content of this document. Answers include responses from attendees as well as presenters.

Question	Answer(s)
<p>Very interesting information. Are there any handouts (flyers, brochures) we can share with the public in our office space or when on the road for inspections?</p>	<p>CA Energy Wise has many design guides as well as live & on-demand classes that . https://caenergywise.com/design-guides/</p>
<p>I am asking this question to Michael, although next group could also weigh in. Simply put since decarbonization for restaurants will be costly in capital outlays would it make any sense for restaurants and food outlets in malls to consider microgrids anchored by batteries</p>	<p>Thanks for this question Louis. I am not an expert here though my quick answer would be no. microgrids and batteries will increase capital costs. They are a very useful tool to be sure, but 1) restaurants are typically tenants and do not control the infrastructure in the underlying building and 2) microgrids won't reduce the capital costs of converting kitchen equipment. Conversely though - we are seeing many locations around the country that cannot get enough power from the utility. There are a handful of case studies where microgrids were able to supplement utility power to allow for full electrification, but it is very challenging to do and only applicable in certain narrow circumstances.</p>
<p>HOW WE ENROLL ON SILICON VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM ?</p>	<p>If you live in one of the 13 Santa Clara County communities that we service, you were automatically enrolled into Silicon Valley Clean Energy.</p> <p>More information on SVCE is available here: https://svcleanenergy.org/</p>
<p>For every panelist if relevant: do you have any decarb advice, insights, and/or links for a large non-profit (1,000+ employees) and 15+ locations with aging facilities?</p>	<p>There are a lot of moving parts and the key is it is doable with the right planning. More detail about the buildings would be needed to give a more specific response.</p>
<p>What is the probability of local governments buying up these now very low value office buildings and leading in adaptive reuse or other changes so developers follow?</p>	<p>This would be very expensive; local governments are unlikely to have the funds available to buy up a lot of office buildings.</p> <p>Agreed, pretty low. the buildings hurting the most tend to be offices and challenging to repurpose. However private sector actors are very much looking at this, however many of the analyses I've seen show that it would be less expensive to tear down the building and start over...</p>