

1896

City of Santa Clara Electric Department is founded when a diesel generator starts powering 45 streetlights.



1903

Santa Clara invests \$5,000 in alternating current and begins providing electricity to customers within Santa Clara. The Electric Department begins purchasing wholesale power from the United Gas and Electric Company of San Jose, later to become part of Pacific Gas & Electric.

1980

Santa Clara launches its first in-city power plant, a natural gas-powered facility called Cogen 1.

1988

Geothermal power from the North Bay Area is added to the City's power mix as the City works to gain control of power resources in order to ensure reliability and competitive pricing.



1985

The Electric Department introduces energy generated by wind turbines on Altamont Pass, the City's first carbon-free resource aside from hydroelectric power.



1998

The City's Electric Department becomes Silicon Valley Power (SVP) to reflect its growing role in powering some of the world's top high technology companies.

2005

The Donald Von Raesfeld Power Plant, located in Santa Clara, comes on line using natural gas to provide up to 147 megawatts of electricity to SVP customers.

2013

SVP provides free citywide outdoor Wi-Fi access with advance meter program; new renewable resources bring the carbon-free portfolio to 37%.

