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From: Chad Ihrig <ihrig@google.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Meetings @ Valley Clean Energy
Subject: Public comments for 2.22.24 VCE Community Advisory Committee meeting

Hello.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. My focus for today is regarding the Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach (ERRO) Program.

Electrification, without load control, will increase the need for more generating resources. It is critical that as we install new equipment, we have some way to manage the newly created demand.

Installing smart thermostats alongside new loads like heat pumps lowers the cost of electrification to the grid and helps mitigate future peak demand spikes. Once installed, smart thermostats like the Nest Thermostat have been shown to save 10% to 12% on cooling costs. Furthermore, a smart thermostat would allow a customer to participate in the OhmConnect program which provides the customer with rewards based on energy load reduction during specified peak times.

Google steeply discounts the cost on the Nest Thermostat specifically for low/moderate income programs to help reduce the energy burden those customers face at a disproportionate rate. That also includes senior / military / student housing, weatherization, and customers within disadvantaged communities.

Prioritizing smart thermostats as part of the ERRO program will not only help customers save energy and money, but can also enable critical load flexibility to help with the added load brought on by electrification.


Thank you for your time and for your efforts on the program.

Regards -
Chad Ihrig

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Chad Ihrig

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