

Attachment A

Meeting Summary

Regional Building Decarbonization Technical Committee

Friday, March 4, 2025

Virtual Meeting Only – Hosted on Zoom

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Amanda Perkins	Adams County
Bridger Tomlin	City of Westminster
Jeff Wong	City of Lakewood
Jonathan Koehn	City of Boulder
Susie Strife	Boulder County
Adam Sanderson	Longmont Power and Communications
Holly Harris	Building Decarbonization Coalition
Ron Papsdorf	DRCOG
Gabrielle Rink	Center for Energy and Environment
Brooke Pike	Energy Outreach Colorado
Lukas Hagan	Neighborhood Development Collaborative
Sergio Cordova	Local 208
Garret McDaniel	City and County of Broomfield
Shannon Jahn	City and County of Denver
Elizabeth Babcock	City and County of Denver
Steven Jackson	African American Trade Association
Shawn Lemons	Energy Efficiency Building Coalition
Jon White	Town of Castle Rock
Melody Mascarenaz	City of Commerce City

Additional Alternates Present:

Martin Postma (Alternate)	City of Thornton
Emily Baer (Alternate)	Town of Erie

Public: None

DRCOG staff: Robert Spotts, Chris Selk, Clay McCombe, Mac Prather, Greg Miao, Josh Schwenk, Carolyn Klemm, Maddy Nesbit

Call to Order

Temporary Chair Ron Papsdorf called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Discussion Items

Program History and Mission

Robert Spotts provided an overview of the program's history and mission, explaining DRCOG's role in regional planning and sustainability. He outlined the \$199.7 million EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant awarded to create the initiative, emphasizing the program's primary focus areas: communications and community engagement; workforce and industry development; incentives, advising, disadvantaged communities, innovation; and building policy. He acknowledged current challenges, including a temporary funding delay, but expressed confidence that the program would proceed as planned.

Communications and Community Engagement Programs

Chris Selk provided an overview of the communications and community engagement programs. She emphasized the importance of public awareness and the need to counter misinformation about heat pumps and electrification. DRCOG has selected Suple Advertising & Design as its communications consultant to develop branding and marketing strategies. The \$15 million contract includes funding for a website developer and targeted ad buys. A \$4 million community engagement contract solicitation is in progress. That program element is focused on ensuring that community-based organizations receive direct funding to assist in outreach efforts.

Shawn Lemons suggested that the engagement and transcreation efforts should recognize the diverse types of audiences, including contractors. Chris Selk responded that DRCOG staff will be very thoughtful and pragmatic about the diverse audiences and recognizes the need to evaluate best practices.

Workforce and Industry Development Programs

Clay McCombe introduced the workforce and industry development programs, outlining two major challenges: a skills gap in heat pump installations and a labor shortage in the HVAC industry. Currently, only 10 percent of HVAC contractors in the region are trained in heat pump technology, while one-third of the existing workforce is set to retire within the next decade. To address these challenges, the program will establish a Contractor Navigation Hub, a \$4.5 million initiative designed to provide training, permitting assistance and business-scaling support. Additionally, three Green Workforce Hubs will be created to provide job training, placement assistance, and wraparound services such

as childcare and transportation. Finally, workforce programs will support underrepresented groups, including justice-impacted individuals, Spanish-speaking job seekers and youth, expanding access to careers in building decarbonization.

Martin Postma asked about whether the program includes training for building plans examiners and inspectors. Clay McCombe responded that while this will not be directly addressed in the workforce programs, additional support for local jurisdictions is an element of the Building Policy Collaborative.

Incentives, Energy Advising, and Low-Income & Disadvantaged Communities Programs

Mac Prather presented on the incentives, energy advising, and low-income and disadvantaged communities programs. He outlined the \$60 million program to provide rebates and home energy advising and the \$47 million program for full-service building decarbonization for income-qualified individuals. The initiative is expected to issue 40,000 rebates to lower the cost of electrification and make improvements to 1,600 low-income homes. Collaboration with Xcel Energy and United Power is underway to align incentives and streamline access for consumers.

Building Policy Collaborative

Greg Miao discussed efforts to support local governments in adopting and implementing building policies. The \$34.8 million jurisdictional support fund will help municipalities implement energy codes and building performance standards. A \$2.5 million peer network will facilitate knowledge-sharing among jurisdictions. This program also includes a \$1 million research element.

Martin Postma asked how the program will handle misinformation in the policy space. Greg Miao outlined plans for the research element dedicated to measuring policy effectiveness, emissions reductions, and economic impacts.

Steven Jackson asked where all the program data and resources will be collected. DRCOG staff responded that the new website will be the main repository for the project.

Further discussion

Steven Jackson asked how to navigate political concerns surrounding electrification. Chris Selk emphasized the need to tailor messaging to focus on economic benefits, job creation, and improved air quality rather than just environmental justice narratives.

Elizabeth Babcock mentioned the need to evaluate scenario plans for the program and ways to evaluate additional revenue for the program.

Shawn Lemons supported the focus on messaging and emphasized that there are many reasons to execute this program.

Jonathan Koehn requested clarity on the roles of the committee and expressed the importance of ensuring that the meetings are meaningful. Robert Spotts outlined the committee process, including agenda schedule and the online record of meetings. The committees will be workshopping many policy and budgetary decisions, especially through the first six months of the program.

Next Meeting – April 1, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.