

Peninsula Conservation Center



Electrification Technical Assistance Program

Request Description

Peninsula Conservation Center (PCC), home to several regional non-profits including Sierra Club Loma Prieta, needed to replace their rooftop space conditioning system. The existing system was a packaged air-conditioner and gas furnace, which is a very common system type for small-to-medium nonresidential buildings include retail, restaurants, offices, and groceries.

Because the rooftop equipment was at the end of its useful life, PCC planned to engage a mechanical contractor and replace with a like-for-like new system. However, the Building Manager at the PCC reached out to the Technical Assistance Program team for support in developing a plan to install all-electric equipment instead. Through the intake process, the Technical Assistance Team also learned that the building had a considerably aged roof and would require replacement in the near-term. Since the project was in Palo Alto Municipal service territory, PCE/SVCE partnered with Palo Alto Utilities on the effort.

Support Offering

The Technical Assistance Program team provided PCC with guidance on equipment specification, including manufacturer, sizing, and contractor selection. The Program team supported the PCC Building Manager throughout the process to prioritize project scope and mitigate upfront and operational costs. The team recommended performing a roof replacement in conjunction with the HVAC replacement, reviewed proposals from contractors, and helped answer questions during the contracting phase. The installation is set to take place in late 2021.

- Capital costs were approximately equivalent to an in-kind replacement due to the equipment type. Small commercial rooftop units are easy and inexpensive to electrify.
- There will be mild energy costs savings as compared to gas, in the 10-20% range.

"Thank you all so much for taking time out of your busy schedules (and an extended pandemic!) to advise and support us with this project. I have no doubt that it's because of your assistance that we were able to put together a plan that made sense and will have an impact. Seriously, your help and kindness has been everything. Thank you."

- Pat Martin, Building Manager at the Peninsula Conservation Center



Project Summary	
Building systems of interest	Space heating, water heating, and roof
Referral source	City of Palo Alto Utilities
Location	Palo Alto, CA
Building occupancy type	Commercial
Approximate square footage	9,000 ft ²
Stage of project design	Retrofit planning
Question or issue description	All-electric alternatives to existing gas system
Profession	Non-profit
Project description	Existing building with 7 tenants and 8 HVAC units
Program assistance provided	Design recommendations