

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Power Ahead Technical Committee
Tuesday July 7, 2026
***Virtual Meeting (Via Teams)**

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Susie Strife (Chair)	City of Boulder
Shawn Lemons	Zero Homes
Peter Johns	Xcel Energy
Gabrielle Rinck	CEE
Adam Sanderson	Longmont Power
Amanda Perkins	Adams County
Eryka Thorley	Town of Erie
Jeff Wong	City of Lakewood
Brooke Pike	Energy Outreach Colorado
Shannon Jahn	City and County of Denver
Lukas Hagen	NDC
Melody Mascarenaz	City of Commerce City
Holly Harris	BDC
Flo Raitano	DRCOG
Elizabeth Babcock	City and County of Denver
Bridger Tomlin	City of Westminster

Public: None

DRCOG staff: Mac Prather, Robert Spotts. Chris Selk, Clay McCombe,

Call to Order

Chair Strife called the meeting to order at 10:05

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Previous Technical Committee Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the previous meeting summary. No comments were raised, and the summary was accepted as presented.

Action Items

Building Policy Collaborative Update

Kimberly Schlaepfer provided an update on the Building Policy Collaborative and discussed ongoing efforts to articulate a clear vision and policy pathway for improving building performance across the region.

During discussion, Shawn Lemons asked what feedback or pushback staff had received regarding the collaborative's work. Schlaepfer stated that there had not been significant

explicit opposition to date, though some DRCOG member jurisdictions have chosen not to participate and may not be fully aligned with the collaborative's policy goals.

Schlaepfer reported that outreach with industry representatives and community organizations highlighted the importance of simplifying the regulatory landscape, carefully considering affordability impacts, and ensuring policy decisions are supported by comprehensive and well-rounded data. She noted that stakeholders generally encouraged thoughtful and effective policy development rather than expressing outright opposition.

She also summarized engagement with affordable housing organizations, which provided insight into how building policies affect operations and financial sustainability. Feedback from these conversations helped identify potential adaptations and exemptions that could better support affordable housing providers while advancing regional policy objectives.

In response to questions about next steps, Schlaepfer explained that staff are actively working to share the Building Policy Collaborative roadmap with local boards and councils. She noted that DRCOG offers technical assistance to help jurisdictions understand the roadmap, the collaborative's vision, and policy pathways, as well as connect those goals to future policy actions and educational efforts. She added that approval of the roadmap by the DRCOG Board would help establish a foundation for broader outreach and strengthen its credibility with other elected bodies across the region.

Shawn Lemons moved to approve of the Building Policy. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Innovation Pilot Grant Program – Round 1 Recommendations

Mac Prather presented the Innovation Pilot Grant Program Round One recommendations and discussed opportunities for future outreach and recruitment to expand participation in upcoming funding rounds.

During discussion, Adam Sanderson commented on Elephant Energy's proposal to install monitoring systems on Mitsubishi cold-climate heat pumps. He suggested that the project could provide an opportunity to compare the performance of premium equipment with lower-cost systems, such as Mr. Cool units, to better understand performance differences across products. Prather agreed the monitoring technology was manufacturer-agnostic and stated staff would incorporate the suggestion into future discussions with Elephant Energy.

Following discussion, Committee members expressed support for the recommended projects. Shawn Lemons initially moved to approve the recommendations but recused himself after Robert Spotts noted that, due to his involvement in scoring applications, he should abstain from the vote.

Elizabeth Babcock moved to approve the Innovation Pilot Grant Program Round One recommendations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Update on Community Engagement Grants

Chris Selk provided a community engagement update and announced the inaugural Colorado Heat Pump Week, scheduled for August 3-10. He explained that staff are partnering with consultants and community organizations to develop a series of events, contractor and workforce development activities, and marketing efforts designed to increase awareness and interest in heat pumps across Colorado.

Selk noted that member jurisdictions and partners would receive a communications toolkit to help promote the campaign and engage their local communities. He encouraged committee members to help amplify the initiative and leverage the outreach materials and activities planned throughout the week.

During discussion, Susie Strife jokingly asked whether staff members, including Mac Prather and Clay, would be dressing up as heat pumps as part of the campaign. Selk responded that it was a distinct possibility and shared that Robert Spotts would be wearing the program's cucumber mascot costume as part of the promotional efforts. The update was received with enthusiasm and no additional questions were raised.

Administrative Items

Staff Updates and Upcoming Meetings

Robert Spotts introduced Adair Andre as DRCOG's new Utility and Regulatory Affairs Lead. Spotts shared that Andre recently joined DRCOG from the Colorado Energy Office, where she served as a legislative liaison. He explained that her role will focus on supporting local governments in understanding utility issues, coordinating with the Building Policy Collaborative, and helping stakeholders understand utility planning and regulatory matters that affect local building decarbonization efforts.

Andre introduced herself to committee members and expressed enthusiasm about continuing her work on climate and energy policy.

Chair Susie Strife asked whether committee members had any additional comments or agenda items for discussion. No additional items were raised.

Strife reminded members that the next meeting would be held virtually on August 4, 2026. She also noted that staff were exploring the possibility of holding an in-person meeting later in the fall.

Adjournment

Chair Strife thanked participants for attending and reminded members of the upcoming August 4 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.