

Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee

Meeting date: February 13, 2026

Agenda Item #: 6 (Attachment D)

Incentives, Advising and Innovation Program Updates

Agenda item type: Discussion

Summary

Staff will provide a status update on the development and implementation of Power Ahead Colorado's incentives, energy advising, and Innovation programs. The update includes progress on program design, anticipated timelines, and next steps for stakeholder engagement and committee involvement.

Background

As part of the Power Ahead Colorado program, the nearly \$60 million incentives and energy advising program is currently in detailed design, with implementation anticipated to begin in Q2 2026. Initial incentive priorities include cold climate heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and rooftop units. Incentives are expected to include a mix of downstream incentives to customers, bonus incentives to contractors to support quality installations, and midstream incentives to distributors to ensure consistent regional availability. Energy advising will follow a tiered, no-wrong-door approach, ranging from web-based education to expert technical and on-site support, depending on customer needs.

The Innovation Pilot Grant Program will invest \$6 million in regional pilot projects designed to address key market barriers to electrification and energy efficiency adoption. Grants averaging approximately \$200,000 will support small businesses, community-based organizations, and novel approaches with high potential for scalability. Focus areas for the first round of funding include reducing market friction and soft costs, technical and grid optimization, and improving access, affordability, and health outcomes.

Next steps include stakeholder interviews and focus groups to inform program design, continued refinement of incentive structures, development of program policies for Technical Committee review, and preparation for the launch of the first innovation grant round in Q2 2026.

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mac Prather, Incentives, Advising and Low-Income Communities Program Manager, mprather@drco.org.

