

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Power Ahead Technical Committee
Tuesday, September 1, 2026
In-person**

Attendance Log

Agency or Interest	Member or alternate name	Attendance
City of Boulder	Susie Strife (Chair)	In-person
Zero Homes	Shawn Lemons	Virtual
Longmont Power	Adam Sanderson	In-person
Adams County	Amanda Perkins	In-person
Town of Erie	Eryka Thorley	Virtual
City of Lakewood	Jeff Wong	In-person
City and County of Denver	Shannon Jahn	Not present
NDC	Lukas Hagen	Not present
City of Commerce City	Melody Mascarenaz	Virtual
BDC	Holly Harris	Not present
City and County of Denver	Elizabeth Babcock	Not present
City of Westminster	Bridger Tomlin	Not present
Xcel Energy	Peter Johns	Not present
CEE	Gabrielle Rinck	Not present
Energy Outreach Colorado	Brooke Pike	Not present
National Renewable Energy Labs	Eric Wilson	Not present
Denver Pipefitters Local 208	Sergio Cordova	Not present
African American Trade Association / Empowercom	Steven Jackson	Not present
City of Broomfield	Garret McDaniel	Not present

Agency or Interest	Member or alternate name	Attendance
Douglas County	Jon White	Not present
Boulder County	Jonathan Koehn	Not present
Douglas County	Jonathan Nelson	Not present
Arapahoe County	Justin Howe	Not present
Arapahoe County	Maurice Healy	Not present
Gilpin County	Ray Rears	Not present
DRCOG	Flo Raitano	Not present

Public: Fernando Briones, Emily Loker, Rachel Garrett, Angela Woolcott, Malory Huggins

DRCOG staff: Mac Prather, Robert Spotts, Chris Selk, Clay McCombe, Adair Andre, Greg Miao, Jhas Cooper-Moore

Call to Order

Chair Strife called the meeting to order at 9:23 am.

Public Comment

During public comment, Shawn Lemons raised concerns regarding the expiration of an exception related to National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements for newly installed or replacement HVAC equipment. He explained that, beginning immediately, new HVAC installations will be required to use GFCI-rated breakers, despite many HVAC systems experiencing compatibility issues with this equipment. Lemons noted that enforcement of the requirement had been delayed through exceptions during the previous two code cycles, but that exception expired on the day of the meeting.

Lemons cautioned that the industry may begin experiencing the same operational challenges associated with GFCI breakers that occurred several years ago. He suggested that a broader conversation among code officials, building professionals, inspectors, electricians, and installers across Colorado may be warranted to address potential impacts and implementation challenges.

No additional public comments were offered.

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

Community Engagement Grant Program Policy

Chris Selk introduced the proposed Community Engagement Grant Program Policy and outlined plans to distribute \$2.2 million in community engagement grants to support Power Ahead Colorado's outreach goals. She emphasized that the program is designed to foster meaningful, authentic community engagement and strengthen partnerships with trusted community-based organizations, particularly in historically marginalized communities.

Representatives from Kearns & West, including Mallory Huggins and Angela Jo Wolcott, presented the proposed grant framework and highlighted the role of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) in shaping the program. Staff discussed efforts to reduce barriers to participation by simplifying application materials, using plain language, providing multilingual resources, offering technical assistance, and creating grant opportunities ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Presenters also described plans to conduct applicant interviews, provide extensive templates and training resources, and support grant recipients throughout the award period.

During discussion, Amanda raised questions about insurance requirements for applicants. Staff explained that organizations would be connected with insurance providers for assistance and could include insurance costs within grant budgets. Susie Strife asked about partnerships between community organizations and private-sector entities, sharing lessons learned from Boulder County's Climate Equity Fund. Staff acknowledged the concern and noted they would continue evaluating potential safeguards while encouraging collaborative partnerships. Jeff Wong asked whether there would be minimum organizational-age requirements for eligible nonprofit applicants. Staff responded that no specific requirement was proposed and explained that the review process would consider organizational experience, community relationships, and capacity alongside opportunities for newer organizations. Committee members also discussed the value of incorporating interviews into the review process to better assess organizational authenticity and community connections beyond written applications.

Following discussion, Jeff Wong moved to recommend approval of the Community Engagement Grant Program Policy to the PACO Oversight Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Community Engagement Program- Summer Update

Chris Selk, Program Manager, Communications and Community Engagement, provided an update on Power Ahead Colorado's summer outreach efforts, which focused on increasing public awareness of heat pumps and promoting the Energy Advising, workforce development, and contractor support programs. Staff selected outreach events across the DRCOG region based on geographic diversity, community

representation, event size, cost, and staff capacity. As of the meeting, outreach teams had attended numerous community events and engaged in direct conversations with more than 3,000 individuals.

Selk reported that most participants had little prior knowledge of heat pumps, highlighting a significant opportunity to build awareness. Outreach data showed strong engagement from both homeowners and renters, with many homeowners expressing interest in the Energy Advising Program. Staff found that large community events generated the highest number of interactions, while smaller events often produced more in-depth conversations and stronger potential connections with homeowners, community-based organizations, and future grant applicants.

Selk noted that visual demonstrations, family-friendly activities, promotional materials, and educational conversations were effective in drawing attendees to outreach booths. Common questions centered on heat pump costs, available rebates and incentives, energy savings, and how heat pumps could work in specific housing situations. Staff also received inquiries from residents outside the DRCOG region who were interested in similar programs.

During discussion, Susie Strife asked whether future outreach efforts would become more targeted toward homeowners actively considering home improvement projects. Staff explained that current efforts are focused on broad awareness building while rebate and incentive programs are being finalized but agreed that future outreach would become more strategic and conversion-focused as those programs mature. Chris Selk added that future community engagement efforts will align with upcoming phases of the marketing campaign that move from general awareness to education and adoption.

Sean Lemons supported more targeted outreach and suggested engaging HVAC distributors and sales representatives to better understand their knowledge of heat pumps and their influence on contractor purchasing decisions. Staff agreed that contractor and distributor engagement is an important component of future outreach efforts.

Administrative Items

Staff Updates and Upcoming Meetings

During member comments, Susie Strife asked whether the committee wanted to revisit the public comment raised earlier by Shawn Lemons regarding HVAC equipment and GFCI breaker requirements.

Mac Prather provided an update on ongoing discussions between Power Ahead Colorado staff and the City of Lakewood regarding opportunities for Power Ahead Colorado to help administer local incentive funding available through Lakewood and potentially other municipalities in the region. Prather proposed establishing an ad hoc working group of Technical Committee members to help guide the effort and support DRCOG through the administrative process. No concerns were raised, and staff indicated they would provide updates to the committee as the work progresses.

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Chair Strife asked whether members had any additional comments or questions. No further comments were offered.

Adjournment

Chair Strife reminded members that the next Technical Committee meeting would be held virtually on October 6. She thanked participants for their attendance and contributions throughout the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.