POWER AHEAD COLORADO
A Program of DRCOG

The Building Policy Collaborative Roadmap

Aligning Regional Action on Building Efficiency and Electrification

July 2026

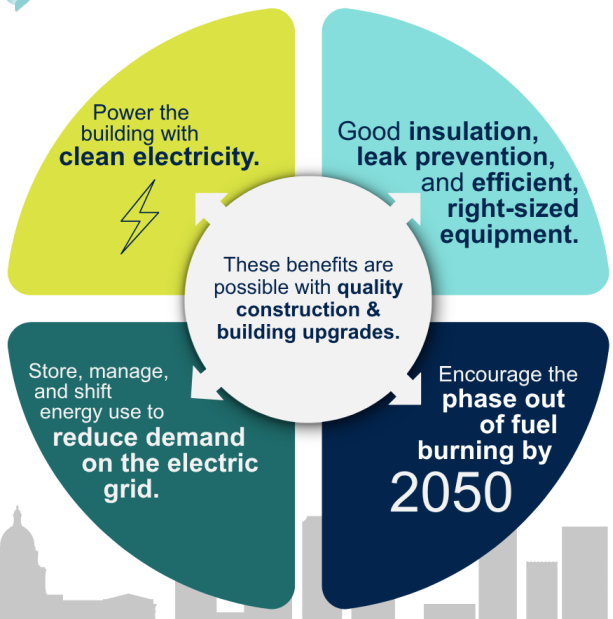
Executive summary

The **Building Policy Collaborative (BPC) Roadmap** outlines a strategic regional vision for the Denver area to reduce climate pollution from the building sector while enhancing building efficiency and affordability, and improving occupant health. Spearheaded by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), this initiative is fueled by a $200 million federal Climate Pollution Reduction Grant aimed at transforming the region's built environment.

Vision for buildings

Our vision is a region where buildings are:

- Efficient
- Affordable
- Comfortable
- Resilient
- Free of energy-related pollution



Why focus on buildings?

- **Buildings are the biggest contributor to climate pollution.** Based on the climate pollution inventory conducted as part of DRCOG's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, buildings are the largest source of climate pollution in the Denver region.
- **To build safer and more resilient homes and buildings.** As climate continues to change, the Denver region is likely to experience more extreme weather, and there is a need to ensure new homes and buildings can withstand the most extreme weather events at lower energy costs.
- **To build healthier homes and buildings.** More than 40% of homes in the United States had at least one significant health or safety hazard, many of which are directly linked to outdated building systems, continued use of fuel-burning appliances and poor weatherization and ventilation.
- **To improve building and utility affordability.** Nine out of 10 homes in the U.S. are currently under-insulated. Energy efficiency upgrades and efficient electric appliances can lower utility bills for residents and reduce strain on household budgets. For new construction, energy efficient building codes can also drive savings in construction costs and utility bills.

Regional momentum and support

By aligning the Denver region's local governments, the BPC Roadmap supports a regionally consistent and predictable policy framework that benefits the building industry and residents alike. The roadmap capitalizes on significant building improvement laws and funding, including:

- **Advances in technology and state law:** Rapid advancements in heat pump efficiency and new Colorado laws (e.g., HB22-1362) that mandate minimum energy standards for local governments.
- **Utility investments and inancial resources:** The region's utilities, the state, and lo-cal governments have committed **hundreds of millions** of dollars to expand the use of efficient electric equipment and appliances. Additionally, as of early 2026, the BPC has awarded **27 local governments** over **$26 million** to support policy adoption and imple-mentation.
- **The Power Ahead Colorado Program:** Provides a "one-stop shop" for rebates, contrac-tor training, and community outreach to drive the adoption of clean building technology, as well as, unprecedented funding for local governments to add capacity for building policy adoption and implementation.

Key policy actions

The roadmap identifies three key policy actions local governments can take to accomplish the regional vision:

1. **Advanced Building Energy Codes:** Updating requirements for new construction to ensure buildings do not contribute to carbon pollution with energy efficiency and electrification.
2. **Building Transparency Policies:** Implementing energy use disclosure policies to help residents, building owners, and governments track and disclose energy use.
3. **Building Performance Policies:** Setting specific rules for energy upgrades or long-term improvement thresholds for existing buildings to reduce energy waste and car-bon pollution over time.

Implementation milestones

The roadmap establishes a phased timeline for regional transformation:

2026-2027

Collaboration to develop regional model codes and policies.

2027-2029

Participating communities work toward adopting advanced energy codes and energy transparency policies.

2030-2040

Regional transition toward adopting building performance improvement policies for residential and commercial properties.

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Letter from the Executive Director

In 2024, the Denver Regional Council of Governments (also referred to as DRCOG) was awarded nearly $200 million through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to help cut climate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions across the Denver region. With these funds, DRCOG developed and launched the Power Ahead Colorado program to improve regional air quality and community health by reducing climate pollution from the region's buildings.

This roadmap, prepared in partnership with staff and elected officials of local governments, advances Power Ahead Colorado's goals and builds upon DRCOG's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The roadmap establishes a shared vision for steadily reducing climate pollution from buildings across the region and identifies clear near- and long-term, implementation-ready policies to reduce pollution and enhance the efficiency of new construction and existing buildings while protecting health and preserving housing affordability. The roadmap expands upon and accelerates efforts to reduce climate pollution from the building sector across the Front Range.

I invite local governments, partners, and stakeholders across the region to explore the strategies identified in the roadmap, consider how they align with and support local priorities, and work collaboratively to advance our shared climate and community goals.

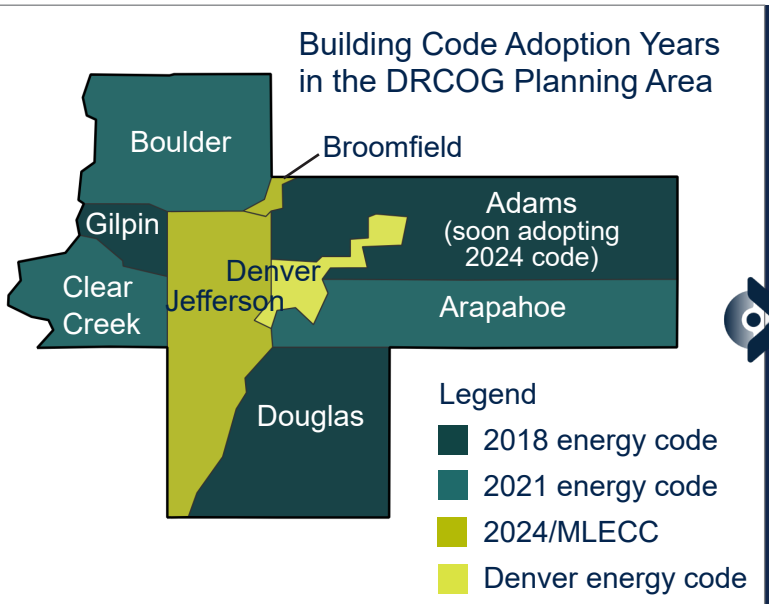
Douglas W. Rex,

Executive Director, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Introduction

In October 2024, in partnership with local governments across the Denver area, DRCOG secured a $200 million federal grant through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. With these funds, DRCOG developed and launched the Power Ahead Colorado program to improve regional air quality and community health by reducing climate pollution from the region's buildings.

Within Power Ahead Colorado, the Building Policy Collaborative – commonly known as the BPC – supports local governments across the Denver region to advance regionally consistent building codes and policies targeting new and existing buildings that reduce building-related climate pollution and improve building performance.



DRCOG Background

Founded in 1955, the Denver Regional Council of Governments is a regional planning organization made up of **59 local governments across the Denver area**. The planning area covers communities from the mountains to the plains, ranging from small towns with populations of a few hundred residents to large cities like Denver and Aurora. DRCOG provides a collaborative forum for member communities to establish guidelines, set policy, allocate funding for projects that support transportation, mobility, planning and development, and more.

Figure 1: *Map of energy code adopted by county as of May, 2026.*

The purpose of the roadmap

This roadmap establishes a **regional vision for steadily reducing climate pollution from buildings** in a manner that improves occupant health and comfort and addresses affordability and resiliency concerns. The roadmap:

- Articulates why **collaborating and coordinating across the Denver region** to reduce pollution from buildings through codes and policies is important, timely and doable.
- Identifies **key building code and policy actions** local governments can take to:
  - ensure **new buildings do not contribute to climate-pollution**;
  - better understand **how much pollution** their existing buildings are creating; and
  - begin taking **steps to reduce pollution** from existing buildings.
- Fosters **alignment, education, and action across local governments, the building industry, and the public** to support the adoption of the building codes and policies necessary to accomplish the regional vision.

What are Building Codes and Policies?

Building codes are requirements that apply to new construction and building repairs, alterations, and additions. Over time, policymakers have updated building codes to increasingly improve the health, safety, durability, and, since 1975, the energy efficiency of buildings. In Colorado, local governments have the authority to adopt codes that continue to advance such priorities and tailor them to local needs, as long as they meet the minimum standards set by the state.

Policies that govern existing buildings, by contrast, apply to already-constructed buildings. The state and some local governments within the Denver region have adopted these policies to improve the efficiency of already constructed buildings. These policies generally require building owners to track, disclose, and reduce the amount of energy a building uses with the goal of improving building performance, saving owners on energy costs, and improving occupant health and building safety over time.

DRCOG's vision to transform the region's buildings

DRCOG's vision is a region where buildings are efficient, comfortable, affordable, resilient, and eliminate energy-related pollution. This can be accomplished when buildings are constructed or upgraded to:

1. **Reduce energy waste** through good insulation and air leakage and draft prevention.
2. **Use efficient and appropriate electric equipment and appliances** to reduce energy use and climate pollution.
3. **Use smart energy systems** to store and strategically manage energy use.
4. **Take advantage of clean electricity sources**, either from the grid or from on-site renewable resources.

Why focus on buildings?

Buildings sit at a significant cross-section of local government interests. Collaborating and coordinating across the Denver region on building codes and policies present local governments with timely and effective opportunities to not only reduce climate pollution from buildings, but also make buildings more resilient to the changing environment, improve resident health, lower utility bills; and enhance the condition of the buildings where people live, work, and gather.

Reducing climate pollution from buildings

Climate change has hit Colorado hard. In the last two decades Colorado's residents have experienced the largest fires in state history, unprecedented drought in the Colorado River Basin, a 140% increase in extreme heat days, floods from intense storm systems, and changing ecosystems. The 2021 Marshall Fire in Boulder County was the most destructive fire in Colorado history, destroying over 1,000 homes and the risks from a changing climate continue to grow.

Climate pollution from buildings is a significant contributing factor to the climate changes experienced by the Denver region. According to a 2022 Denver Regional Council of Governments study, the majority of the climate pollution in the region comes from energy used in existing residential and commercial buildings. Building codes and policies that emphasize efficient and clean building technology can prevent the creation of climate pollution from new construction and reduce climate pollution from existing buildings. **Every new building constructed today, if not built to consider long-term environmental impacts, will produce climate pollution and contribute to increasing climate-related risks for residents for years to come.**

Share of Regional Climate Pollution by Sector

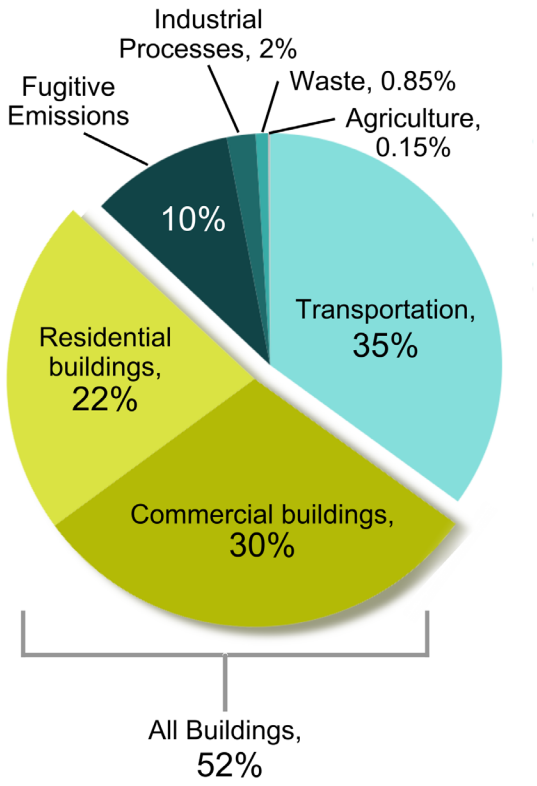


Figure 2: *Share of regional climate pollution broken out by sector.*

Safer, more resilient homes and buildings

As the climate continues to change, the Denver region is likely to experience more extreme weather, and there is a need to ensure new homes and buildings can withstand the most extreme weather events at lower energy costs. Building codes and policies can support safer, weather-ready homes by ensuring they are built or upgraded with better insulation and weatherproofing.

Better insulation, windows and doors, and weatherproofing reduces draftiness, blocks exterior air and noise pollution from sources such as traffic or lawn equipment, and lowers the chance for ice dams developing in snowy climates. These improvements enable better temperature and humidity control and increase occupant comfort.

Strong insulation and weatherproofing also makes homes better able to withstand the most extreme weather events at lower energy costs. For example a study by the U.S. Green Building Council found that during an extended winter power outage, a single-family home with strong insulation and weather-proofing would stay above 60 degrees Fahrenheit after three days without power, compared to a typical single-family house without these features, which would be 35 degrees after three days.

Healthier homes and buildings

Building construction standards and existing building conditions also have a major impact on resident and occupant health. Substandard conditions, such as structural failures, plumbing problems, heating and electrical deficiencies, fire safety issues, and exposure to biological hazards place occupants' health at significant risk. As of 2017, more than 40% of homes in the United States had at least one significant health or safety hazard.

Many health risks associated with substandard buildings are directly linked to outdated building systems, continued use of fuel-burning appliances and poor weatherization and ventilation. For example, exposure to moisture and mold, and insect and pest infestation are all associated with an increased risk in residents developing health issues such as asthma and eczema. Low-income households are particularly at risk as they are more likely to live in older properties with higher maintenance needs.

Building codes and policies can support healthier homes and buildings by encouraging the use of electric equipment and appliances and by improving building ventilation. These changes help reduce indoor climate pollution and associated risks. Building policies that require regular building and equipment inspections and reporting on energy use and efficiency upgrades can also help building owners identify health risks that can otherwise go undetected in older buildings, such as radon, mold, unsafe wiring, and more.

Case study: Pairing efficient building codes and policies with weatherization programs is a win-win

While policies encouraging efficiency upgrades for existing buildings may present challenges for low-income homeowners, many cities have programs to help. For example, the City of Aurora provides several housing rehabilitation and repair programs for lower-income households, including programs to address urgent home system problems that are an immediate threat to health and safety, programs that support repairs related to accessibility, electrical, plumbing, roofing and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, and loan programs for income eligible homeowners who need to make necessary repairs to their homes. These programs can help offset the upfront costs of energy efficiency upgrades and enable low-income homeowners to reduce heating and cooling costs.

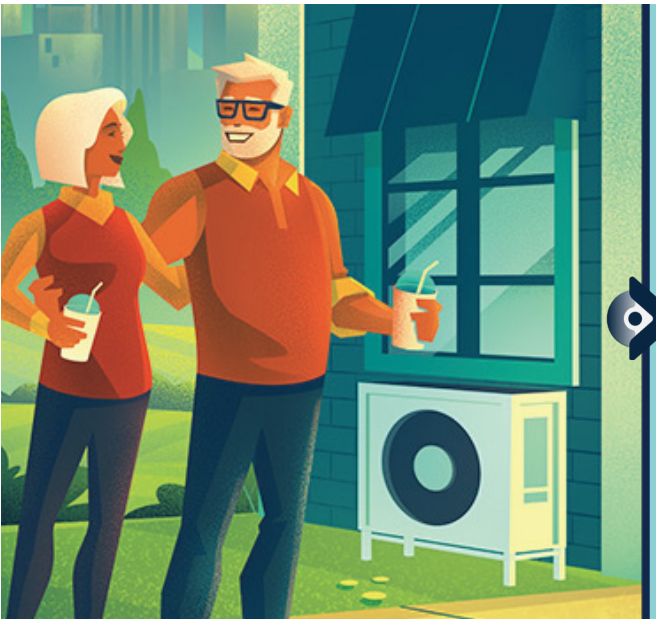
Improving affordability

Building codes and policies aimed at reducing energy waste and expanding the use of efficient electric equipment and appliances can also improve the upfront and ongoing affordability of buildings and homes.

For newly built buildings, energy efficient building codes that encourage electrification can drive savings in construction costs and on utility bills. A Rocky Mountain Institute 2022 analysis found that new efficient all-electric homes have, on average, lower annual utility bills than new mixed-fuel homes, with annual operating costs in the Denver region being 13.7% less for all-electric homes compared to mixed-fuel homes. Codes that require new homes and buildings to be well-insulated, efficient and pollution-free from the start can also help homeowners and businesses avoid costly and difficult building efficiency and electrification retrofits.

For existing buildings, energy efficiency upgrades can lower utility bills for residents and reduce strain on household budgets, particularly for households that already struggle to pay their monthly bills. Nine out of 10 homes in the U.S. are currently under-insulated and EPA estimates that households can save an average of 15% on heating and cooling costs through better weatherizing their homes.

Additionally, policies that encourage energy efficiency improvements at “time-of-replacement” (such as when a furnace or water heater stops working or reaches the end of its life) or when work is already being completed (such as a kitchen or basement remodel) can also help home-owners and building owners make steady, more affordable upgrades to their buildings over time. Such policies help minimize energy waste and transition buildings to modern electric equipment and appliances in the most cost-effective manner.



Case study: A staged retrofit approach to success

Situated in a historic 1904 building, the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition proved you don’t have to do everything at once to make meaningful change. Starting with affordable upgrades like LED lighting, then using energy data to plan for heat pumps and solar, CCJRC modernized step by step, bundling projects, leveraging support from the Energize Denver Energy Navigation, rebates and grants, and phasing improvements to make the numbers work.

Addressing climate change through buildings is no longer a future aspiration. Advances in building technologies and strong statewide and utility investments have combined to create a window of opportunity for the region to make meaningful progress that will reduce building-re-lated climate pollution in the years to come.

Leveraging new technology and existing investments

Technology advancements

Electric technology, such as cold-climate heat pumps, has gained an edge over fuel-based equipment in recent years in terms of efficiency and capability, and is now widely available. **Heat pumps are highly efficient, all-electric equipment that can both heat and cool indoor spaces.** Heat pump technology can also be found in hot water heaters and clothes dryers. Some heat pumps are specifically designed for cold climates, such as Colorado's, and operate at three to five times the efficiency of traditional gas-powered equipment. Homeowners and building owners in the Denver region are already using and realizing the benefits of heat pump technology. When connected to a clean electric grid, heat pumps can efficiently power a building without contributing to climate pollution.

Case study: Heat pump improved outcomes

In 2023, a Denver non-profit, Earthlinks, replaced an aging gas furnace and swamp cooler with a new rooftop heat pump with support from the city's energy rebate program. Replacing the existing systems with a heat pump not only improved indoor comfort for Earthlink's employees and volunteers, it also lowered Earthlink's operating costs and reduced the building's climate pollution.

State-wide efforts

In addition to advances in technology, state-wide initiatives have set a strong foundation for local governments to accomplish the regional vision. These state laws and utility requirements detail historic investments in renewable energy infrastructure, expanding the use of high-efficiency electric equipment and appliances, and modernizing the energy grid. As the state continues to advance its climate pollution reduction goals and Colorado's utilities advance their renewable energy efforts and clean heat plans, the case for installing and using efficient electric equipment grows, as does the availability of rebates and incentives to support building owners in making upgrades.

Utility Clean Energy Plans

Driven largely by state law, the climate pollution generated from the Denver region's electricity supply is decreasing each year. Under Senate Bill 19-236, qualifying utilities (utilities that serve over 500,000 customers) are required to reduce carbon dioxide emissions associated with electricity and work towards providing 100% clean energy by 2050. Xcel Energy, Colorado's largest investor-owned utility and the primary electric utility serving the Denver region, is expanding renewable generation and reducing emissions through a Clean Energy Plan approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. And while Municipal and cooperative utilities that are not automatically subject to the Senate Bill, many have opted-in or adopted their own renewable energy and emission reduction targets.

As electric utilities progress towards these goals, buildings that use electricity will see the majority of their electric power coming from clean, renewable energy sources. This trend will amplify the climate pollution reduction impact of building codes and policies that encourage the switch from gas-powered equipment and appliances to efficient electric ones.

Utility Clean Heat Plans

In addition to electricity supply requirements, gas utilities with more than 90,000 retail customers are required by state law to reduce climate pollution from their gas distribution systems by 22% by 2030. This is being done through a combination of investments in energy efficiency, efficient electric equipment and appliances, recovered methane, and green hydrogen.

Xcel Energy's Clean Heat Plan, specifically, includes over $360 million in approved funding to expand the use of efficient electric equipment and appliances across its service territory through 2027. For example, in 2026, Xcel Energy offers eligible homes an average of $4,500 to $9,000 for cold climate heat pumps, depending on the size of the home, and up to $2,250 for heat pump water heaters, along with rebates for general efficiency upgrades such as insulation. Another cooperative electric utility serving the region, United Power, also offers rebates for certain high-efficiency equipment and appliances, making homeowner upgrades more accessible and affordable.

Utility rates to support electrification

In recognition of the growing demand for cold climate heat pumps, Xcel is considering new rate structures that would provide a stronger economic incentive for their customers who install high efficiency heat pumps as their primary heating source. The rate will be piloted, refined, and implemented in the coming years, providing yet another market incentive for the region's buildings to transition to high efficiency, all-electric heating technology.

Colorado grid renewables makeup projected to 2030

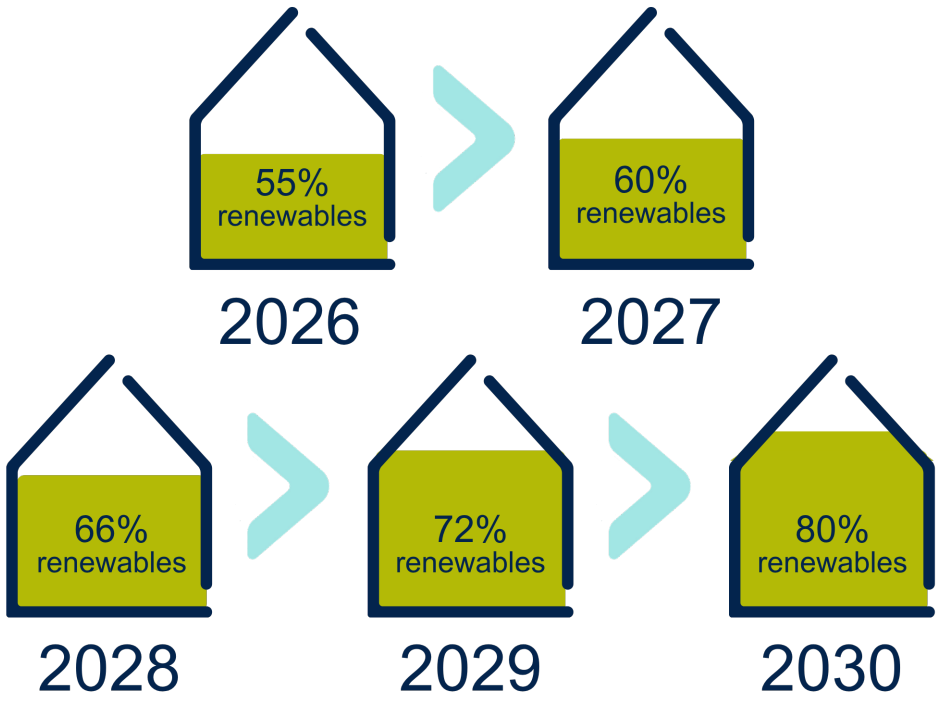


Figure 3: *Makeup of the percentage of the Colorado energy grid projected to be powered by renewable energy sources from 2026 to 2030. Source: RMI.*

State of Colorado energy codes and building performance standards

In addition to utility regulations, the Colorado legislature has also passed laws setting minimum energy efficiency standards for new and existing buildings. These laws help pave the way for the Denver region to accelerate efforts to address building related climate pollution.

As of July 2026, the State of Colorado's energy code law, HB22-1362, requires local governments to adopt and enforce the new state energy code upon updating any other building code. The state en-ergy code incorporates key themes aligned with the regional vision including reducing energy waste in new homes and buildings and encouraging the use of efficient electric equipment and appliances.

Similarly, the State of Colorado's benchmarking and Building Performance Standards (BPS) requirements aim to reduce energy use from the largest buildings in the state. Colorado's House Bill 21-1286 targets buildings at or over 50,000 square feet and requires an overall reduction of climate pollution 7% by 2026 and 20% by 2030. This requirement has spurred many building owners to begin taking action to meet or exceed their individual climate reduction targets.

Share of projected climate pollution reduction from building energy policies

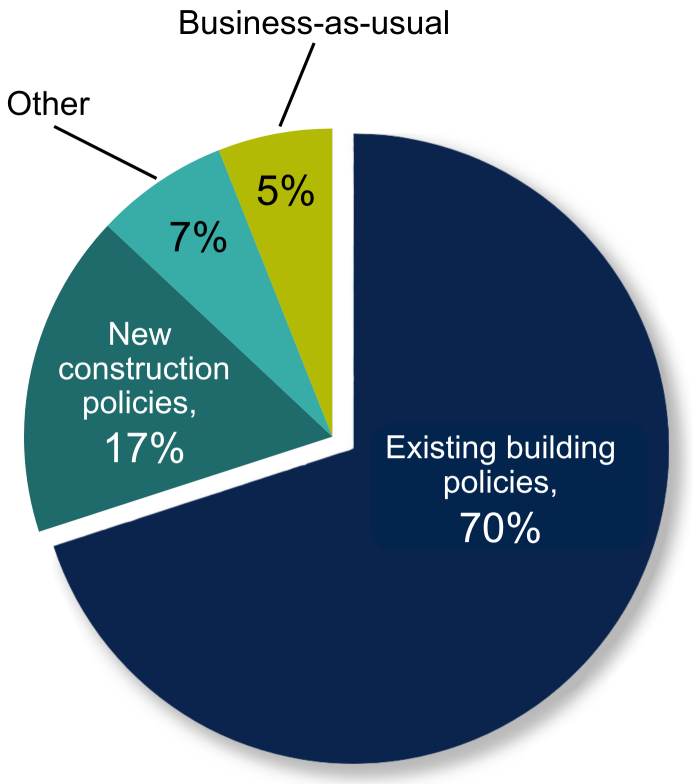


Figure 4: *Projected percentage of total climate pollution reduction resulting from type of building energy policy.*

Building regional alignment

Regional alignment is paramount to the success of building codes and policies that foster building improvements. Local leadership across the region has helped grow momentum for more advanced building policies. But in order to fully realize the regional vision, the region must work together to ensure that members of the building industry, including architects and engineers, building owners and developers, and people working in the building trades, are able to navigate what is required of them.

The **Building Policy Collaborative** exists to support this regional alignment. The BPC provides participating local governments access to significant financial, informational, analytical, and collaborative resources to support efforts to advance codes and policies that meet the regional vision including:

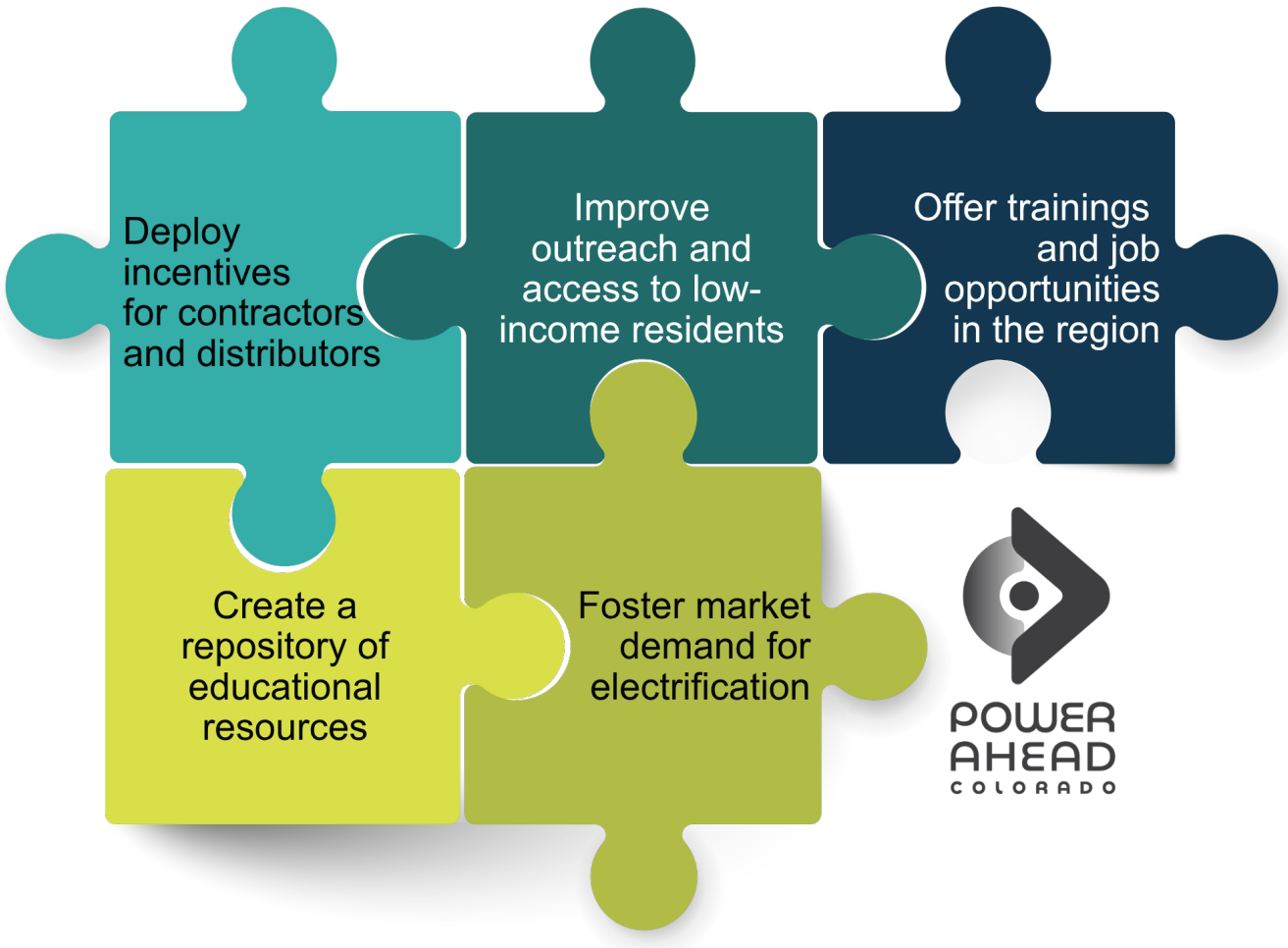
- **A structure to collaborate on policy development:** providing a space where jurisdictions can work together and with key regional partners to craft model codes and policies. Collaboration among local governments and regional partners allows participants to share resources, align timelines, and learn from one another's successes.
- **Localized research and analytical support:** providing access to cost studies and research on the effects of the building codes and policies being developed. These analyses will help policymakers consider the implications of such policies, and empower elected officials to make data-backed decisions that support improving buildings in their community.
- **Building industry and community engagement:** executing regionwide engagement, focused on understanding the primary barriers and opportunities for builders, building owners, contractors, affordable housing advocates, communities, and the building workforce at large to implement more advanced building codes and policies. Including these key partners early and often will help create building codes and policies that are practical to implement and responsive to the needs of the building industry and residents.
- **Dedicated funding and support:** providing jurisdictions in the Denver region with funding to support policy adoption and implementation. Funding for dedicated staff, updated permitting software and processes, community-specific engagement, subject-matter expert support, and training and implementation resources from the BPC empowers communities of all sizes to successfully adopt and enforce new policies.

By coordinating through the BPC, local leaders can act collectively to advance codes and policies that support the regional vision. Additionally, local government staff can share resources and streamline processes to make regulations more predictable for the building industry and strengthen building code and policy compliance, leading to better outcomes for community members.

Power Ahead Colorado programs and funding

Beyond the support provided by the BPC, Power Ahead Colorado supports local building code and policy change efforts by:

- Creating a one-stop shop for contractors and homeowners to access information on equipment rebates and incentives, approved contractors for building improvement projects, case studies and success stories, and other educational resources on building improvements.
- Bolstering the regional workforce via training, upskilling and reskilling for heat pump installations and repairs and creating job pipelines for the newly skilled workforce and increase regionwide recruitment of new workforce entrants into green building trades.
- Providing incentives for contractors, distributors, and retailers to stock, promote, and sell efficient, electric heat pumps.
- Improving outreach to low-income communities to access incentives and rebates for energy efficiency, electrification, and health and safety upgrades.
- Fostering demand for heat pump adoption in buildings via education, marketing, and incentives.



The policy roadmap

Key policy actions

This roadmap identifies three key policy actions for local governments to take to improve their buildings and achieve the regional vision. These policy actions can be implemented sequentially or simultaneously.

Policy action 1: Adopt advanced building energy codes

The first action is updating **building energy codes** to make sure that all newly constructed buildings are built to reduce energy waste and use efficient electric equipment and appliances. The State's Model Low Energy and Carbon Code sets the baseline for future new construction energy codes and local governments participating in the BPC have identified the following **priority elements** of the code to consider, include, or strengthen to achieve the regional vision:

- **Improving energy efficiency** means reducing the energy needed to effectively power a building. This can be accomplished by establishing energy use standards that 1) encourage building design that uses efficient equipment and appliances and 2) ensure the building's thermal envelope is well insulated and sealed from air leakage.
- **Ensuring that buildings can be electrified in the future.** This can be accomplished by requiring new buildings to be able to rely exclusively on electric appliances (such as heat pumps) without going so far as to require their installation. This provides builders with fuel choice options, while ensuring future owners can electrify their building systems, and can serve as a stepping stone to future fully electric building codes.
- **Utilizing smart energy systems** that promote electric load flexibility and responsiveness can be encouraged by establishing requirements for key appliances to include demand-responsive controls such as water heaters and thermostats.
- **Improving climate resilience and durability** can be accomplished by code provisions that encourage passive heating and cooling solutions, heat-resilient design, and onsite renewable energy and energy storage systems.

Policy action 2: Adopt building transparency policies

The second action is adopting **building transparency policies**. These policies, which have simple requirements for building owners, can help local governments better understand what their building stock looks like, how efficiently those buildings are using energy, and identify where there is room for improvement. Transparency policies can also deepen building owners' understanding of energy use in their buildings and lead them to make energy efficiency improvements on their own. These policies can also serve as the foundation for future efforts to directly require building improvements.

Building transparency policies may look different for residential properties (such as Oregon's Home Energy Score Policy) and commercial properties (commonly known as building benchmarking policies), but they work towards the same goal of revealing how much energy buildings are using and how efficient those buildings are, especially compared to their peers.

Policy action 3: Adopt building performance improvement policies

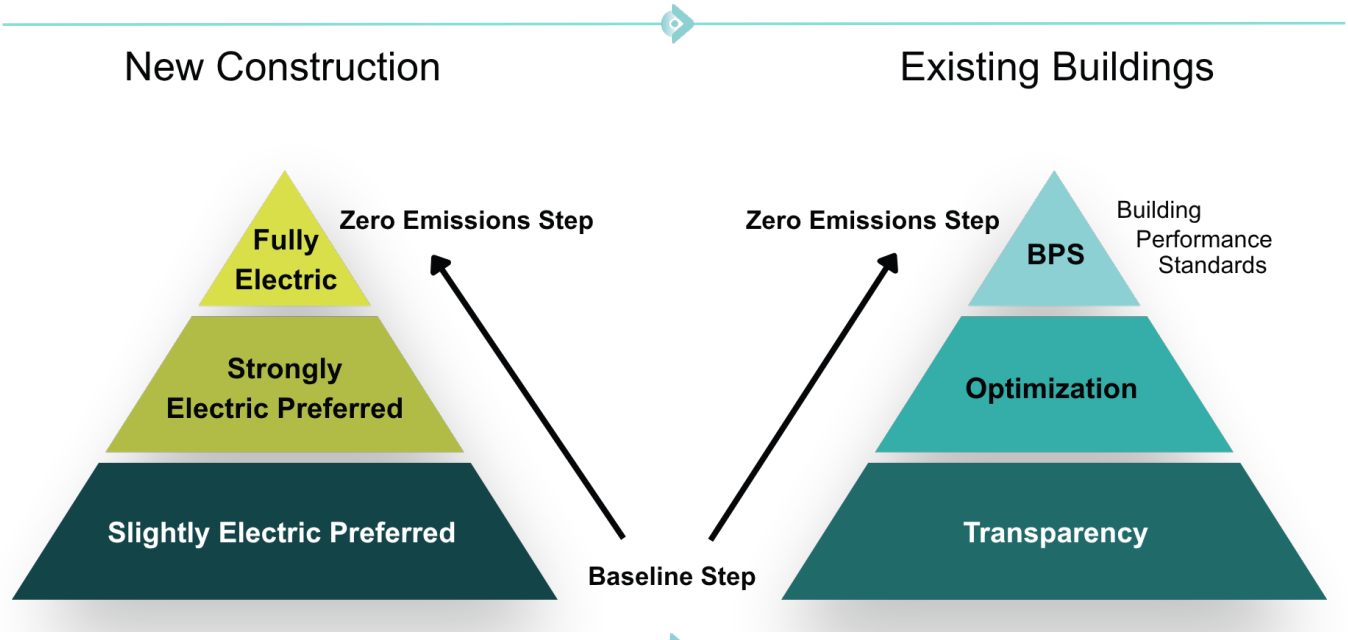
The third action is adopting **building performance improvement policies** that set specific rules for energy upgrades or targets for long term energy reduction to reduce energy waste, use efficient electric equipment and appliances, and modernize their buildings over time.

Local governments participating in the BPC have identified preserving existing buildings to be a priority element of building transparency and performance policies. Model policies should be crafted to encourage continuous reuse and improvement of buildings over demolition. The policies should not discourage remodeling projects and should offer pathways to compliance that are at least as straightforward as those for new construction.

Examples of these types of policies include the City of Denver's and State of Colorado's Building Performance Standards, which set targets for buildings to reduce energy use or carbon pollution by a future date, or New York City's Local Law 87, which requires buildings to get an energy audit and make incremental energy improvements every 10 years.

Policy pathways for every local government

While this roadmap identifies the key policy actions local governments can take to work toward the regional vision, it does not identify specific building codes or policy provisions in detail. Through the BPC, local governments will actively shape a suite of model building codes and policies for existing buildings that represent a holistic approach to achieving the regional vision. The model codes and policies being developed will accommodate local governments with a range of populations, resources, and capacities. They will include a baseline policy that is achievable for all local governments, and tiered approaches beyond a baseline policy for communities interested in furthering investment in their building stock.



Policy milestones

The following policy milestones are intended to be ambitious, yet achievable, securing the climate pollution reductions from the region's buildings necessary to safeguard the Denver region's long-term resilience.

2026-2027

Local governments collaborate through the BPC to develop regional model building codes and policies.

2027-2029

Participating DRCOG communities are working towards adopting a building code that meets or exceeds the state minimum code, and energy transparency policies for residential, commercial and multifamily properties.

2030-2035

Participating DRCOG communities have adopted and are enforcing building code that meets or exceeds the state minimum code and energy transparency policies. DRCOG communities work towards adopting building performance policies for residential, commercial, and multifamily properties.

2035-2040

Participating DRCOG communities have adopted and are enforcing building performance policies.

Priority outcomes for model building codes and policies

There are many things that could make or break a well-intended policy. Community impacts, affordability, resilience, and infrastructure constraints must be considered so well-intentioned codes and policies don't backfire.

As the BPC convenes in 2026 and 2027 to develop model codes and policies for the region, staff from participating jurisdictions will carefully consider and work to integrate the key outcomes and elements outlined below:

- **Minimizing construction and upgrade costs:** The BPC will carefully consider cost effects of identified policies on both residents and the building industry to balance upfront costs with operational savings. The BPC will focus on requirements that drive improvements to lower overall energy use while maximizing the efficiency of the energy used. Where upfront investments are required, necessary programmatic elements will be identified to support building owners compliance.
- **Ensuring ongoing housing affordability:** The BPC will also consider impacts on renters and low- and moderate-income households. The BPC will conduct targeted engagement particularly with affordable housing owners to identify programs and incentives for low-income or affordable housing residents to ensure all households benefit from healthier, more efficient, and affordable buildings.
- **Supporting building resilience:** Codes and policies should improve building durability and resilience during extreme weather, power outages, and other natural and human-caused hazards.
- **Accounting for existing grid and building eclectic capacity:** Infrastructure upgrade costs, grid capacity constraints, or other challenges may present barriers to policy compliance. Model policies should include flexible and realistic timelines for policy implementation that enable necessary utility coordination while also empowering building standards and improvements.

How local governments can stay engaged

DRCOG has made a commitment to reducing climate pollution from buildings and is dedicated to the action initiatives detailed in this plan. Local governments can use DRCOG as a resource and participate in the efforts to achieve the regional vision by:

- **Participating in the Building Policy Collaborative** – Local governments can have key representatives join the work of the BPC.
- **Participating in training opportunities** – Local governments can facilitate their staff and residents to participate in training opportunities hosted by Power Ahead Colorado, the Colorado Energy Office, local utilities, and other entities on building technology and building policies.
- **Collecting and sharing data** – Local governments can share building data collected through building transparency policies with DRCOG and work with DRCOG to better understand how to improve their buildings.
- **Applying for grants** – Local governments can track updates on available funding and grants for building improvements and apply for funding that support reducing building-related pollution.

By working together and building on the strong foundation already in place across the region, local governments have an opportunity to make steady, meaningful progress toward cleaner air, more efficient buildings, and healthier communities. This roadmap is intended to support that ongoing work and help **translate shared ambition into practical, lasting results.**

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