

Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Power Ahead Oversight Committee
Tuesday, September 11, 2026
In-person

Attendance Log

Agency or Interest	Member or alternate name	Attendance
Boulder	Nicole Speer (Chair)	In-person
DRCOG	Doug Rex	In-person
Xcel Energy	Andrew Holder	Not present
Commerce City	Charles Duke	Virtual
Colorado Energy Office	Christian Willis	Not present
Black Parents United Foundation	Dr. Shere Walker-Ravenell	Virtual
Erie	Emily Baer	In-person
Mountain View	Kathleen Bailey	In-person
Rocky Mountain Mechanical Contractors Association	Randy Drennen	Virtual
Denver Metro BOMA	Sara Reynolds	Not present
United Power / Commerce City	Steve Douglas	Not present

Public: Rachel Garrett, Angela Jo Woolcott, Sharnell Smith

DRCOG staff: Mac Prather, Robert Spotts, Chris Selk, Clay McCombe, Adair Andre, Greg Miao, Jhas Cooper-Moore, Devon Reifsneider, Luke Charbonneau

Call to Order

Chair Speer called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

Previous Oversight Committee Meeting Summary

The committee reviewed the previous meeting summary. No comments were raised, and the summary was accepted as presented.

Action Items

Community Engagement Grant Program Policy

Chris Selk introduced the proposed Community Engagement Grant Program Policy and outlined plans to distribute \$2.2 million in community engagement grants to support Power Ahead Colorado's outreach goals. She emphasized that the program is designed to foster meaningful, authentic community engagement and strengthen partnerships with trusted community-based organizations, particularly in historically marginalized communities.

Angela Jo Wolcott, representative from Kearns & West presented the proposed grant framework and highlighted the role of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) in shaping the program. Staff discussed efforts to reduce barriers to participation by simplifying application materials, using plain language, providing multilingual resources, offering technical assistance, and creating grant opportunities ranging from \$15,000 to \$100,000. Presenters also described plans to conduct applicant interviews, provide extensive templates and training resources, and support grant recipients throughout the award period.

Charles Dukes asked how Community Advisory Group (CAG) members would conduct outreach across large communities and whether stakeholder network mapping would be used to identify organizations and community connections within larger jurisdictions. Staff responded that stakeholder mapping was one of the first activities completed during program development and included informational interviews with program leads, community members, and stakeholders. This work helped shape the CAG structure. Staff added that an upcoming CAG meeting would focus specifically on outreach responsibilities and gather feedback from members on effective outreach strategies and community engagement practices.

Shere Walker-Ravenell asked whether staff had expectations regarding grant funding levels and how future funding decisions would be informed by the first year of the program. Staff responded that it is too early to predict future funding levels and that year-one results will need to be evaluated before making decisions about year two. Staff expressed enthusiasm about monitoring application activity and noted that lessons learned from the first grant cycle will help inform future program decisions.

Kathleen Bailey asked how many grants staff expected to award. Staff explained that early drafts of the solicitation estimated approximately 8 to 15 awards, but that language was removed because actual award numbers will depend on the size and quality of applications received. Staff indicated a preference for a mix of larger and mid-sized awards while maintaining a manageable number of grantees to allow for meaningful one-on-one support during the first funding cycle.

A committee member asked for clarification on the meaning of "teaming" (later described as partnering) within the grant program and whether DRCOG or program staff

would actively connect larger and smaller organizations. Staff explained that in year two they hope to expand opportunities related to fiscal sponsorship and partnerships. The intent is to allow smaller community-based organizations or newer nonprofits to partner with larger organizations when pursuing grant opportunities. Staff stated that organizations would primarily form partnerships organically, although outreach events, webinars, fiscal sponsorship resources, and support from CAG members could help facilitate connections.

A committee member expressed support for the cohort model and asked what shared learning objectives staff envisioned for organizations with varying sizes, geographies, and areas of focus. Staff responded that the cohort model is intended to create alignment around the program's goals while providing opportunities for grantees to learn from and support one another. Staff noted that establishing a common understanding of year-one goals will help foster collaboration, shared learning, and peer support among participating organizations.

Committee members asked whether they could help share information about the grant opportunity within their communities. Staff strongly encouraged board members and local government representatives to assist with outreach and stated that a communications packet, draft emails, talking points, and other materials would be provided to support community outreach efforts.

Nicole Speer asked whether the Community Engagement Grant Program would be presented to the Board of Directors and suggested including additional background information on the history of the project, overall grant goals, and connections to Metro Vision and DRCOG priorities. Staff agreed that providing additional context would be beneficial and indicated they would consider incorporating background and framing information into the upcoming Board presentation.

Following discussion, Kathleen Bailey moved to recommend approval of the Community Engagement Grant Program Policy to the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Community Engagement Program- Summer Update

Chris Selk, Program Manager, Communications and Community Engagement, provided an update on Power Ahead Colorado's summer outreach efforts, which focused on increasing public awareness of heat pumps and promoting the Energy Advising, workforce development, and contractor support programs. Staff selected outreach events across the DRCOG region based on geographic diversity, community representation, event size, cost, and staff capacity. As of the meeting, outreach teams had attended numerous community events and engaged in direct conversations with more than 3,000 individuals.

Selk reported that most participants had little prior knowledge of heat pumps, highlighting a significant opportunity to build awareness. Outreach data showed strong

engagement from both homeowners and renters, with many homeowners expressing interest in the Energy Advising Program. Staff found that large community events generated the highest number of interactions, while smaller events often produced more in-depth conversations and stronger potential connections with homeowners, community-based organizations, and future grant applicants.

Selk noted that visual demonstrations, family-friendly activities, promotional materials, and educational conversations were effective in drawing attendees to outreach booths. Common questions centered on heat pump costs, available rebates and incentives, energy savings, and how heat pumps could work in specific housing situations. Staff also received inquiries from residents outside the DRCOG region who were interested in similar programs.

A committee member asked about the effectiveness of the outreach strategy and whether staff had identified audiences that may have been missed during the first season of engagement. Staff explained that the summer outreach effort served as a learning opportunity and that event data, interaction summaries, and community feedback are being analyzed to identify which audiences were successfully reached and where more targeted engagement may be needed. Staff stated that these lessons learned will help shape and improve the Year 2 engagement plan.

A committee member noted that older adults and senior populations may be an important audience for outreach and suggested leveraging existing community gathering places and programs, such as senior lunches and recreation programs, to increase participation and awareness. Staff agreed with the recommendation, acknowledged the importance of reaching senior residents, and noted that more targeted outreach to those audiences would be beneficial. Staff expressed appreciation for the suggested venues and indicated that those ideas could be incorporated into future outreach efforts.

Committee members discussed the importance of moving beyond broad awareness and impressions toward program participation and uptake. Staff acknowledged this goal and agreed that future outreach efforts should focus not only on visibility but also on connecting interested residents with available programs and resources. Staff noted that distinguishing among audience types and tailoring outreach strategies would be an important component of future engagement planning.

Committee members were invited to provide suggestions for future outreach events and engagement opportunities within their communities. Staff emphasized that local officials and committee members play an important role in identifying meaningful community connections and encouraged ongoing feedback, event recommendations, and outreach ideas outside of committee meetings. Staff stated that community input will help ensure future engagement efforts are more strategic and effective.

Administrative Items

Sub-Awards Program Update

Building Policy Collaborative Update

Greg Miao reported that Jurisdictional Support Subaward Round 2 applications totaled approximately \$7.03 million, about \$500,000 above the available funding amount. He stated that staff believe it may be possible to fund all recommended applications within existing resources and indicated that a more detailed discussion of the project list would occur at the next meeting.

Greg explained that several proposals focus on creating incentive programs to support local policy adoption, including benchmarking requirements, building performance standards, and Home Energy Score implementation. He noted that these incentives could help offset initial compliance costs for homeowners and building owners. He also reported that several applicants proposed adding staff capacity to support implementation efforts.

Greg transitioned to a Building Policy Collaborative update and reported that staff have begun presenting the adopted regional roadmap to local councils and sustainability committees. He noted that communities have found value in understanding how local activities contribute to regional climate and building decarbonization goals.

Greg stated that staff are introducing elected officials and policymakers to the regional policy framework and explaining how building decarbonization policies may apply in both residential and commercial sectors. He also reported that the project team has launched a second round of industry engagement to gather feedback on draft policies before finalizing model ordinances. Staff anticipate making model ordinance language available to communities by the end of the second quarter of the following year.

Greg then provided an update on the regional building stock analysis being conducted with the New Buildings Institute (NBI). He reported that the analysis is approximately 70 percent complete and is expected to be finalized by January.

Greg explained that the analysis will help jurisdictions better understand local building characteristics and energy use patterns. He also reported that staff are developing a web-based policy modeling tool that communities can use to evaluate the potential benefits and impacts of building energy policies. Results of the building stock analysis are expected to be presented to local governments in January, with final modeling tools becoming available alongside future model policy releases.

Greg Miao next provided an update on the Home Energy Score Pilot. He reported that the request for proposals (RFP) had recently closed and that staff received three to four qualified proposals.

Greg stated that staff are reviewing submissions and conducting interviews and may return to the committee in October or November with a vendor recommendation. He noted that the goal is to launch the fully subsidized pilot program in February for jurisdictions interested in adopting or voluntarily promoting Home Energy Scores.

Greg then shifted to an update on the Building Performance Colorado utility engagement initiative. He welcomed Adair Andre and reported that staff recently held the first utility engagement meeting with local governments to discuss utility commission activities and opportunities for jurisdiction participation. Approximately 50 participants attended the first meeting, demonstrating strong interest among local governments. He stated that staff anticipate establishing a quarterly meeting cadence focused on policy updates, skill building, and opportunities for jurisdictions to provide feedback related to utility regulatory proceedings.

Clay McCombe gave an update on the three Growth Access Programs and Green Workforce Program, noting that all five of the centers have signed contracts and are enrolling new workforce entrants. He also gave a demonstration of the Colorado Contractor Hub, including the “badges” that indicate which programs contractors participate in.

Mac Prather gave an overview of the Incentives program, noting that hundreds of rebates are now in the works, and the Innovation Grant Program.

Program Announcements

Robert Spotts noted that the committee would soon mark nearly two years of the five-year program and highlighted the upcoming Rocky Mountain Utility Exchange Conference as an important opportunity to strengthen relationships with utility partners and support future collaboration opportunities.

Clay thanked Randy Drennen for inviting him and Mac Prather to participate in the Rocky Mountain Mechanical Contractors Trades Work Podcast to discuss Power Ahead Colorado initiatives. Randy Drennen thanked staff for participating in the podcast and making themselves available for the conversation.

Chris Selk also announced that Power Ahead Colorado is sponsoring a season of the Dave Logan Show, increasing program visibility throughout the football season.

Adjournment

Chair Speer reminded members that the next Oversight Committee meeting is virtual and is scheduled for October 9. She thanked attendees for participating both in person and virtually. She also reminded attendees to pick up meeting materials and promotional items before leaving, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.