

Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee

Meeting date: April 7, 2026

Agenda Item #

Innovation Pilot Program Policy

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

Review and discussion of the proposed Innovation Pilot Program policy document, a \$6 million initiative administered by Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) designed to accelerate building electrification and energy efficiency adoption through regional pilot projects.

Background

The program takes inspiration from the TECH Clean California initiative, which awarded \$3.85 million to 19 projects between 2021–2024 to accelerate adoption of clean heating technologies. These pilots demonstrated the effectiveness of targeted, scalable approaches for overcoming barriers such as emergency replacement scenarios, utility allowance misalignment, and deployment in disadvantaged communities.

DRCOG's \$6 million Innovation Pilot Grant Program will award average subgrants of \$200,000 to support community-driven innovations and small business-led projects. The program's objectives are to:

- Provide best-in-class program experience and customer service.
- Program awards fund transformative projects leading market transformation with actionable lessons for policymakers by 2029 and high potential for energy use reduction, utility cost reduction, or pollution reduction by 2050.
- The program reaches applicants that represent industry and community across the DRCOG region and will drive results for Coloradans by 2030.

Round one of awards will be selected based on four proposed focus tracks for funding:

- **Track 1: Making Electrification Easier to Deliver.** How might we reduce the time, cost, and complexity for a tenant, business, or homeowner?
- **Track 2: Demand Flexibility and Technical Performance.** How might we support affordable and easy-to-deliver electrification projects in service of customer, contractor, and system benefits?
- **Track 3: Coordinated Deployment and Planning Strategies.** How might we identify the places, properties, or portfolios where electrification can move faster, cost less, or reach more people at once?
- **Track 4: Expanding Access, Health, and Trusted Delivery.** How might we increase access to clean, healthy, and efficient buildings for all households, especially those facing financial or structural barriers?



The Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee has provided input in grant criteria development and award selection processes at prior committee meetings and via individual 1-1 meetings with DRCOG's vendor.

Action by others

None

Previous discussion/action

[September 3, 2025- Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee](#)

[December 2, 2025- Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee](#)

[March 3, 2026- Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee](#)

Recommendation

Move to recommend the Innovation Pilot Program Policy to the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee.

Attachment

Innovation Pilot Program Policy

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mac Prather, Program Manager, at mprather@drcog.org.

