

Attachment A

Meeting Summary

Regional Building Decarbonization Oversight Committee

Friday, March 14, 2025

**1001 17th St., Suite 700, Red Rocks Conference Room
Denver, CO**

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Steve Barr (Chair)	City of Littleton
Doug Rex	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Richard Kondo	City of Northglenn
Nicole Speer	City of Boulder
Russ Sands (Alternate)	State of Colorado
Stephen Shepherd	Building Owners and Managers Association
Shere Walker-Ravenell	Black Parents United Foundation
Stephen Douglas	Commerce City

Members Attending Virtually or Additional Alternates Present:

Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	Denver Regional Council of Governments
Randy Drennan	Rocky Mountain Mechanical Contractors Association

Public: Mora Owen

DRCOG staff: Cam Kennedy, Robert Spotts, Chris Selk, Clay McCombe, Mac Prather, Greg Miao

Call to Order

Chair Steve Barr called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

**February 14, 2025 Regional Building Decarbonization Oversight Committee
Meeting Summary**

The summary was accepted.

Discussion Items

Building Policy Collaborative

Greg Miao, Building Policy Program Manager, discussed that this program consists of three elements intended to drive energy efficiency and climate pollution reduction through effective implementation of ambitious building energy policy.

- The Jurisdictional Support Program consists of \$34.8 million to be distributed to participating jurisdictions to support local capacity to adopt updated energy codes, building performance, emissions, and equipment standards, licensing requirements, permitting processes, and other policies identified in a policy roadmap developed by the BPC.
- The BPC Peer Network will be a \$2.5 million facilitated cohort for participating jurisdictions to support local adoption of local decarbonization policies.
- The research initiative consists of a \$1 million research budget for localized and responsive research, which will gather data and analyze it to support collaborative needs.

Director Stephen Douglas inquired about the implementation of the new rules and whether they would apply to new buildings only or retrofit existing buildings that are below 50,000 square feet. Mr. Miao replied that the goal is to get everyone up to speed on the new codes but recognized that this approach will have challenges.

Director Nicole Speer asked about the initial jurisdictional awards design and how funding will be weighed. Mr. Miao replied that it is still in discussion. One challenge relates to whether the focus should be on incentivizing jurisdictions that are already at the forefront of these initiatives, or the jurisdictions that have been hesitant so far and finding the right balance.

Director Shere Walker-Ravenell asked about the initial range of funding that each jurisdiction is expected to receive. Mr. Miao stated that information will be communicated to this committee later today.

Chair Barr mentioned that since some communities will be slower to adopt this transition is there a plan to hold and reserve funds that are not used by certain jurisdictions. Mr. Miao stated that there will be a structure established for a drawdown on any remaining funds from non-participating jurisdictions.

Program Guidance and Strategy

Robert Spotts, Climate Pollution Reduction Manager, sought guidance from members regarding how to effectively engage and support community-based organizations in the grant process, ensure workforce development programs are accessible, and coordinate incentives and energy advising across the region.

Director Douglas inquired about the current plan for paying for this initiative. Mr. Spotts replied that jurisdictions will hire staff with this funding, send DRCOG an invoice every month, and then DRCOG will send that invoice to the EPA for reimbursement, which will then send the money to DRCOG who will send it to the jurisdictions.

Director Douglas inquired about the funding delay situation. Executive Director Doug Rex stated that DRCOG is monitoring the situation, and the payment portal is currently

functioning as intended. Mr. Robert Spotts added that staff have been preparing for multiple contingencies regarding funding.

Chair Barr stated in this current time of uncertainty when there is a risk to programs like this, it is vital for this oversight committee to work collaboratively to fulfill obligations and push to ensure the funding that was awarded to DRCOG last summer is fully received and implemented to better the region.

Director Walker-Ravenell mentioned how this committee also needs to be transparent and recognize the situation we are in. If we promise communities something and we are not able to fulfill that promise, we have to be aware that trust will be lost. Mr. Spotts agreed and stated staff too is concerned and is looking at all viable options to get the funding we have been contractually obligated to receive.

Ms. Chris Selk stated we'll be working with all types of community-based organizations and programs because we know that we will not be successful with lower-income disadvantaged communities if we don't have trusted networks acting as a bridge for us to work. Especially with uncertainty at the federal level, we need to be able to work together and the local and regional levels to ensure this program lives up to its potential.

Chair Barr added that when communicating on this initiative, it is important to highlight how this will expand the workforce, provide better jobs, more resilient buildings, and things of that nature. So, when speaking with federal officials we can ensure that political debates don't interfere with the intent of the program. Ms. Selk agreed and stated that even if the language is massaged it will not change the spirit of this program.

Director Stephen Shepherd stated that beyond the political wordsmithing, it is worth noting that this program will reach such a multi-tiered demographic that our messaging will need to vary depending on who we're talking to since we'll be working with people across many sociodemographic lines, so we need to phrase our messages to the audience we're speaking to ensure the information gets across accurately.

Director Douglas brought up that in regards to workforce and industry development, around 30%-40% of people within the trades will be retiring within the next 10 years and it is imperative to inspire young people with the knowledge that they can make a good living in a trade job. Mr. Clay McCombe stated that he's partnering with schools ranging from Denver Public Schools and Cherry Creek Innovation Campus to spread the word about career opportunities in pipefitting and electrical work.

Next Meeting – April 11, 2025

Adjournment

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