

Board of Directors

Meeting date: June 18, 2025

Agenda Item #: 10

Discussion of possible HVAC licensure program.

Agenda item type: Action item

Summary

A discussion of options to improve processes, safety, and welfare in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) industry across Colorado's jurisdictions. HVAC technicians are currently municipally regulated. This system leads to a variety of different standards and protocols when it comes to education, safety measures, and welfare across jurisdictions. DRCOG is exploring options to improve processes across jurisdictions in a way that serves contractors, protects consumers, and elevates best practices across jurisdictions.

Background

Colorado is one of 17 states that do not regulate HVAC technicians at the state level. Instead, the industry operates under a system where individual cities and counties each have their own licensing and renewal requirements, standards, and processes.

With over \$1 billion in federal, local, and utility funding currently planned for energy efficient HVAC systems in Colorado over the next 5 to 7 years, including the Decarbonize DRCOG program, HVAC contractors will play a crucial role in meeting climate pollution reduction goals. However, the industry is insufficiently equipped to perform high quantity and quality installations.

Improvements to the current structure could result in:

- Ensured Minimum Competency: All licensed HVAC contractors will have a base level knowledge and skill, with continued education required.
- Reduced Burden: With a single certification that authorizes work state-wide, contractors can focus more on their work than on licensure.
- Consumer Protection: State licensure reduces the risk of unsafe or unlicensed installations that can result in dangerous indoor temperatures and inflated energy bills.

DRCOG staff will lead a discussion on options for improving the current system, including expanding reciprocal licensing and suggesting that the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) consider the appropriateness of a statewide licensure system, in partnership with local governments, with specific requirements around installation and servicing. DRCOG is uniquely positioned to bring together local jurisdictions, industry stakeholders, and regional stakeholders to explore solutions to this issue.

Previous discussion/action

None



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Recommendation

At the discretion of the Board.

Attachment

Staff presentation

For more information

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