Electrifying buildings is crucial for California to meet its greenhouse gas emissions target. The Best Practices Guide for Streamlining Electrification Permitting (‘the Guide’) provides support for local jurisdictions to streamline permitting and inspection processes in order to prepare for the expected increase in permit activity as California transitions to all-electric buildings. The Guide also highlights recommendations for third-party entities (utility providers, community choice aggregators, and other industry organizations) to support jurisdictions’ electrification efforts.

Developed on behalf of Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), the best practice recommendations outlined in the Guide are based on the results of interviews and roundtable discussions with local building officials in the thirteen SVCE member agencies, as well as contractors, industry advocates, and other practitioners.
THIRD-PARTY SUPPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS

11. Develop and support training resources for local jurisdictions

12. Provide guidance and framework for aligning plan check and inspection requirements across jurisdictions

13. Support third-party plan check or inspection services through incentive programs or other initiatives

LOCAL JURISDICTION
BEST PRACTICES

1. Identify an internal “champion” to coordinate streamlining efforts

2. Leverage state-mandated expedited review requirements and resources

3. Seek out training resources and support staff training to keep up to date on electrification technologies

4. Identify electrification projects at the outset of the process, and provide proactive pre-application resources

5. Evaluate permit fee structures to achieve parity between electric and natural gas equipment, or to favor electrification

6. Develop dedicated electrification application, permit review, and inspection processes

7. Track electrification permitting trends

8. Track application and inspection errors for electrification technologies

9. Implement web-based systems for application submittal, permit review, and inspection coordination

10. Align plan check, inspection requirements, and procedures across jurisdictions