

Power Ahead Colorado - Technical Committee

Meeting date: July 7, 2025

Agenda Item #: 5 (Attachment C)

Innovation Pilot Grant Program- Round 1 Recommendations

Agenda item type: Action

Summary

Power Ahead Colorado and VEIC staff will provide an update and recommended project selections for the Innovation Pilot Grant Program, a \$6 million initiative designed to accelerate building electrification and energy efficiency adoption through regional pilot projects.

Background

The Power Ahead Colorado Innovation Pilot Grant Program will award average subgrants of approximately \$200,000 to support community-driven innovations and small business-led projects that accelerate the adoption of clean heating. The program's goals are to:

- Demonstrate scalable solutions to persistent market barriers.
- Inform decarbonization decision-making with public data, analysis, and case studies.
- Support entrepreneurial approaches and underserved communities in adopting clean technologies.

Round one of awards are 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?

A target of \$1.4 million was set for total round 1 funding. VEIC serves as the Program Administrator for this program and has led the solicitation, review, interview scoring and selection process on behalf of Power Ahead Colorado.



Project Funding Recommendations

A total of 32 submissions were received for the program with one submission deemed ineligible by VEIC and DRCOG. Initial applications were scored according to the approved scoring matrix by VEIC staff. DRCOG staff participated in reviewing draft scores and provided input based on local context and subject matter expertise.

A total of 18 applications were advanced to interviews conducted the week of June 22, 2026. Power Ahead Colorado staff and subject matter experts from local government staff participated in interviews as non-scoring members.

Based on scoring adjustments after the interviews, VEIC and Power Ahead Colorado staff present the following recommendations for funding.

Table 1: Recommended Round 1 project selections

| Proposal Name | Lead Organization | Final Score | Funding Request |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Colorado Heat Pump Fleet Intelligence Pilot | Elephant Energy, Inc. | 98 | \$200,000 |
| Flexible Voltage Heat Pump Water Heater (FLEX HPWH) | New Buildings Institute | 92 | \$199,850 |
| Real-World Beneficial Electrification Strategies and Operating Cost Insights for Colorado Affordable Housing | Group14 Engineering, PBC | 90 | \$114,975 |
| Alternative Electrification Delivery Infrastructure Pilot | Elephant Energy, Inc. | 88.5 | \$200,000 |
| Heat Pump Rooftop Unit Market Accelerator | Slipstream | 86 | \$229,000 |
| Denver Public Schools - Strategic, District-Wide Mechanical Systems Framework | CMTA, Inc. | 86 | \$190,000 |
| Project Lightspeed | Zero Homes | 85.5 | \$350,000 |
| Total Funding- Round 1 | | | \$1,483,825 |



The program team also identified the next four highest scoring proposals for a project funding waitlist. If recommended projects do not proceed or additional funding or capacity is identified the team may contract with the following waitlisted projects:

Table 2: Recommended Round 1 project waitlist

| Proposal Name | Lead Organization | Final Score | Funding Request |
|--|------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| The Emergency Conversion Pilot: Helping Front Range HVAC Contractors Sell Heat Pumps and Homeowners Get Quality Equipment Faster | Rock Rabbit | 83 | \$340,000 |
| Longmont On-Bill Repayment Pilot | Collective Clean Energy Fund | 81 | \$300,000 |
| The DRCOG House Call: A Municipal Heat Pump Concierge Pilot | Pearl Edison Colorado LLC | 80 | \$262,000 |
| Building Science Alliance | Maize Mechanical | 79 | \$332,900 |
| A Low-Cost Load Management Solution to Avoid Electrical Upgrade Pilot | Slipstream | 78.5 | \$216,000 |

The following applications were not selected to advance for round one:

Table 3: Round 1 proposals interviewed and not recommended for funding

| Proposal Name | Lead Organization | Final Score | Funding Request |
|---|--|-------------|-----------------|
| Coordinated Electrification and Efficiency Targeting Pilot: A Data Fusion Platform for High-Impact Building Upgrades in DRCOG Disadvantaged Communities | Touchstone IQ | 77 | \$225,000 |
| Thermal Storage Pilot | The Heat Pump Store | 77 | \$280,000 |
| Preparing Mobile & Manufactured Homes for Electrification | Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET) | 74 | \$170,200 |
| Emergency HVAC Replacement | Zero Homes | 71 | \$230,000 |
| From Compliance to Comfort: An Electrification Readiness Accelerator for Underserved Multifamily Buildings | Gradient | 64.5 | \$300,000 |
| Accelerating Electrification Through Contractor Engagement | Go Electric Colorado | 64 | \$189,250 |



Table 4: Round 1 proposals not advancing to interviews

| Proposal Name | Lead Organization | Funding Request |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Electrification Discovery Chatbot for the Power Ahead Colorado Contractor Finder | Plentiful.ai | \$199,000 |
| Micro-Targeting Enhanced Electrification Outreach Pilot | Go Electric Colorado | \$316,150 |
| Reducing Barriers to GeoExchange Adoption in Colorado Affordable Housing | Familia Verde | \$275,000 |
| Making multifamily building electrification easier to deliver with all-weather packaged window-mounted heat pumps (PWHPs). | Sustainable Real Estate Solutions (SRS) | \$350,000 |
| Colorado Energy Savings Navigator: Screening from program applications | MyFriendBen | \$259,260 |
| Mobile Home Electrification Pilot | ARUS Consulting LLC | \$350,000 |
| AI-Driven Remote Commissioning Toolbox for the Power Ahead Colorado Program Implementer | Plentiful.ai | \$169,317 |
| Home Energy Labeling Partnership (HELP) - Colorado | Earth Advantage | \$198,000 |
| Building-Specific Home Electrification Roadmap for DRCOG Homeowners on PowerAheadColorado.org | Plentiful.ai | \$199,685 |
| Commercial Electrification Opportunity Desk | Colorado Market Intelligence LLC | \$225,000 |
| Demand-Ready Home Incentive Pilot | COSSA Institute | \$299,500 |
| Micro Grid for Whole Home Electrification | My Electric Home | \$297,000 |
| Fill Once, File Everywhere: Automating Contractor Paperwork for Electrification Projects | Plentiful.ai | \$173,395 |

Details about the recommended projects can be found in the attached staff presentation.

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](#)

[April 7, 2026- Power Ahead Colorado Technical Committee](#)

Recommendation

Move to recommend to the Power Ahead Colorado Oversight Committee the selection of recommended projects presented for the Innovation Pilot Program- Round 1.

Attachment

Staff Presentation

For more information

If you need additional information, please contact Mac Prather, Incentives, Advising and Comfort for All Program Manager, mprather@drcog.org.

