



ICLEI USA Action Fund Recipient

Healthy Homes Program

Energy Outreach Colorado & City of Denver, Colorado



Communities like the City of Denver are employing a variety of high-impact actions and science-based targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. One essential strategy is building electrification to decrease emissions and energy costs associated with space heating, water heating, and appliances, especially in cold climates.

Historically, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs are more accessible to high-income communities. This disparity further magnifies the wealth and health gaps between socioeconomic groups in the U.S. The lowest-income households in the Denver area are paying 40% of their annual income on energy bills, largely for heating inefficient homes. This proportion is likely to increase as summers get hotter and households require more air conditioning.

For a just energy transition, Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) will support the City of Denver’s Office of Climate Action, Sustainability & Resiliency in meeting its science based goal to reduce GHG emissions by 65% by 2030 by reducing emissions from income-qualified homes, improving indoor air quality, and minimizing exposure to pollutants for those living with health conditions.

By using real time data and sensors to disrupt the weatherization process, EOC will identify low-income households within areas with the highest emissions rates to provide the best efficiency upgrades and provide community solar garden subscriptions to ease the transition cost of all-electric homes. The program will use state-of-the-art all-electric equipment paired with real-time data-monitoring devices inside and outside homes. The data collected as part of this project will enable a better understanding of the relationship between respiratory issues and indoor and outdoor air quality.



Through the ICLEI USA Action Fund and other funding, we will transition a total of 135 low-income homes to provide cleaner indoor air, healthier homes, and reduce emissions across Denver.

— Luke Ilderton, Deputy Director of EOC



Through the Healthy Homes Program, the City of Denver and EOC aim to showcase equitable electrification transitions focusing on the hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable households. By referring income-limited patients with respiratory issues to state and nonprofit home weatherization programs, homes will become healthier, ultimately reducing healthcare costs. The program offers a just transition to decarbonizing homes and improving energy efficiency by modernizing home weatherization programs and prioritizing safe indoor air quality by reducing exposure to toxic pollutants.

As the project progresses, it will serve as a showcase for a successful transition from the planning stage to a data-driven implementation phase to the ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability USA network.

