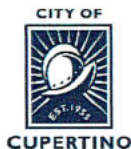


**2020 CREST AWARDS**  
**SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
**NOMINATIONS**

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# 2020 CREST Awards Nomination Form

Each year the City of Cupertino presents its CREST Awards, "Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken," to honor the outstanding contributions of its community members. The 2020 CREST Awards will be presented by the Cupertino Mayor and City Councilmembers on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue.

Award categories (*Select one. Multiple nominations must be created on separate forms*):

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Award (Volunteer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovator of the Year (Technology)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer of the Year (Volunteer)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety Champion of the Year             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of the Year (Volunteer)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Champion of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rising Star of the Year (Volunteer)    |   |

## SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Award criteria and nomination requirements are on the back of this form. Complete the information below and attach your answers to the required questions. Please be as detailed as possible. **Applications are due by Friday, February 28, 2020 by 4:30 p.m.** Incomplete nominations will not be accepted. Current Cupertino City Councilmembers, Commissioners, and staff members cannot be nominated. Selection Committee Members cannot make nominations. Final decisions will be shared with all nominators in April 2020.

## WHO ARE YOU NOMINATING

Name: Cupertino Youth Climate Act  
Address: N/A  
City: Cupertino

Organization: Cupertino Youth Climate Act  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Name: Tara Sreekrishnan  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: [REDACTED]

Organization: N/A  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]

Submit an application:

### By Mail or In Person:

Cupertino City Hall  
Attn: Communications Office  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Email:

[BrianB@cupertino.org](mailto:BrianB@cupertino.org)  
[KavithaA@cupertino.org](mailto:KavithaA@cupertino.org)

### Questions or More Information:

[BrianB@cupertino.org](mailto:BrianB@cupertino.org) or (408)  
777-3262



# CREST Awards Selection Criteria

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## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This award recognizes a member of the community who has volunteered in the City of Cupertino for 10-plus years. **To nominate someone for this award, please answer the following questions:**

1. How many years has this person volunteered in Cupertino and for which organizations, events, or programs?
2. What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities?
3. How has this person's activities made an impact on, or a difference in, the community?

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## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes individuals who have made a difference to the Cupertino community through volunteer service. **To nominate someone for this award, please answer the following questions:**

1. What contributions did this individual make to Cupertino through volunteer service in 2019?
2. What has been the impact of their contributions and how has it addressed a community need?
3. How does this person exemplify the spirit of volunteerism?

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## ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes organizations that have made a difference to the Cupertino community through volunteer service. **To nominate someone for this award, please answer the following questions:**

1. What contributions did this organization make to Cupertino through volunteer service in 2019?
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3. How does this organization exemplify the spirit of volunteerism?

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## RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes an individual who has volunteered in Cupertino for three or less years but shows a continued commitment to the future of the Cupertino community. **To nominate someone for this award, please answer the following questions:**

1. How many years has this person volunteered in Cupertino and for which organizations/efforts?
2. What contributions has this individual made to the community that are beyond the scope of normal civic responsibilities? *(continued on right)*

3. How has this person's activities made an impact or difference on the community?

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## INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR (TECHNOLOGY)

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution in the area of technology in the City of Cupertino. **To nominate an innovator for this award, please answer the following questions:**

1. Define the contribution your nominee made in the area of technology.
2. Define how your nominee demonstrated outstanding individual work performance, team work, or work effort in the area of technology.
3. How has your nominee created a culture of innovation through leadership, engagement, and/or collaboration?

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## PUBLIC SAFETY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes an individual or group that has made an outstanding contribution to the safety of Cupertino. **To nominate a Public Safety Champion, please answer the following questions:**

1. What contributions of time, leadership, and impact has this individual made to enhance public safety efforts in Cupertino?
2. How has this individual set the example for others to follow in community interaction? How does this individual stand apart?
3. Describe the effort involved, and challenges or obstacles the individual had to overcome, to achieve their success.

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## SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a person or group committed to maintaining a sustainable and healthy place to live, work, and play in Cupertino. The City's Climate Action Plan defines strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable actions. For more information, visit [www.cupertino.org/sustainability](http://www.cupertino.org/sustainability).

**To nominate a Sustainability Champion, please answer the following questions:**

1. What did the nominee do?
2. How is the action innovative, exceptional, exemplary, or inspirational?
3. What was the current and/or future impact on the community/environment (include quantitative impacts if possible)?



## SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION OF THE YEAR

Each year the City of Cupertino presents its CREST Awards, “Cupertino Recognizes Extra Steps Taken,” to honor the outstanding contributions of Cupertino community members. The public is invited to the annual awards ceremony and reception on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Cupertino Community Hall, 10350 Torre Avenue. The event is free to the public and heavy appetizers will be served.

### 1. *What did the nominee do?*

The Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team (<https://www.youthclimateaction.com/cupertino>) is a group of motivated student activists from Cupertino High School, Monta Vista High School, and De Anza College, who have successfully lobbied the Cupertino City Council to make Cupertino a local leader in climate policy and sustainability. You have probably heard them speak at a recent Cupertino City Council or Cupertino Sustainability Commission meeting. For instance, thanks to their efforts, the Cupertino City Council recently voted on aggressive building electrification “reach codes” and a natural gas ban, both of which aimed to curtail carbon and methane emissions from buildings. Fossil fuels burnt during building warming make up 20-30 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in California and this is an important first step towards reducing them. In 2019, the team also advocated for single-use plastic reduction and city divestment from fossil fuels.

The Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team was able to be added to a City Council agenda as a Special Presentation item where they lobbied the Cupertino City Council to add four proactive environmental solutions to their 2019 Council Work Program. Their presentation can be watched here: <https://www.youthclimateaction.com/cupertino>

The team is currently working on advocating for 6 policy initiatives for 2020: “Green Mondays”, single-use plastic waste reduction, water conservation, public outreach and education, sustainability student internships and implementing carbon-negative building materials. Watch a recent presentation by them here: <https://www.youthclimateaction.com/cupertino>

On both the city and school district level, the Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team is advocating for the reduction of single-use plastic products. In recent years, throwaway plastic production and consumption has seen a drastic increase, made more evident by the many environmental consequences that have resulted from it. By lobbying against the distribution of single-use plastic products, the team aims to reduce Cupertino’s contribution to fossil fuel industries and the accumulation of non-biodegradable waste. The team was successful in lobbying the Fremont Union High School District to transition all high schools in FUHSD away from single use plastics for condiments and utensils. This includes a transition to more biodegradable packaging for all food packaging needs.



In addition to these city efforts, the Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team was instrumental in organizing the Silicon Valley Climate Strike that occurred on Sept 20, 2019. Several thousand people attended the strike, several major news channels covered it, and the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors officially commended the Silicon Valley Youth Climate Strike organizers for this effort. They were honored and recognized for bringing together thousands of climate protesters representing a powerful new wave in the climate justice movement.

Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team members have also done public outreach by tabling at various public events, hosting meetings and public events at the Cupertino Quinlan Center, writing and circulating petitions for city efforts, presenting to tech companies such as Microsoft, Cisco and Facebook, and meeting with many local legislators including Assemblymember Evan Low, Assemblymember Ash Kalra, Cupertino Mayor Steven Scharf, and Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese.

**2. How is the action innovative, exceptional, exemplary, or inspirational?**

This initiative is student-led and indicative of the next generation using their voice to help fight the global climate crisis. The City of Cupertino should support youth involvement and civic engagement. The Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team is not only a perfect model for this, the team is open to all students and provides them with the tools and opportunities to be involved in local climate advocacy and policy. The younger generation has a key role to play in addressing our climate crisis. Young people across the country and the world are taking the action necessary to tackle climate change, often when their leaders have failed them. The Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team works to combat climate change in their local jurisdiction through public policy initiatives. Their efforts have inspired mirroring youth climate action teams in other cities such as San Jose and Los Altos.

**3. What was the current and/or future impact on the community/environment (include quantitative impacts if possible)?**

One of the key aspects of ensuring a lasting change that spans multiple generations is to engage the younger generation. The Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team is motivated by the next generation of leaders that are already taking drastic action to address our climate emergency, an issue that will continue to affect us years from now. The team has continuously called on our City Council to adequately address intensifying climate impacts which, unabated, would dramatically destroy human health and development, land and sea food chain networks, and every ecosystem on our earth.

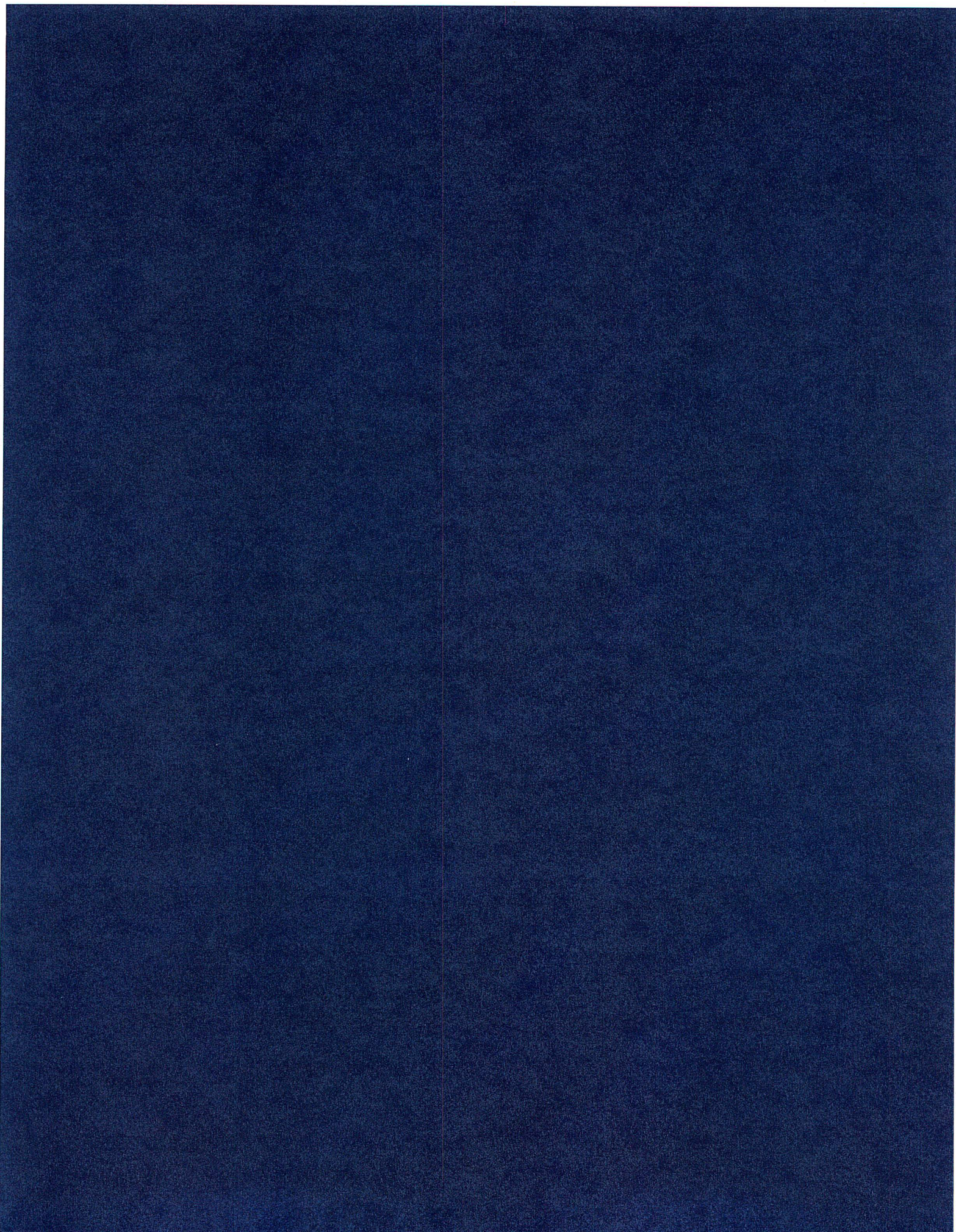


Thanks to the advocacy efforts of local environmental groups, including the Cupertino Youth Climate Action Team, the Cupertino City Council voted to officially pass All-Electric Reach Codes for Cupertino! Every three years, cities and counties across the state adopt the new Building Standards Code or Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Cities and counties may adopt building codes more advanced than those required by the state, which are known as “reach” codes. By developing electrification reach codes, the City of Cupertino can save energy and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Every new gas line that we build is a huge financial liability to our community, as gas rates continue to rise as the cost of gas maintenance increases for the declining number of gas users. The constant methane leaks from gas lines are devastating to our climate while indoor gas use pollutes our homes, causing serious health impacts.

Thanks to the work of the team, all high schools in the Fremont Union High School District are currently switching to dispensers for all condiments, as opposed to single-use plastic, and switching forks, spoons and knives to biodegradable materials. Given the current infrastructure, accounting for and recycling single-use plastics is difficult and ineffective, and thus a concerning amount of plastic waste accumulates on our streets, in our oceans and waterways, and in the landfill. In fact, 25% of waste produced in California consists of single-use food and beverage containers. And although important, emphasis on disposal belies a more immediate necessity: reduction. We need to make reduction efforts that reflect the caring and environmentally conscious community we live in.

The team is currently working with City Manager, Deb Feng, to create summer student internships in the City’s Department of Sustainability so that students can work with staff on these pressing issues in the long-term.









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## **WHO ARE YOU NOMINATING**

Name: Silicon Valley Clean Energy  
Address: 333 W. El Camino Real, S#  
City: Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Organization: Silicon Valley Clean Energy  
Phone: Michaela Pippin, [REDACTED]  
Email: [info@SVCleanEnergy.org](mailto:info@SVCleanEnergy.org)

## **INFORMATION ABOUT YOU**

Name: Gilee Corral  
Address: 10300 Torre Ave.  
City: Cupertino, CA 95014

Organization: City of Cupertino  
Phone: 408-777-1364  
Email: [gileec@cupertino.org](mailto:gileec@cupertino.org)

Submit an application:

### **By Mail or In Person:**

Cupertino City Hall  
Attn: Communications Office  
10300 Torre Avenue  
Cupertino, CA 95014

### **Email:**

[BrianB@cupertino.org](mailto:BrianB@cupertino.org)  
[KavithaA@cupertino.org](mailto:KavithaA@cupertino.org)

### **Questions or More Information:**

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# CREST Awards Selection Criteria

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To nominate a Sustainability Champion, please answer the following questions:

### 1. What did the nominee do?

In 2016 twelve cities, including the City of Cupertino, formed Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE), a community choice energy joint powers authority, to bulk purchase clean electricity on behalf of their customers. SVCE now serves 96% of Cupertino's residential and commercial customers, supplying clean electricity from wind, solar, and hydro resources. SVCE's mission is to empower residents, business, and industries in its jurisdiction to switch from using dirty fuels to clean electricity in homes, buildings, and transportation. SVCE led a regional effort to develop model building electrification reach codes and supported its member cities with technical assistance and funding to support bringing the reach codes to City Council for consideration. With the support of SVCE, Cupertino staff and the Sustainability Commission worked to propose reach code policy for Cupertino. As a result, Cupertino City Council recently adopted one of the most progressive electric reach codes in the Bay Area. Last year, SVCE began offering rebates to our residents to install heat pump water heaters (cleaner and more efficient alternative to natural gas powered water heaters). SVCE is an annual sponsor of the City's Earth & Arbor Day Festival, and a member and sponsor of the Cupertino Chamber of Commerce.

### 2. How is the action innovative, exceptional, exemplary, or inspirational?

- **Carbon-free electricity for businesses and residents:** SVCE was the first community choice energy entity in California to offer carbon-free electricity as its base product. It also offers a 100% renewable electricity option to customers for a small premium.
- **New heat pump water heater rebate:** SVCE's heat pump water heater pilot program is overcoming barriers for residents to install heat pump water heaters. One of the innovations SVCE added was to offer panel upgrade rebates alongside the heat pump rebates. Panel upgrades can be expensive and have been a well-known barrier to adopting heat pump water heaters in older homes; the addition of this feature to the program has been a key ingredient to the pilot's initial success.
- **Deep decarbonization and innovation:** SVCE supports City staff with technical assistance, greenhouse gas emissions accounting, research and analysis, and grant opportunities to expand our sustainability program offerings and enhance current services. SVCE works with its member cities to co-create innovative programs to reach for deeper decarbonization and achieve further reductions in fuel-based emissions.
- **Inspiring all-electric living:** SVCE offers information and resources for residents to electrify their homes on its website (<http://www.svcleanenergy.org/electrify>) and highlights best practices in all-electric design through its All-Electric Showcase Award program ([svcleanenergy.org/all-electric-award](http://svcleanenergy.org/all-electric-award)).

### 3. What was the current and/or future impact on the community/environment (include quantitative impacts if possible)?

SVCE's impact on our greenhouse gas emissions for Cupertino, and for our greater Silicon Valley community, has been significant. To date, across its portfolio SVCE has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 19.8% (compared to 2015 baseline) and realized \$50 million in savings for its customers.

Impacts from SVCE in 2019 for the City of Cupertino include:

- 22,600 households and businesses received clean electricity from carbon-free sources
- \$1,638,000 in electricity savings
- \$52,800 cash payments to customers for generating surplus solar energy
- 100% of City of Cupertino municipal electricity accounts sourced from renewable wind and solar



- 98% reduction in electric utility-related emissions, equivalent to 29 million pounds of avoided greenhouse gas emissions

The future impact of Cupertino's reach codes will result in most new construction in Cupertino to be all-electric, powered by carbon-free electricity. Building all-electric will avoid greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas for the lifetime of these new buildings moving forward. In addition, the all-electric buildings will support the market for electric-powered appliances, such as heat pump water heaters. The reach code will also demonstrate the City of Cupertino's leadership in climate action.

In the near future, SVCE has plans to support installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The SVCE Board of Directors has approved \$8 million for new electric vehicle charging stations to be deployed in its service area. Increasing EV charging stations will encourage residents and workers in Cupertino to consider switching to an electric vehicle; as EV adoption accelerates, emissions from vehicles will decrease in our community.