

March 15, 2024

Denver Regional Council of Governments  
1001 17th Street, Suite 700  
Denver, CO 80202

RE: Letter of Support for Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant (CPRG) -  
Decarbonize DRCOG Proposal

As members of a large coalition of non-profit organizations advocating for equitable decarbonization of Colorado's buildings, we write to express our strong support for the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) project proposal for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). "Decarbonize DRCOG" represents a carefully constructed and comprehensive approach to transforming buildings at the regional scale. We believe the proposal aligns with our coalition's goals of improving Coloradans' health, reducing energy burden, and increasing resiliency through building electrification and efficiency.

Decarbonize DRCOG lays out a transformative, regional building decarbonization program with seven areas. First, Decarbonize DRCOG establishes different types of assistance for households and building owners, based on their unique needs:

- A **full-service whole home retrofit and decarbonization program for low-income residents** in disproportionately impacted communities;
- An **energy improvement advisor** program that provides navigational services free of charge to all residential and commercial building owners;
- **Direct rebates and incentives** to augment federal funds, with rebates for additional measures.

Next, Decarbonize DRCOG includes three strategies to accelerate building decarbonization throughout the Denver Metro Area:

- An initiative to support **workforce development** for new entrants and existing participants in the building decarbonization industry;
- A **policy accelerator** to advance adoption and implementation of net zero carbon codes and building performance standards; and
- An **innovation fund** designed to support entrepreneurship and address gaps in the building decarbonization space.

Finally, a regionally coordinated **marketing and engagement** campaign ties the whole proposal together.

Crucially, the Decarbonize DRCOG proposal prioritizes equity and ensures a focus on Justice40 principles. The whole-home retrofit program will deliver complete, managed retrofit projects for low-income homeowners, mobile home owners, and renters in existing regulated affordable low-rise multifamily housing. Projects will be geographically targeted to underserved census tracts based on criteria provided by the US Council on Environmental Quality.

We believe that DRCOG's comprehensive proposal for regional building decarbonization represents a transformational opportunity to advance climate justice in the Denver Metro Area. We look forward to contributing our expertise, tools, and resources to support Decarbonize DRCOG.

Sincerely,

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Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

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John Magnino  
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