



TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA
July 28, 2025
5:00 PM

I. Study Session Items

1. Economic Development/PAR Update - Feazell - 45 minutes
2. DRCOG Decarbonization Grant Update - Feazell/Fussa/Lawson - 15 minutes
3. Future History Framework - Glassburn/Lawson - 45 minutes
4. Commissions Procedure Manual - Lawson - 30 minutes

II. Staff Updates

III. Town Council Updates/Items



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Weldy Feazell, PAR & Economic Development Director
DATE: July 28, 2025
SUBJECT: Economic Development/PAR Update

ISSUE:

Economic Development staff will provide an update of the 2025 goals and projects.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

We will highlight our successes and discuss the new projects and programs for 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

None.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

None. The presentation is for informational purposes only.

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: John Fussa, Community Development Director
Weldy Feazell, PAR & Economic Development Director
Michael Lawson, Assistant Town Manager

DATE: July 28, 2025

SUBJECT: DRCOG Decarbonization Grant Update

ISSUE:

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has established a Building Decarbonization Program (the Program) as part of their efforts to address the challenge of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote energy efficiency in new buildings. According to DRCOG, "the grant-funded Program will support several coordinated initiatives to reduce carbon pollution from buildings, foster workforce development and offer financial incentives for home services and electric appliances, such as heat pumps, water heaters and electric cooktops and ranges. Each initiative will address specific environmental and industry challenges and improve air quality and public health in the Denver region and promote sustainability across the region." In his role as a DRCOG Board Member, Councilmember John Diak has made staff aware of a grant opportunity for the Program called the Jurisdictional Support Subaward that is available to municipalities and counties for implementation activities. The Town may be eligible for a grant of up to \$900,000 for an eligible project(s) if we wish to participate.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None

BACKGROUND:

In August 2024, DRCOG received a \$199.7 million Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop a Building Decarbonization Program (the Program) focused on reducing climate pollution from the building sector. The EPA Grant work plan includes a \$39 million policy component to support pollution reduction and healthy buildings by advancing consistent, coordinated and ambitious high-performance building policies across the region. DRCOG has established a Building Policy Collaborative that will support member municipalities and counties through October 2029 with the implementation of new, greater-than-state minimum building energy codes and performance standards, equipment replacement standards, permitting reform and other building policies. The Collaborative provides local governments with capacity-building grants called Jurisdictional Support Subawards and problem-solving through a peer network, research capacity and staff support. As indicated above, the Town may be eligible for a grant of up to \$900,000 for an eligible project(s) if we wish to participate.

The DRCOG Jurisdictional Support Subawards (grants) may be used for the following types of projects:

1. **Staff Capacity:** To add new staff to expand the jurisdiction's capacity to accomplish new policy adoption, assist educational efforts for building permit applicants, ensure policy compliance, and achieve emissions reductions in either or both areas (sometimes located in different departments).
2. **Training and Certification:** To increase energy policy expertise among existing staff to allow them to effectively implement advanced building policy.
3. **Permitting and Systems Support:** Emissions goal tracking systems to verify the effectiveness of policy.
4. **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance for specific projects related to building decarbonization policy development, coordination, piloting and implementation.
5. **Community Engagement and Coordination Efforts:** Community/stakeholder engagement and education on advancing building policies to ensure they are supported, feasible to implement and result in higher compliance rates and emissions reductions.
6. **Custom Measures to Support Climate Pollution Reduction in Building Sector:** A measure not listed above that advances building decarbonization policy and reduces emissions.

The DRCOG Building Decarbonization Program and Jurisdictional Support Awards (grants) raise several policy issues that should be discussed and addressed in connection with a decision about whether to submit a grant application. They include the following:

1. **Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Decarbonization:** Does the Town wish to address the issue of climate change by considering policies, regulations and projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the decarbonization of buildings through electrification, energy efficiency and other approaches?
2. **Code Standards and State Requirements:** Does the Town wish to exceed current building code standards and minimum State requirements for the design, construction and energy efficiency of new buildings and development? In recent years, the State has adopted policies and regulations to address climate change that promote greenhouse gas reduction through the decarbonization of energy generation, new development and transportation. Does the Town wish to get ahead of this trend by adopting new policies, regulations and standards that exceed current requirements?
3. **Potential Benefits v. Detriments:** How does the Town view the potential benefits and impacts associated with local efforts to achieve greenhouse gas reductions through the decarbonization of buildings and new development? The benefits may include increased energy efficiency, reduced operational costs (long-term), business/workforce opportunities in clean energy/decarbonization and local mitigation of climate change impacts. The impacts may include increased costs for new buildings and development, reduced housing affordability, impacts to economic competitiveness and greater uncertainty in the building and development process.
4. **Impact to Town Projects:** Does the Town wish to adopt policies, regulations and standards for building decarbonization may affect future capital projects as to design, expense and operations?

The deadline for the DRCOG grant is October 31, 2025, so there is some time for the Town Council to consider the grant opportunity, related policy issues and a potential project if interested.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests Town Council direction about the grant opportunity.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

For Town Council discussion and direction about the grant opportunity.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Summary DRCOG Grant_Building Decarbonization 7-22-25

Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdiction Support Subaward Program

The DRCOG Building Decarbonization Program’s Building Policy Collaborative (BPC) consists of a \$34.8 million Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program, a \$2.5 million Peer Network, and \$1 million for research on local policy adoption. The first round of the Jurisdictional Support Subaward Program will launch on June 2, 2025, and will support local jurisdictions in adopting and implementing building decarbonization policies that will improve building energy efficiency and reduce climate pollution emissions. A second competitive round of this program will launch in Spring 2026.

Goals

- Reduce building-related climate pollution emissions through local policy change.
- Support jurisdictions in participating in the BPC, which will develop a regional Building Decarbonization Roadmap.
- Support jurisdictions’ capacity to adopt and implement local building decarbonization policies, maximizing regional consistency.
- Navigate the entire region toward implementing under- or near-zero emission for new construction.

Eligibility

- Jurisdictions within the DRCOG planning area.
- Letter of commitment to pursue building decarbonization policies signed by the chief elected official or senior administrative official (e.g., City Manager).
- At least one representative, or their designee, actively engage in the Peer Network, with a goal of attending 75% of meetings.

Timeline

This subaward program will be open beginning June 2, and all applications are due no later than 5pm on October 31, 2025. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. DRCOG anticipates awarding all subawards by December 17, 2025.

Limitations

The Colorado Energy Office (CEO) is launching a similar Climate Pollution Reduction Grant funding opportunity in the summer of 2025 called the Local Implementation, Mitigation, and Policy Action (Local IMPACT) Accelerator. This funding will provide \$50 million to support local government policy adoption in four key sectors: Buildings, Land Use, Transportation, and Waste.

The CEO program is statewide and involves a competitive application process; applications from DRCOG jurisdictions in Transportation, Land Use and Waste sectors will be more favorably reviewed than for the Buildings sector. However, if a DRCOG jurisdiction believes it needs support from CEO beyond what is available from DRCOG to adopt a building policy, CEO will consider such applications on a case by case basis.

For more information on the (Local IMPACT) Accelerator, visit <https://energyoffice.colorado.gov/cprg>



For more information about the Building Policy Collaborative Jurisdiction Support Subaward Program, visit:



<https://bit.ly/44AiZsX>

For questions, contact: buildingpolicy@drcog.org

Key Dates

- June 2**
Jurisdictional Support Subaward applications open and rolling subaward review by DRCOG staff begins.
- October 31**
Closing deadline for Jurisdictional Support Subawards.
- December 17**
All Jurisdictional Support Subawards awarded.
- Spring 2026**
Round 2 subawards open.

Eligible uses

Jurisdictional Support Subawards can be used in several ways to implement ambitious, above-state-minimum, building decarbonization policies. For the purposes of this subaward, building decarbonization policies are defined as policies addressing climate pollution and other pollutant emissions from building operations by addressing the efficiency of space heating and cooling, and water heating systems, rather than energy generation. Applicants may identify multiple eligible uses of funding up to their total eligible award amount.

Subaward funds should not be used in a manner that duplicates the work being done by other aspects of the DRCOG Building Decarbonization Program.

Eligible Uses	Ineligible Uses
Staff Capacity: Add staff to expand capacity for new policy adoption, permitting education, and policy compliance. Cannot supplant existing staff funding but can expand job duties.	Incentive Program Services: Incentives for individual equipment installations.
Training and certification: Institutionalizing in-house energy policy expertise among existing staff to allow them to effectively implement advanced building policy.	Energy Advising Program Services: Individual consultations for home and building owners contemplating or working on energy efficiency or beneficial electrification projects.
Permitting and systems support: Emissions goal tracking systems to verify effectiveness of policy.	Innovation Pilot Program Services: Small subgrants for innovative business models.
Technical assistance: Technical assistance for specific projects related to building decarbonization policy development, coordination, piloting, and implementation (May require EPA Quality Assurance Project Plan).	Communications and Marketing: Brand strategy and creation; communications campaign; public relations and targeted advertising buys; website design; customizable toolkits for area stakeholders.
Community engagement and coordination efforts: Community engagement and education on advancing building policies to ensure policy is supported and feasible to implement, resulting in higher compliance rates and emissions reductions.	Community Engagement: Subawards to CBOs for public involvement; participation incentives and stipends; transcreation and interpretation services; language- and culturally diverse collateral design and ad placement. *Except as identified in the Eligible Use section.
Custom measures to support climate pollution from the building sector: Propose a measure not listed above that advances building decarbonization policy and reduces emissions (subject to review by DRCOG).	Workforce and industry development: Green Workforce Hubs Services, Contractor Navigation Hub Services: navigation services for heat pump projects; small business scaling programs.

Partnerships

Partnerships between jurisdictions are strongly encouraged. Partnerships should submit a single application, with a single jurisdiction as the lead.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Carrie Glassburn, Cultural Director
DATE: July 28, 2025
SUBJECT: Future History Framework

ISSUE:

At the February 28, 2025 Town Council Retreat, the Town Council directed staff to find additional ways to honor Parker's history. The conversation centered around whether the Town needs to invest more resources, including funding and facility space, into historical programming. The Cultural Department has identified strategies to enhance both the storytelling and public awareness of Parker's history and will be sharing those ideas during this Study Session.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

The impact on the Cultural Department's budget and future staffing will depend on the direction agreed upon by the Mayor and the Town Council during this meeting. The presentation will provide an estimate of the budget and resources needed to execute the various options.

BACKGROUND:

At the Town Council Retreat on February 28, 2025, the Cultural Department was asked to explore ways the Town can better use the Parker Heritage Center and other Town assets to highlight Parker's rich history and create awareness of and engagement with our past. In response, the Cultural staff have developed a range of short and long-term options, which will be shared for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members of the Cultural team will share their findings and recommendations on ways to elevate the Parker Heritage Center in the short term, along with additional opportunities to consider for the long-term preservation of Parker's history.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

The Cultural Department is seeking direction from the Town Council on which of the proposed options for enhancing the Town's history programming should be pursued.

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of Town Council
FROM: Michael Lawson, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: July 28, 2025
SUBJECT: Commissions Procedure Manual

ISSUE:

In the past, the Town's boards and commissions have operated based on sets of rules and procedures that varied among the groups. There were also routine questions about how different boards and commissions should handle processes like recruitment, interviewing new members, membership requirements, and more among Town staff. The variations among the different boards and commissions created some confusion among staff and made recruiting and onboarding new members difficult.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact for this item.

BACKGROUND:

The Town created a new standard operating procedures manual to bring key policies and procedures for the Town's eight boards, commissions, committees, and authorities ('commissions') into a single document.

The intention for creating a single set of operating procedures for all Town commissions is to bring uniformity to processes that varied by commission in the past. A single document brings the convenience of a 'one-stop-shop' resource for commissioners, staff liaisons, and departments alike. Having a single procedures document that can be distributed to new commissioners is anticipated to make onboarding new commissioners easier and quicker than in the past.

This presentation will walk the Town Council through the commission manual and discuss the key changes that were made in the process of crafting the document.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information only.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

For information only.

ATTACHMENT:

None