

**Attachment A
Meeting Summary
Regional Building Decarbonization Technical Committee
Tuesday, June 3, 2025**

***In-person meeting with Virtual Option for Public (Via Zoom)**

Members (or Voting Alternates) Present:

Melody Mascarenaz	Adams County
Amanda Perkins	Adams County
Shannon Jahn	City and County of Denver
Elizabeth Babcock (Vice Chair)	City and County of Denver
Bridger Tomlin	Jefferson County
Jeff Wong	Jefferson County
Holly Harris	Building Decarbonization Coalition
Gabrielle Rink	Center for Energy and Environment
Brooke Pike	Energy Outreach Colorado
Lukas Hagan	Affordable Housing LIDAC
Peter Johns	Xcel Energy
Steven Jackson	African American Trade Association
Shawn LeMons	Midwest HVAC/EEBC
Ron Papsdorf (Alternate)	DRCOG

Members Attending Virtually or Additional Alternates Present:

Eryka Thorley	Southwest Weld County
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Public: Ari Moledina

DRCOG staff: Chris Selk, Cam Kennedy, Devon Reifsneider, Clay McCombe, Fernando Briones, Andy Birkey, Mac Prather, Maddy Nesbit, Katie Maxted, Robert Spotts, Emily Loker, Lauren Kirgis, Josh Schwenk

Call to Order

Chair Susie Strife called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

May 6, 2025 Regional Building Decarbonization Technical Committee Meeting Summary

The summary was accepted.

Discussion Items

Local IMPACT Accelerator: Opportunities for Local Policy Adoption

Robert Spotts, Manager, Building Decarbonization introduced Ari Moledina, Colorado Energy Office Program Manager, who discussed the \$50 million program, Local IMPACT Accelerator, which supports local government adoption of transformative climate policies in the sectors of buildings, transportation, land use, and waste. Ari also discussed how jurisdictions in the DRCOG region to coordinate efforts and funding strategies in light of eligibility rules that intersect with existing DRCOG programs.

Melody Mascarenz asked for additional information on the rebate program example mentioned in the presentation. Ari explained that the EV rebate program is an example of a project that could be proposed by a jurisdiction. The funding for this program could be used to purchase EVs or to fund the rebates themselves, however a jurisdiction decides to structure their own unique program.

Jeff Wong inquired if project funding was not eligible for buildings and when do funds need to be expended by. Ari replied that for jurisdictions in the DRCOG region, COE will not be accepting applications for building projects due to overlap with DRCOG's implementation grant. Which means project funding in the building sector would only be eligible for jurisdictions outside of the DRCOG region. Additionally, funds need to be expended by October 2029.

Ron Papsdorf asked if building projects related to climate change that aren't focused on DRCOG's implementation grant would still be eligible for funding. Ari replied that across the board no building projects in the DRCOG region will be eligible for these funds.

Opportunities for Improvement – Colorado's HVAC Industry

Clay McCombe, Program Manager, Building Decarbonization, discussed 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.

Shawn LeMons inquired what the process will look like going forward to potentially get jurisdictions across the state to agree on a single set of regulations for HVAC installations. Clay responded this will be an ongoing conversation with local jurisdictions and ultimately if DRCOG does submit an application then DORA will do research for the next 6 months before submitting a recommendation to the 2026 Colorado Legislature. The earliest new statewide policy could be implemented would be in 2027.

Shawn LeMons stated his support for this initiative and stated how fellow contractors are almost entirely in support of this as well since this will help simplify so much if a statewide license could be implemented.

Elizabeth Babcock asked if talking points could be provided so members of this committee could reach out to their DRCOG Board Members and provide them with easy-to-understand information ahead of a future discussion and ultimately a crucial vote at the DRCOG Board.

Peter Johns inquired why there hasn't been a statewide licensing initiative before and who will represent the counter argument to this rollout. Clay replied that along with so many sensitive issues right now in the state, this conversation revolves around local control and what some would perceive as state overreach. However, it is worth noting that many people in local permitting offices and chief building officials are in support of this. In the future local jurisdictions could add more prescriptive requirements on top of a hypothetical state license so you can always add more regulations if that jurisdiction feels it necessary.

Holly Harris stated that when looking at workforce and contractor perspective, litigation risk is a big one. That is something that needs to be navigated and state licensing would be one way to help mitigate against that. Add additional local requirements along with a bare minimum of a future state license and that will help protect the workforce and contractors so they can do their jobs and do their jobs well.

Lukas Hagan asked what the transition plan is from switching from the current status to this new statewide standard. Clay stated this would be a phasing in process and stated that in other states there has been a one-year grace period where upon implementation of a statewide license, contractors would have a year to get fully qualified and take any necessary tests they need to comply with new regulations. Additionally, an HVAC Board would be created and run by a mix of local permitting officials, state representatives, and journeyman contractors in the industry.

Ron Papsdorf inquired how a state license would connect with local authority regarding permitting and inspecting. Clay responded that local jurisdictions could issue permits but as far as enforcement and inspections are concerned, the state could manage those aspects.

Jeff Wong asked what budget implications would be local governments and the state. Clay said that it appears license renewal fees which local permitting offices receive would not be substantial enough to adversely affect budgets, additionally this would be net neutral at the state level.

Holly Harris inquired if members of this committee could write letters of support and submit them to the DRCOG Board, to encourage voting in favor of a statewide license. Clay stated that letters of support would be welcomed to encourage the Board to back this initiative. Letters of support can have a big impact on the decision from the Board, and it is worth noting that letters of support could come not just from jurisdictions but

also from organizations. Ron Papsdorf added that members of this committee are welcome to give public testimony before the Board too and that would certainly be helpful.

Administrative Items

Member Comment/Other Matters

Robert Spotts stated that VEIC has been selected as DRCOG's vendor for the incentives and advising program, which is a \$60 million program. Additionally, the decarbonization team has hired several new staff. Andy Birkey is now our Senior Communication Specialist, Fernando Briones serves as a Senior LIDAC Specialist, Devon Reifsneider has joined the team serving as a Senior Workforce Specialist, and lastly, Katie Maxted is DRCOG's new Decarbonization Contracts Lead.

Next Meeting – July 1, 2025

Adjournment

There were no additional comments, and the meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.