



# Decarbonize DRCOG Program Update

Regional Building Decarbonization Technical Committee- September 2, 2025



# Budget and Timeline

We have expended less than 1% of the budget (about \$2 million).

- \$50m/year program from Q1 2026- Q4 2029.

## Current Timeline-

- **September 2025-** Presentation to Rocky Mountain Utility Exchange.
- **December 2025-** Website launch and contractor outreach/registration.
- **February 2026-** Full program launch, including advising and incentives.

# Our team



**Robert Spotts**  
Manager, Decarbonization



**Sharon Day**  
Manager, Administration  
& Finance

## Building Policy

## Workforce & Industry Development

## Energy Advising, Rebates, & Low-income Programs

## Communications & Community Engagement

## Climate Pollution Reduction Planning

## Administration and Finance



**Greg Miao**  
Program  
Manager



**Clay McCombe**  
Program  
Manager



**Mac Prather**  
Program  
Manager



**Chris Selk**  
Program  
Manager



**Maddy Nesbit**  
Senior Planner



**Katie Maxted**  
Contracts Lead



**Crystal  
Egelkamp**  
Senior Program  
Specialist



**Devon  
Reifsneider**  
Senior Program  
Specialist



**Fernando  
Briones**  
Senior Program  
Specialist



**Andy Birkey**  
Senior Program  
Specialist



**Kenia Flores**  
Compliance Lead

**Luke  
Charbonneau**  
Senior Program  
Specialist



**Emily Loker**  
Senior Program  
Specialist

**Vacant**  
Contracts and  
Compliance  
Specialist

**Vacant**  
Contracts and  
Compliance  
Specialist

# Opportunities

- Partnerships continue to develop with utilities, local governments, and the state.
- Vendors invested in collaboration and positive outcomes.
- Continue seeking unique funding opportunities.

# Challenges

- Workplan amendments.
- Market uncertainty.
- Achieving aspirational workplan targets.



# Marketing, Communications and Community Engagement Update

Regional Building Decarbonization Committees – September 2025



# Marketing

- We have a name!
  - ✓ Market research.
  - ✓ Stakeholder interviews.
  - ✓ Communication Advisory Committee.
  - ✓ Brand Accelerator Workshop.
- Internal rollout:
  - ✓ DRCOG Staff.
  - ✓ DRCOG Board.
  - ✓ Decarbonization Committees.
- Campaign launch: December 2025.

**KARSH • HAGAN**

**GBSM**  
INSIGHT | STRATEGY | RESULTS



INSTITUTE FOR THE  
BUILT ENVIRONMENT  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



# Communications

Working with GBSM on:

- ✓ Crisis communications.
- ✓ Earned media.

Working with ImageX on:

- ✓ Minimum Viable Product launch.
- ✓ Wireframes.
- ✓ Comprehensive website.



# Community Engagement

- Consultant selected: Kearns and West.
- Work with Partners in Energy.
- Current timeline.







# Workforce & Industry Development Update

## Regional Building Decarbonization Committees – September 2025

# Contractor Navigation Hub

- Design phase
  - ✓ Building Out Digital Platform.
  - ✓ Stipend Plan for Contractors.
  - ✓ Contractor Agents Hired.
  - ✓ Find-A-Contractor Page.
- Contractor is our First Customer:
  - ✓ Engaging with Industry.
  - ✓ Discussing Partnership with Utilities.
  - ✓ Universal Rebate Portal.
- Contractor Launch: December 2025







# Green Workforce Hubs

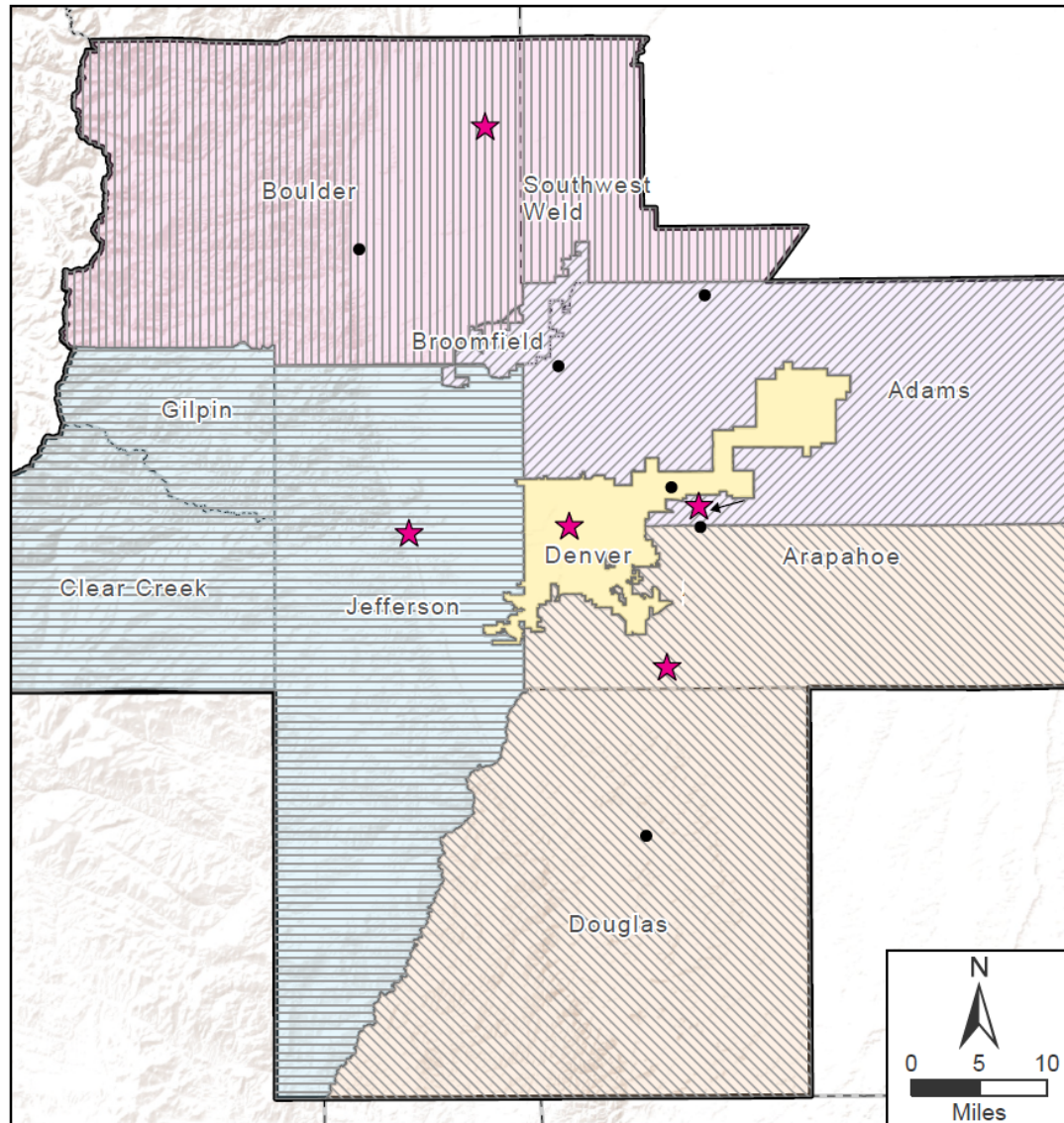
Finalizing contract










- ✓ Career pathway tracks.
- ✓ 3,800 new workers trained.
- ✓ Wraparound services.

Ribbon cutting launch

- ✓ January 2025.





-  Adams County Workforce Center
-  Arapahoe/Douglas Works!
-  Boulder County Workforce Center
-  Denver Workforce Development
-  Jefferson County Business and Workforce Center
-  Green Workforce Hubs
-  Partner Workforce Centers
-  County boundaries
-  DRCOG boundary

Source Data: DRCOG, Esri Basemap; SR 6428  
 Creator: PJordan  
 Location: \\TPO\0-Projects\Decarbonization\Green Work Force Hub Centers

## GWF hub locations

- ★ **Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center**  
6974 South Lima St, Centennial, CO 80112
- ★ **Denver Workforce Development**  
201 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80202
- ★ **Jefferson County Business & Workforce Center**  
3500 Illinois St, Suite 1600, Golden, CO 80401
- ★ **Adams County Workforce & Business Center**  
3155 Chambers Rd., Unit C, Aurora, CO 80011
- ★ **Workforce Boulder County**  
515 Coffman St., Longmont, CO 80501

- *Partner workforce centers will still offer services to jobseekers.*



# Growth Access Programs (GAPs)

Young adults training program

✓ Vendor selected.

Multilingual training program

✓ Vendor selected.

Justice-impacted training program

✓ RFP posting September 2025.





# State HVAC license

2025 DORA sunrise review

- ✓ HVAC application was accepted.
- ✓ Engagement and research are underway.

Next steps

- ✓ Assist state with industry engagement.
- ✓ Recommendation in December 2025.





# Incentives, Advising, Innovation Grant and Full-Service Low-Income Programs

# Overview of incentives, advising and low-income communities programs

## Strategic Goals

- Highly efficient, all-electric buildings are status quo.
- Building upgrades are easily navigable by all.
- Incentives and programs support contractor's businesses.

## Objectives

- 1,600 low-income households retrofit by 2029.
- 39,800 housing units and businesses advised by 2029
- Incentives for 26,000 single- and multi-family units and 4.15M sq. ft. commercial space by 2029
- All in pursuit of pollution reduction objectives



# Incentives and energy advising (\$59.6 million)

The logo for veic, featuring the word "veic" in a bold, orange, lowercase sans-serif font, centered on a dark teal rectangular background.

- Support customers in choosing **cold climate heat pumps** and similar highly efficient all-electric technologies.
- A **benefit to HVAC contractors**, businesses and workforce.
- **Support customers** in making easy, informed decisions.



# Full-service low-income program (\$48 Million)

- **Program Vision**
- A comprehensive initiative designed to accelerate the adoption of clean space and water heating technologies across homes in the Denver metropolitan area.
- The program aims to enhance the well-being of low-income households while advancing regional decarbonization goals.
- By addressing barriers to building efficiency and electrification holistically, the program seeks to transform the market and create lasting, equitable change.
- Serve more than 1,600 low-income households by 2030
- From community feedback: Access to cooling, health and indoor air quality, utility bills, safe and secure housing are timely and critical needs.



**ENERGY  
OUTREACH  
COLORADO**

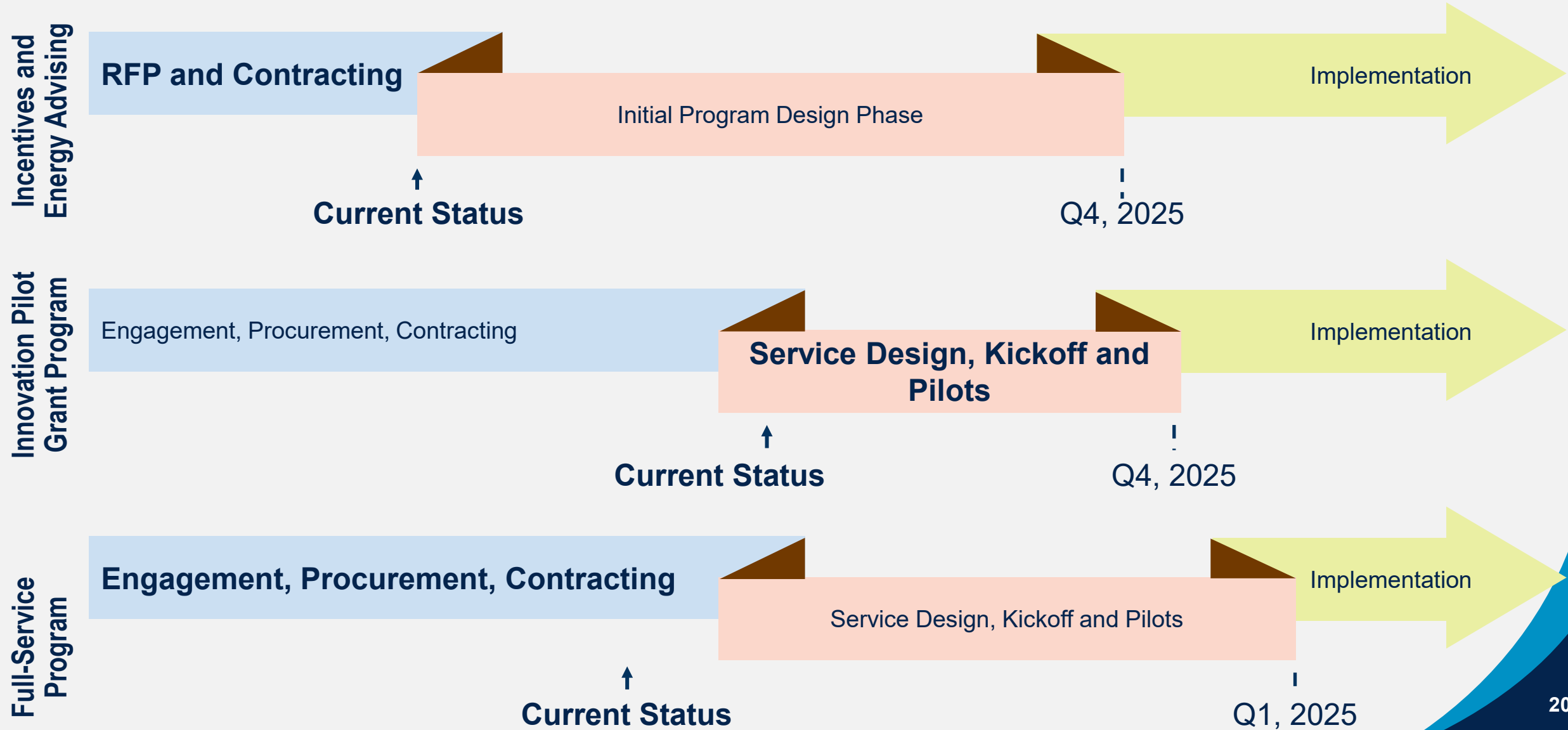


# Innovation pilot program (\$6 Million)

- Award an average of **\$200,000 per subaward** to entrepreneurial businesses, technologies, CBO's with high potential to accelerate electrification and energy efficiency adoption and bust barriers to service delivery.
  - Demonstrate scalable solutions to key market barriers via regional pilot projects.
  - Inform decarbonization decision-making with public data, analyses, and case studies.
- Target small businesses, novel approaches and community-driven innovations
- Oversight Committee will evaluate grant criteria and selections.

The logo for the Western Energy Institute (veic) is displayed in orange lowercase letters on a dark teal background.

# Program Timelines







# Building Policy Collaborative

# Building Policy & Contractor Team

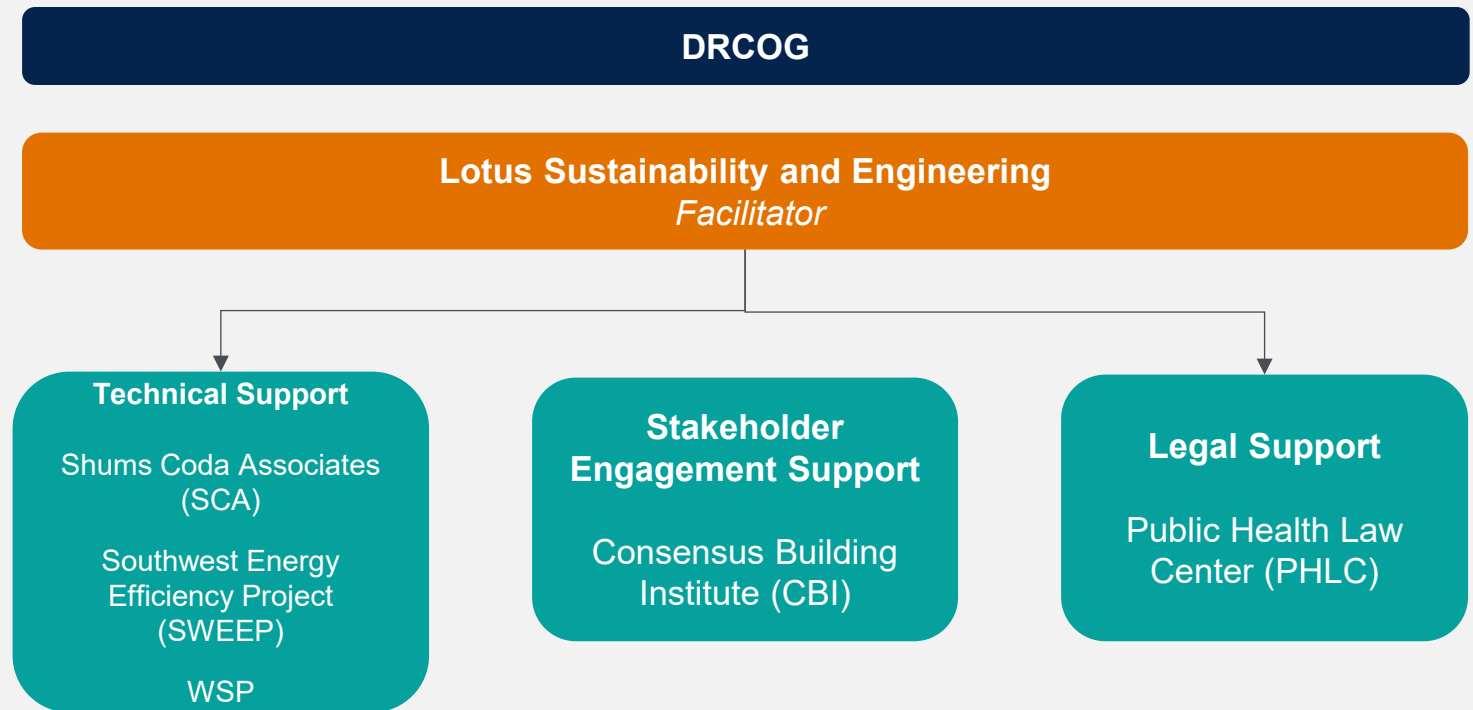
## DRCOG Building Policy



**Greg Miao**  
Program Manager



**Crystal Egelkamp**  
Senior Program Specialist





# Big Picture Updates



Jurisdictional subaward  
open through October 30,  
2025.



Building Policy Collaborative  
launched August 7.



Research program being  
finalized.

# BPC: Benefits & Resources



**Regional Decarbonization  
Roadmap**



**Collaboration  
and Peer Learning**



**Model Policy  
Options**



**Regional  
Engagement**



**Research  
Support**



# BPC Structure

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**Steering Committee**

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**Full BPC** – all participating communities.

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**Cohorts** – similar sized communities.

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**Policy Working groups** – communities interested in working on the same policies.

# BPC Updates & Next Steps

- **First full BPC meeting held August 7.**
  - ~ 60 attendees including staff and contractors representing 29 jurisdictions.
- **First round of cohort meetings complete.**
- **Building Decarbonization Roadmap** - to be developed by cohorts through December 2025 and finalized by January / February of 2026.
- **2026** – divide into policy working groups to develop model policies and work on policy implementation.







# Jurisdictional Subaward



# Subaward Goals

- Reduce building-related climate pollution emissions through local policy change and support community-wide efforts.
- Support jurisdictions' capacity to adopt and implement local building policies, maximizing regional consistency.
- Support jurisdictions in BPC participation.



**June 2, 2025**  
Applications open.



**October 31, 2025**  
Application deadline.



**Spring 2026**  
Round 2 opens.



# Jurisdictional Subaward: **Eligible Uses**



Staff Capacity



Permit & Systems Support



Training & Certification



Engagement & Coordination



Technical Assistance



Custom Measures

# Jurisdictional Support Program

**\$34.8 million in subawards to DRCOG's member governments.**

- 4 applications received so far totaling \$5.9 million (Denver, Lakewood, Westminster, Longmont).
- Anticipate numerous additional applications to be submitted by jurisdictions in September and October with contracting to take place October through December.

## **Application focus areas:**

- Staffing to support policy adoption and implementation (energy analysts, plan reviewers, codes officials, inspectors).
- Streamlining heat pump permitting.
- Adopting advanced energy codes and benchmarking programs.



# Jurisdictional Support Program next steps

## Now through October 30, 2025

continued outreach and support to jurisdictions to encourage applications.

## Nov. 2025 – Jan. 2026

February, 2026 – design of round 2 subaward policy .

continued application review and contracting.

## Now through December 2025

# Research

- **\$1 million budget for localized research.**
  - Solicited RFP feedback from key partners
  - Anticipate issuing RFP in September
  - Key Research areas:
    - Policy modeling - costs, benefits, and equity impacts of strengthening local energy/emissions policies identified in the roadmap.
    - Building stock analysis and retrofit strategies.
    - Electrification baseline & grid readiness.
    - Electric-preferred policy effectiveness & unintended consequences.