

Sven Thesen

Bio

Sven Thesen is in Better Place's Business Development team. Better Place, a venture-backed company, aims to reduce global dependency on oil through the creation of a market-based transportation infrastructure that enables electric vehicles. In his role, Sven leverages his technical expertise in bringing electric vehicles to the utility grid and his passion for evangelizing the Better Place business model.

Prior to joining Better Place, Sven ran Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Electric Drive group. Under his direction, PG&E became the first utility to demonstrate Vehicle to Grid (V2G), taking a leadership position in utility-based electric vehicle initiatives. Prior to running the Electric Drive group, Sven managed the PG&E sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) emission reduction team and assisted the United Nations in revising the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. As a result of his contributions to the IPCC, he along with the other IPCC engineers and scientists were awarded the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sven received his bachelor of science in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina State University and his work in reducing diesel emissions through the electrification of agricultural equipment has been recognized by the Schwarzenegger administration with the 2006 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

His other claim to fame, along with hiking partner Jarrod Gasper, is the first to walk both the Appalachian and the Pacific Crest Trails (~4,600 miles of backpacking) in one calendar year.

Sven lives in Palo Alto with his wife and two daughters. You can see him most weekday mornings bicycling to work wearing a helmet and reflective vest.