

The Building Policy Collaborative Roadmap:

Aligning Regional Action on Building Efficiency and Electrification.



Regional Vision for Buildings

A region where buildings are efficient, comfortable, affordable, resilient, and eliminate energy-related pollution. Such benefits are possible with quality construction and building upgrades guided by the following principles:

- **Reduce energy waste** with good insulation and air leakage prevention.
- **Use efficient and right-sized electric equipment** and appliances and encourage phasing out fuel burning by 2050.
- **Use smart energy systems** to store and strategically manage energy by shifting demand on the electric grid.
- **Power buildings with clean electricity**, either from the grid or from on-site renewable resources.



What is the policy roadmap?

- Builds on DRCOG's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, Metro Vision and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
- A visionary, long-range planning document, similar to DRCOG's Vision Zero Plan.
- Establishes a vision for how local governments can set expectations for buildings to meet the region's environmental goals while protecting health and affordability.
- Describes near- and long-term policy measures to reduce pollution and enhance efficiency of new and existing buildings.
- Prepared in partnership with staff and elected officials of local governments and expands, accelerates and celebrates the reduction of pollution from the building sector across the Front Range.



Why do we need a roadmap?

- Pollution from buildings is a major contributing factor to the climate changes experienced by the region.
 - According to a [2022 Denver Regional Council of Governments study](#), over half of the carbon pollution in the region comes from energy used in residential and commercial buildings.
- Regionally consistent policy framework to addressing building-related pollution across DRCOG communities helps reduce policy complexity, streamline compliance, and accelerate collective impact.
- To help local governments align their efforts with other state- and utility-led market transformation efforts underway.

Roadmap goals

- Establish a regional vision for steadily reducing pollution from buildings in a manner that improves occupant health and comfort and addresses affordability and resiliency concerns.
- Communicate why working together across the Denver region to reduce pollution from buildings is important, timely and achievable.
- Highlight building policy options for new construction and existing buildings that provide DRCOG communities a pathway for accomplishing the regional vision.
- Foster alignment, education, and action across local governments, the building industry, community organizations, and the public to support the adoption and implementation of the building codes and policies that will move the Denver region towards the vision.

Policy Roadmap

- Identifies a policy framework and pathway that local governments can reference to work toward the region's goals.
- Does not include policy mandates for building codes or existing building policies.
- Model policies that support the roadmap framework are being developed through the Building Policy Collaborative in collaboration with the Denver region's local governments.
- The Policy Roadmap framework provides pathways for local governments across the readiness spectrum.
- Three policy action goals ensure the policies meet the needs of the region and the communities within it.

Policy Framework

- Three key policy actions to holistically improve their residential and commercial building stock:
 1. Adopt building codes for new construction to improve energy efficiency and expand access to electric equipment and appliances.
 2. Establish policies for existing buildings to support energy use transparency, such as Homes Energy Score and benchmarking.
 3. Establish policies for existing buildings to support incremental building improvements, such as performance and equipment standards.

Priorities

- Affordability.
- Clean air.
- Improved quality of life.
- Resilience.

Timeline

- Currently finalizing draft of the Roadmap.
- Power Ahead Colorado Committees and DRCOG Board will review and consider approval in the coming months.

