DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND OFFICE OF CLIMATE ACTION, SUSTAINABILITY, AND RESILIENCY RULES GOVERNING GREEN BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

Adopted

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01 Authority.
These rules and regulations are adopted by the City and County of Denver’s Executive Director of the Department of Community Planning and Development (“Community Planning and Development” or “CPD”) pursuant to Article II of Chapter 12 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code of the City and County of Denver (“DRMC”) and the Executive Director of the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency (“CASR”) pursuant to Articles VI and XIX of Chapter 2 of the DRMC. These rules and regulations are adopted for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of Green Buildings, codified at Article XIII, Chapter 10 (“Buildings and Building Regulations”) of the DRMC (the “Green Buildings Ordinance”). These rules and regulations replace the City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development Department Rules Governing Green Roofs adopted on April 30, 2018 and the City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development Department and Board of Public Health and Environment Rules Governing Green Buildings Requirements adopted on June 30, 2019; and the City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development and Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency Rules Governing Green Buildings Requirements adopted on June 8, 2021. For any project that is complying with the requirements of Article XIII, Chapter 10 of the DRMC as the article existed prior to the adoption of the Green Buildings Ordinance, the City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development Department Rules Governing Green Roofs adopted on April 30, 2018 will continue to apply.

Section 1.02 Severability.
Should any section, clause, or provision of these regulations be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the regulations as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part declared to be invalid.

Section 1.03 Definitions.
Terms or phrases specific to or introduced in this document are defined below and/or referenced to equivalent terms in the Green Buildings Ordinance. Terms or phrases not defined in this document but defined in the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code, shall be given the defined meaning in the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code.

Addition - Means an extension or increase in gross floor area or height of a building or structure. A connecting element of limited width as required by the International Building Code for a pedestrian walkway does not create an addition to a building.

Ancillary roof construction – Means the reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purposes of correcting damage or restoring pre-damage condition, necessitated as a direct result of and/or to accommodate adjacent primary construction work such as replacement or installation of new mechanical equipment, or similar.
**Annual benchmarking report** – The report provided each year to the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency (“CASR”) to meet the requirements of Chapter 10, Article XIV “HIGH-PERFORMANCE EXISTING BUILDINGS PROGRAM,” or Section 403 “Benchmarking and Reporting”.

**All-electric property** means a property that contains no permanently installed equipment or appliances that utilize combustion, plumbing for fuel gas or fuel oil or fuel gas utility connection, installed within the building(s) or site, except for emergency power systems and standby power systems.

**Building** - Means any structure used or intended for supporting or sheltering any use or occupancy. The boundary of any single building is defined by its surrounding exterior walls. Party walls as constructed in accordance with the International Building Code shall create separate buildings.

**Building Official** - Means the person authorized and directed to act on behalf of the Building Permitting and Inspections Services in the interpretation and enforcement of the Building Code of the City and County of Denver, and appointed by the Executive Director of Community Planning and Development.

**Campus** - Means a tract of contiguous property with one or more owners and that contains or will contain more than one building, that is planned, developed and operated as an integrated facility for a number of individual uses with special attention to coordinated circulation, parking, utility needs, aesthetics and compatibility. For purposes of this definition, the presence of public rights-of-way shall not destroy contiguity of land area. A campus may contain only existing buildings, existing buildings and proposed new buildings, or only proposed new buildings.

**Character defining roof** – Means a visible roof where the roof’s relationship to the overall shape of the building, as well as the roof’s distinctive materials, craftsmanship, and/or decorative details are important to the overall visual character of the building; if the materials, color or shape of the roof were to change, it would impact the visual character of the building.

**Cool roof** – Means a roof or portion of a roof containing roof covering material meeting any of the solar reflectance values in Table 1 in order to mitigate or assist in reducing urban heat island effect.

**Denver Building Code** - Has the same meaning as in Section 10-16, DRMC.

**Denver Fire Code** – Has the same meaning as in Section 10-16, DRMC.

**ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager** – Means the online tool created by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency used to measure and track a building’s energy use, water consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions.

**Energy Use Intensity (EUI)** – Means the energy used (kbtus) per square foot per year.
Green space - Means any area that is proposed to contain trees, groundcover, shrubs, urban agriculture, natural grass/turf, or vegetated roofs.

Greenhouse - Means a structure or a thermally isolated area of a building that maintains a specialized sunlit environment exclusively used for, and essential to, the cultivation, protection or maintenance of plants, that sells its commodities for a profit, or on behalf of a non-profit, and is constructed or planned to be constructed as either an F-1 occupancy or a U occupancy.

Gross floor area – Means the floor area within the inside perimeter of the exterior walls of the building under consideration, exclusive of vent shafts and courts, without deduction for corridors, stairways, ramps, closets, the thickness of interior walls, columns, or other features. The floor area of a building, or portion thereof, not provided with surrounding exterior walls shall be the useable area under the horizontal projection of the roof or floor above. The gross floor area shall not include shafts with no openings, interior courts, or areas used exclusively for the storage or parking of vehicles.

Individual roof section (or roof section) - Means a portion of roof bounded on all sides by one or more of the following features: a wall or parapet; the roof edge; an expansion joint; or a roof divider.


International Fire Code (IFC) - Means the 2021 International Fire Code, as amended by the 2022 Denver amendments and all subsequent amendments and reenactments to form the 2022 Denver Fire Code (DFC).


International Plumbing Code (IPC) - Means the 2021 International Plumbing Code, as amended by the 2022 Denver amendments and all subsequent amendments and reenactments to form the 2022 Denver Plumbing Code (DPC).

Low-sloped roof – Means a roof having a slope less than 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal.

Net Zero Energy Building - Means an energy-efficient building where, on a source energy basis, the actual annual delivered energy is less than or equal to the on-site renewable exported energy.

Owner - Means any person, agent, operator, entity, firm, or corporation having any legal or equitable interest in the building or property; or any person authorized to act on the owner’s behalf.
Registered Roof Consultant – Means a current Registered Roof Consultant (RRC), as provided by the International Institute of Building Enclosure Consultants (IIBEC).

Renewable energy device - Means a device that obtains energy derived from solar radiation, wind, landfill gas, biomass, the internal heat of the earth, or another source with the approval of the departments of community planning and development and climate action, sustainability, and resiliency.

Residential building - Means a building where more than sixty percent (60%) of the gross floor area of the building is used, designed or intended to be used for a household living use type as defined in the Denver Zoning Code, including accessory residential uses; however, a residential building shall not include a residential care use, or a lodging accommodation use, all as defined in the Denver Zoning Code.

Roof – Means the overhead structural component of a building which functions primarily to shelter the interior of the building from the effects of weather and the infiltration of water.

Roof covering materials – Means the exposed covering or coating of a roofing system or roof structure protecting the building.

Roof recover – Means the process of installing an additional layer of roof covering over a prepared existing roof covering without removing the existing roof covering.

Roof repair - The reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purposes of correcting damage or restoring pre-damage condition.

Roof replacement – Means the process of removing the existing roof covering, repairing any damaged substrate, and installing a new roof; or the reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purposes of its maintenance.

Solar reflectance – Means the reflective properties of roofing materials and coatings as tested and rated by the Cool Roof Rating Council or as otherwise approved by the Building Official for any of the following values: Initial solar reflectance, 3-year-aged solar reflectance, initial solar reflectance index (SRI) and 3-year-aged solar reflectance index (SRI).

Steep-sloped roof – Means a roof having a slope equal to or greater than 2 units vertical in 12 units horizontal.

Total roof area - Means the square footage of all roofs and roof sections located on a building. Roofs covering a story or stories below grade, as determined in accordance with the International Building Code as adopted in the Denver Building and Fire Code, shall not be included in the calculation of total roof area of a building.

Urban agriculture - Means the process of cultivating and processing herbs, fruits, flowers and or vegetables.
Vegetated roof - Means an assembly of interacting components designed to waterproof and normally insulate a building’s top surface that includes, by design, vegetation and related landscape elements. A vegetative roof shall meet requirements as set forth in rules and regulations. Another term for vegetated roof is a green roof.

Visible roof – Means a roof section that is at least partially visible from a person of average height in a public vantage point such as a city park, public street, campus grounds, or a private street with a public access easement.

Section 1.04 Green Buildings Ordinance Compliance Options.
The Green Buildings Ordinance contains various compliance options and the requirements associated with those options.

ARTICLE II: GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 2.01 Applicability of the Green Buildings Ordinance.
The Building Official shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether a project must comply with the Green Buildings Ordinance or if the project is subject to an applicable exemption as outlined in the ordinance. The Building Official shall also be responsible for verifying the owner’s selected compliance path, and that it meets all applicable code requirements in consultation with other agencies.

All measurements shall be in conformance with the methods used in the Denver Building and Fire Code except where otherwise noted. Stories and height of residential buildings shall be measured per the Denver Building and Fire Code.

Section 2.02 Permit Issuance.
The Building Official shall not issue any building or roofing permits for a project subject to the provisions of the Green Buildings Ordinance, except for permits such as those for shoring, preparatory demolition, phased construction, or foundation permits, prior to a project documenting compliance with the Green Buildings Ordinance.

Section 2.03 Permitting Requirements.
(a) The Building Official is delegated the authority to establish submittal requirements to document compliance with the Green Buildings Ordinance. These requirements will be available on CPD’s webpage and at CPD’s offices, which are in addition to any requirements contained within these regulations. Regardless of compliance option, each building permit submittal that includes a roof replacement or a new roof must provide the building’s total roof area on the roof plan.

(b) Buildings or additions 25,000 square feet or greater in gross floor area, including those who must only comply with the provision of a cool roof, must submit required documents for review when constructing either a new roof or a roof replacement, or seeking to document compliance as a Campus as outlined in Article V. Owners seeking a character defining roof determination shall submit the required documentation as outlined in Section 3.04. Renewable energy devices being used to fulfill a Green Buildings
Ordinance requirement shall also be submitted for review, regardless of the size of the system.

(c) The owner of a building subject to the Green Buildings Ordinance shall submit to CPD a Green Building Declaration Form for either a new or existing building. This form will be available on CPD’s website.

(d) Depending on the compliance method chosen, required permits are subject to change, but are summarized below. Any new construction, additions, or roof replacement that includes compliance with the Green Buildings Ordinance, shall follow the procedures for permit issuance in the administrative section of the Denver Building and Fire Code. Owners are required to comply with all other applicable City regulations and permit requirements.

(e) Any new construction, addition, or roof replacement that includes a vegetated roof must receive a separate permit for the vegetated roof (a commercial construction permit for a green roof), in addition to a roof permit for the underlying roof/waterproof membrane of the building. The permit for the vegetated roof must be issued to a Denver licensed green roof installer.

(f) For vegetated roofs, the following additional permits are required:

(i) A plumbing permit for irrigation on the vegetated roof which may include a backflow preventer so long as the permit is issued to a licensed plumber. If an irrigation contractor obtains the permit, then a separate plumbing permit shall be required for the backflow preventer and associated equipment.

(ii) Fire prevention for extension of any standpipes on existing buildings.

(g) A separate electrical permit is required for any renewable energy device. A zoning permit will also be required for all solar panels that do not meet the definition in the Denver Zoning Code for “solar panels, flush-mounted”.

(h) A site development plan (SDP) or amendment/modify to an existing site development plan and resulting zoning permit, if applicable, is required for at-grade green space.

(i) As required by the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code and associated policies, and the zoning code of the City and County of Denver, additional permits or approvals shall be obtained for related work, including, but not limited to:

(i) General Construction;

(ii) Roofing;

(iii) Fire Protection systems;

(iv) Mechanical systems;

(v) Plumbing systems;

(vi) Electrical systems;

(vii) Irrigation systems;

(viii) Zoning permits;
(ix) Office of the City Forester approval; and
(x) Landmark approval as needed.

Section 2.04 Inspection Requirements.
The following inspection requirements are in addition to any other required inspections of issued permits, including but not limited to, final roof inspection and final building inspection for vegetated roof.

(a) Pre-construction meeting required: Upon issuance of a roofing permit and vegetated roof permit (under a commercial construction permit for a green roof), the roofing contractor and green roof installer must schedule a pre-construction meeting with the appropriate construction inspector prior to beginning construction on the building’s roof.

(b) Leakage testing report for a vegetated roof: Prior to installation of the vegetated roof, an inspection for the roofing permit must be requested in order to verify that the membrane and other aspects of the roofing system have been installed per the approved plans. Additionally, the owner must provide a signed and stamped leakage testing report by a Colorado licensed architect or engineer, or a registered roof consultant, showing a successful leakage test.

(c) Vegetated roof irrigation inspection: An inspection will be required of the backflow preventer, verification of the control system, water test of the irrigation system, and connection to the irrigation main.

(d) Any green space not on the roof shall be inspected by CPD’s Zoning/Neighborhood Inspections to ensure compliance with the site development plan and/or zoning permit that documents compliance with the green space requirements.

ARTICLE III: COOL ROOFS

Section 3.01 In General.
The Green Buildings Ordinance requires new buildings or additions containing 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area, and existing buildings containing 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area upon a roof replacement or roof recover for more than 5% of either the total roof area or individual roof section(s) to provide a cool roof.

Section 3.02 Coverage Requirements.

(a) New Buildings or applicable additions. Must provide a cool roof, except as specifically exempted in Section 3.04 below.

(b) Existing Buildings. Only that portion of total roof area or roof section being replaced or recovered must provide a cool roof, except as specifically exempted in Section 3.04 below.
Section 3.03 Roof Covering Material Requirements.

(a) **Applicability.** Roof covering materials shall contain a minimum solar reflectance in accordance with Table 1 for a new roof, roof replacement, or roof recover of new or existing buildings containing 25,000 square feet or greater of gross floor area. Roof covering materials shall meet at least one of the values identified in Table 1; materials do not have to meet all four values.

Owners may apply for administrative approval when proposing specific roof materials not itemized or included in the below table by following the process in Section 106 of the Denver Building Code.

(b) **Requirements**

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Sloped Roofs</th>
<th>Initial Minimum Reflectance</th>
<th>3-Year Minimum Reflectance</th>
<th>Initial SRI Minimum</th>
<th>3-Year SRI Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slope less than 2:12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Slope roofs (except materials specified below).</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Slope metal roofs</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Slope concrete pavers or a concrete surface or stone roofs</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character defining roof</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Steep Sloped Roofs</th>
<th>Initial Minimum Reflectance</th>
<th>3-Year Minimum Reflectance</th>
<th>Initial SRI Minimum</th>
<th>3-Year SRI Minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slope 2:12 or steeper</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steep Slope roofs (except materials specified below)</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay or Concrete roof tile installed on elevated battens</td>
<td>None Required</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
<td>not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character defining roof</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
<td>See Section 3.04(a)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(i) Where a roof recover or roof replacement project introduces a cool roof where none previously existed, the roof shall be demonstrated, or modified, to meet one of the following designs:
(1) Steep sloped roofs shall be designed and installed to meet IBC 1202.2 or 1202.3 Ventilation Requirements.

(2) Low sloped roofs shall be designed and installed to include at least a Class III vapor retarder at the roof deck in addition to an air barrier at the roof deck, a single layer may be used to provide both preventative measures. The roof shall also be installed with insulation on top of the roof deck that exceeds the R-value of any interior insulation by a minimum of R-18 thermal insulating value, and all other requirements of the International Energy Conservation Code, as amended.

(3) The roofing system shall be designed by a professional roofing consultant, architect, or engineer who must submit an analysis of the existing roofing system. The analysis shall calculate and identify the dew point, and include a section-detail of the roofing system documenting the vapor retarder, air barrier and other roof components used to minimize condensation within the roof system.

Section 3.04 Exceptions.

(a) Character defining roof: Where approved by the Building Official, the solar reflectance of roof covering materials for use on a character-defining roof may be reduced as is technically and financially feasible to allow the use of materials and colors in keeping with the visual character of the building.

(i) A submission requesting a character defining roof determination shall include the following, though the Building Official may ask for additional information:

(1) Roof plan (new buildings only or existing buildings if a roof plan exists)
(2) Photographs of the building and roof from public vantage points (existing buildings only)
(3) Elevations (new buildings only – as photographs would not exist)
(4) Demonstration of at least one of the following criteria:
   a. The roof is or will be highly visible and contributes to the architectural identity of the building or its context.
   b. There are certain roof features important to the profile of the building against the sky or its background, such as cupolas, multiple chimneys, dormers, cresting, or weathervanes.
   c. The roofing material, color or patterns (such as patterned slate tile) are distinctive.
   d. The roof is identified as being an integral part of the building’s character and an identified feature for any historically designated building in its designation materials. Such historical designation may be local, state or national.
(5) The application shall also include general information about the proposed roofing materials, color and finish, the materials’ solar reflectance, and the importance of the roof in context of the building or its location.

(6) Any other information the Building Official requests in order to make a determination.

(ii) The Building Official will use the following process to determine whether a roof is a character defining roof:

(1) CPD staff shall review all submitted materials to determine if the above criteria are applicable and if the definition of character defining roof is met.

(2) The review team shall, at minimum, consist of at least three staff: a member of the Landmark Preservation team, an architectural/structural plan reviewer, and a member of the urban design team. Other staff may be consulted as deemed necessary. The team shall prepare a recommendation to the Building Official who shall have the final determination if the roof may or may not be characterized as a character defining roof.

(3) Upon a determination that the roof is a character defining roof, then a roofing permit may be issued using the information provided by the customer.

(4) Upon a determination that the roof is not a character defining roof, then the owner shall be notified and must make a resubmittal to provide roofing materials that comply with the cool roof provisions identified above before a roofing permit may be issued.

(5) The determination of the Building Official shall be appealable to the Board of Appeals per the Denver Building Code.

(b) In the case of a roof recover of a non-cool roof, where the roof system analysis (item 3.03(b)(i)(3) above) determines that the existing roof would need to be replaced to control condensation, the roof section analyzed is exempt from meeting cool roof requirements.

(c) The following roofs and portions of roofs are exempt from the requirements of Table 1:

(i) Portions of the roof that include or are covered by the following:

(1) Photovoltaic systems or components.

(2) Solar air or water-heating systems or components.

(3) Vegetated roofs.

(4) Above-roof decks or walkways. The roof below the deck or walkway need not be a cool roof, but the deck and walkways themselves must be made of materials meeting the cool roof standard.

(5) HVAC systems and components, and other opaque objects mounted above the roof.
(ii) Roof covering materials that are swimming pools, sport surfaces (such as tennis courts) and glazing.

(iii) Portions of the roof shaded during the peak sun angle on the summer solstice by neighboring buildings or other portions of the same building.

(iv) Portions of roofs that are ballasted with a minimum stone ballast of 15 pounds per square foot or, in the case of an existing ballasted roof, the weight of ballast for which the roof was originally designed.

(v) Up to 30% of a low sloped roof if covered by wood roof tiles certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or by an equivalent alternative forest product certification program approved by the Building Official.

(vi) The solar reflectance of roof covering materials for use on a visible roof, as defined in Section 1.03 may be reduced for no more than 10% of the total roof area unless a roof is determined to be a character defining roof.

(vii) A roof section, as defined in Section 1.03, where not less than 75 percent of the roof covering materials comply with this Section.

(d) Low sloped roof replacements and roof recovers over semiheated spaces as defined in ASHRAE 90.1-2022 are not required to include an air barrier or vapor retarder, but must comply with all requirements of the Denver Energy Code.

(e) Ancillary roof construction up to 20% of the total roof area.

ARTICLE IV: COMPLIANCE OPTIONS

Section 4.01 In General.
The Green Buildings Ordinance requires new buildings and additions containing 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area, and existing buildings containing 25,000 square feet or more of gross floor area upon a new roof or roof replacement for more than five percent (5%) of either the total roof area or individual roof section(s), to select one of the compliance methods listed in this Article IV. See Table 2 for reference. The sections provided in this Article IV set forth the requirements associated with each compliance option. Owners may apply for administrative approval when proposing an alternate material, design or method of construction by following the process in Section 106 of the Denver Building Code.

Table 2. Compliance Options Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>New Buildings</th>
<th>Existing Buildings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Space Option (4.02)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable Energy Option (4.03)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section 4.02 Green Space Option Requirements for New and Existing Buildings.

(a) Coverage Requirements When Green Space Solely Provided

(i) New Buildings.

(1) Owners who choose to provide solely either a vegetated roof or at-grade green space must provide one of the following amounts of green space:
   a. 10% of the gross floor area of the building; or
   b. 60% of the total roof area of the building.

(ii) Existing Buildings.

(2) Owners who choose to provide solely either a vegetated roof or at-grade green space may choose to replace either the total roof area or an individual roof section. If the owner chooses to replace the total roof area then he/she must provide one of the following amounts of green space:
   a. 2% of the gross floor area of the building; or
   b. 18% of the total roof area on the building.

If the owner chooses to replace an individual roof section, then he/she must provide one of the following amounts of green space:
   a. 2% of the gross floor area of the building multiplied by the area of individual roof section being replaced; divided by the total roof area of the building; or
   b. 18% of the individual roof section being replaced.

(b) General Administration Requirements

(i) Owners may provide required green space either with a vegetated roof, and/or at-grade green space.

(ii) Buildings are allowed to provide more than the required green space and to allow that to count towards a future building’s compliance only if that green space is
located on the same zone lot or parcel, unless seeking compliance through the campus approach. Owners cannot use existing green space at their site at the time of permit for a new roof or roof replacement, unless specifically allowed in these rules and regulations.

(iii) At-grade green space must be designed by a licensed landscape architect, or certified arborist as appropriate, who shall be responsible for ensuring that the at-grade green space is designed per the requirements of these rules and regulations.

(iv) Vegetated roofs must be designed by a licensed landscape architect or an accredited green roof professional, unless the vegetated roof system is an approved manufactured system.

(v) For at-grade green space, plans shall be submitted for review through the site development plan (SDP) process. Submissions shall include, at a minimum, a cover sheet including the building area calculation, site plan, and a landscape plan. Other sheets may be required to document compliance. If new lighting is being installed, then the SDP must also include a photometric plan. This SDP shall follow the typical SDP process as outlined in the zoning code. The SDP must contain the following note when green space is chosen as a compliance method for this ordinance.

At-grade green space is shown on this site development plan for compliance with Article XIII of Chapter 10, DRMC, it must be maintained, and cannot be used for purposes other than that shown on this site development plan. Should a future amendment change the amount or location of this at-grade green space, then additional at-grade green space must be provided to document compliance with Article XIII of Chapter 10, DRMC, or another compliance option must be selected.

(vi) Landscape and vegetated roof plans shall be submitted through the site development plan and the building permitting process. Landscape and irrigation construction documents shall be submitted through the building permitting process.

(vii) All green space installed for compliance with this ordinance must be maintained for the life of the building. If it dies, it must be replaced or another compliance option must be chosen.

(c) All green space must be in an outdoor space; vegetation inside a building will not count as required green space coverage.

(d) Vegetated roofs

(i) General Requirements –

(1) Permitting:
a. All vegetated roofs on commercial buildings (i.e., buildings constructed to meet the International Building Code) shall require a Green Roof Construction Permit issued to a licensed Green Roof contractor.

b. As required by the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code and adopted policies, additional permits shall be obtained for related work, including, but not limited to:
   i. General Construction
   ii. Roofing
   iii. Fire Protection systems
   iv. Plumbing systems
   v. Irrigation systems

(2) Code Compliance:

a. The design and construction of vegetated roofs shall comply with Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code provisions and with these regulations. Where a vegetated roof is intended for occupancy, Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code requirements for occupied roof decks shall apply in addition to the requirements for vegetated roofs.

b. Adopted Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code provisions governing vegetated roofs include, but are not limited to, the following current sections and standards, which are subject to change through code adoption cycles:
   i. IBC Sections 1503, 1505.10, 1507.16, 1507.16.1, 1607.12.3, & 1607.12.3.1
   ii. IFC Sections 304.1.2, 317 & 905.3.8
   iii. IPC Sections 1106 & 1108

(3) Design Considerations:

a. Vegetative roofing systems shall be either extensive, intensive, or semi-intensive systems, and shall include:
   i. Vegetation,
   ii. Growing medium,
   iii. Filter fabric,
   iv. Drainage layer,
   v. Root barrier,
vi. Waterproofing membrane, and
vii. Other elements as required by the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code or this standard (insulation, tie-downs, irrigation etc.).

b. For new buildings, where vegetated roofs are covered by renewable energy devices, the overlapping coverage areas of the vegetated roof and the renewable energy devices shall be allowed to count twice when calculating green roof coverage.

c. Existing vegetated roofs on existing buildings may be deemed compliant with the Green Buildings Ordinance if they meet the standards of this section.

(ii)  Fire Protection

(1)  Construction Materials:

a. The fire-resistance of the structural frame and roof construction supporting the vegetative roof shall comply with the IBC. The roofing covering material shall be as required by the IBC and ANSI/SPRI VF-1 2010 (tested to ASTM E108).

b. Vegetated roofs on buildings of Type V, IV, III, or II-B construction without a tray system shall include permit submittal design information demonstrating the alternative means for providing building ventilation during firefighting efforts and post-fire salvage & overhaul operations. Some examples of recognized methods include mechanical smoke control systems and fixed smoke/heat vents as outlined in IFC 910. An owner seeking this approval must submit an administrative modification request to the Denver Fire Department’s Fire Prevention Division.

(2)  Vegetated Roof Layout:

a. Area Dividers, Firebreaks & Border Zones shall be provided as required by the IFC and ANSI/SPRI VF-1 2010.

b. The roof shall include the following clearance zones:

i. For all vegetative roofing systems abutting combustible vertical surfaces, a Class A (per ASTM E108 or UL790) rated roofing system for a minimum 6-ft wide continuous border placed around rooftop structures, all rooftop equipment, and penetrations.

ii. A 6 ft-wide area that meets Class A fire classification requirements shall divide vegetated roofs into areas not exceeding 15,625sf or 125ft in length or width.

iii. In buildings less than 4-stories in height, a minimum 8-foot-wide clear perimeter around the edges of the roof
when exit stairways and fixed permanent ladders are not provided.

iv. In buildings 4-stories and greater in height, all roofs containing vegetated areas shall be afforded access via exit stairways and fixed permanent ladders to upper roofs. Access points shall be separated by minimum of 10 feet from the vegetated areas.

v. Vegetation shall be separated from or permitted to abut glazed building openings in accordance with Chapter 3 of the IFC.

c. Required clearance zones shall not count towards required green roof coverage.

(3) Fire Protection Systems:

a. Fire Protection Systems shall comply with the IFC as amended.

b. Where the building requires a standpipe system, it shall extend to the roof. The standpipe hose outlet shall be located within 230 feet of all vegetated areas and located within the access point.

c. In high rise buildings, activation of rooftop manual pull stations shall not activate building vertical pressurization systems.

(4) Maintenance:

a. Maintenance shall be provided as required by the IFC. The requirement for maintenance shall be conveyed by the designer to the building owner, and it shall be the building owner’s responsibility to maintain the vegetative roof system.

b. A maintenance plan shall be submitted as part of the Vegetated Roof permit application and shall include:

i. A description of the maintenance and care necessary for the survival of the specified vegetation in the specified growing-media and how it will be provided.

ii. A plan for maintaining the design depth of the growing-medium.

iii. A plan for replanting the vegetated roof, in the event replanting becomes necessary.

iv. A plan for the removal of overgrown, dead and decaying vegetation at regular intervals, not less than two times per year.

v. A plan for the storage of combustible materials for the maintenance of the roof and compliance with the IFC for such storage.
vi. A plan for the winterization and maintenance of irrigation systems.

vii. Identification of IBC-compliant access to the vegetated roof and fall protection where the vegetated roof is within 10ft of a roof edge.

(5) Supplemental Irrigation:

a. An irrigation system is required. Irrigation plans shall be submitted as part of the Vegetated Roof permit application. The system shall be designed as described in the maintenance plan as necessary for the survival of the specified vegetation in the vegetative roofing system.

b. The vegetative roofing system shall be irrigated with an appropriate automatic system as needed. The irrigation system must include an automatic system that is controlled either by evapotranspiration controls or soil moisture sensor responsive controls.

c. Plumbing connections shall meet Denver Building and Fire Code requirements including applicable IPC requirements.

(6) Vegetation:

a. Vegetation shall be specified on plans and coordinated with the maintenance plan.

(iii) Waterproofing

(1) Code requirements:

a. The roof covering materials shall be designed in accordance with the Denver Building Code, Denver Fire Code, the IBC and ANSI/SPRI VF-1 2010.

(2) Testing:

a. When the roof cover is not impervious to root penetration, a root barrier shall be installed.

b. Prior to the installation of the vegetative roof system, the roof’s water-tightness shall be tested and a report documenting a successful test, signed by a registered roofing consultant or licensed architect or engineer, shall be provided to the building inspector for approval.

c. Testing shall follow ASTM Standards and utilize one of the following methods:

i. Flood test

ii. Electrified field vector mapping

iii. Impedance test
iv. Infrared thermal imaging  
v. Low voltage testing  
vi. High voltage testing  
vii. Moisture sensors  

(iv) Roof Drainage  
(1) Code requirements: The roof-drainage system shall be designed to meet the IBC and IPC requirements and the requirements of this standard.  

(2) Design considerations:  
   a. The reference point for overflow scuppers and drains shall be clearly indicated on drawings to be the roof membrane and not the vegetated roof surface or other layer above the waterproofing.  
   b. The root barrier, vegetation, and border materials shall be designed to limit debris and to prevent the blockage of roof drains.  
   c. The roof drainage layer of the vegetative system shall be designed to improve the ability of plants in the system to survive.  
      i. Systems designed to detain water utilizing geocomposite drainage layers shall meet ASTM E2398-05.  
      ii. Systems designed to detain water with a moisture retention mat and granular drainage layer shall meet ASTM E2396M-15.  

(v) Structural Design  
(1) Submittal requirements: Structural design shall comply with the IBC and the submittal requirements shall be as required for commercial construction projects.  
(2) Gravity loads:  
   a. The roof structure and deck shall be engineered to support the load of fully-hydrated growing media, the vegetative roof system, and all other design loads.  
   b. Live loads and vegetative roof loads shall be computed as follows:  
      i. The weight of all landscaping materials shall be considered as dead load and shall be computed on the basis of saturation of the soil as determined in accordance with ASTM E2397.  
      ii. The uniform design live load in unoccupied landscaped areas on roofs shall be 20psf.  
      iii. The uniform design live load for occupied landscaped roofs shall be determined in accordance with IBC Table 1607.1.
(3) Wind loads: The roofing system and the additional vegetative roof system shall be structurally designed to resist wind loads as follows:
   a. Design meeting ANSI/SPRI RP-14 Wind Design Standard and utilizing ASCE 7 shall be considered to comply with the IBC.
   b. Documented manufacturer testing of wind resistance for proprietary systems may be accepted by the reviewer in lieu of structural engineering, as appropriate.
   c. For buildings over 150ft in height, the submittal shall include design by a wind design engineer or the results of a wind tunnel study.

(4) Existing structures: Existing structures shall be demonstrated as capable of supporting added loads and, where unable to support a vegetated roof, shall be modified as required by the Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code.

(vi) Vegetative Roofing System –

(1) Submittal Requirements: The vegetative system shall be fully specified, including the growing media and vegetation.

(2) Growing media:
   a. Growing media shall be specifically designed for use in vegetative roofing systems and may be composed of a combination of organic and inorganic materials complying with ASTM performance standards.
   b. Growing media or equivalent shall be a minimum 5-inch depth. Except where demonstrated to meet Denver’s vegetated roof performance criteria and approved by the Building Official.

(3) Vegetation:
   a. Vegetation shall be coordinated with the growing media, drainage mat, root barrier and maintenance plan.
   b. Vegetation shall not include any noxious weeds as defined by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
   d. Vegetation shall be designed to cover 80% of the vegetated roof within 3 years of issuance of certificate of occupancy (TCO or CO), or be used and maintained for the purpose of urban agriculture.
   e. For roof slopes greater than 2:12, a licensed design professional experienced in vegetative roof design shall submit a vegetative system design that incorporates anti-shear measures for evaluation and approval by the Building Official.
(4) Irrigation: Design of irrigation systems shall consider the waterproofing membrane, roof drainage systems, vegetation, growing media, drainage system and the maintenance plan.

(vii) Additional Standards –

(1) The Building Official and the Green Building Technical Advisory Committee shall develop guides and performance criteria for industry use and for the evaluation of vegetated roof designs and specifications.

(e) At-grade green space.

(i) Location of at-grade green space. At-grade green space may be located anywhere on the zone lot except for the roof of a building.

(1) New Buildings:

a. At-grade green space coverage provided must be above and beyond the required landscaping area as identified in the Zoning Code of the City and County of Denver or other applicable rules and regulations, unless otherwise allowed below.

b. For projects subject to a zoning requirement for publicly accessible open space, all or a portion of that open space requirement can be used to fulfill the green space requirement so long as it complies with the at-grade green space standards below.

c. Areas designed to provide water quality treatment of storm water as required by Public Works may be used to fulfill the green space requirement as long as all water quality treatment is met through a vegetated water quality facility and in conformance with UDFCD’s *Stormwater Criteria Manual* (Volume 3, Chapter 4, Factsheets T-3), and/or Public Works’ *Ultra Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines* criteria for vegetated bioretention facilities, or current versions of these documents.

(2) Existing Buildings. Generally, at-grade green space currently in existence on the zone lot, improvements to at-grade green space currently in existence, or vegetation in the right-of-way will not count towards required green space coverage with the following exceptions:

i. A vegetated water quality facility and in conformance with UDFCD’s *Stormwater Criteria Manual* (Volume 3, Chapter 4, Factsheets T-3), and/or the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure’s *Ultra Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines* criteria for vegetated bioretention facilities, or current versions of these documents.
a. Conversion of current green space to a new vegetated water quality facility that is in conformance with UDFCD’s *Stormwater Criteria Manual* (Volume 3, Chapter 4, Factsheets T-3), and/or the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure’s *Ultra Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines* criteria for vegetated bioretention facilities, or current versions of these documents.

b. Trees on the zone lot added to the existing green space or provided with improved planting space to meet a level in Table 2 shall count.

(ii) Soil. All projects shall demonstrate that they have met the following soil remediation and irrigation standards:

(1) Soil analysis from a local credited soil analysis laboratory with experience in local urban soils shall be required when plants are to be installed in green space. All soil remediation shall be based on the soil analysis.
   a. Minimum soil analysis must determine soil texture and structure, pH balance, soil salinity, free lime, organic matter (OM) content, plant available nutrients, and compaction.
   b. Depth of landscape soil analysis shall be 24in for trees and 18in for all other areas.

(2) Grades shall be set to allow for proper drainage away from structures. Grades shall maintain smooth profiles and be free of surface debris, bumps, and depressions.

(3) Shrub bed/planting areas shall be mulched to a depth of 2-4in. Perennials and groundcover areas shall be mulched with a 3in layer. No weed barrier shall be installed over top of tree root balls.
   a. Mulch shall be an organic shredded wood mulch certified pathogen, weed and chemical free;
   b. Surface coverage shall be a minimum 3ft radius from the trunk for trees where possible; and
   c. Mulch shall be kept a minimum of 4-6in away from tree trunks and not touching the base of other woody landscape plants.

(iii) Irrigation.

(1) All landscape plant material and grass shall be irrigated with an appropriate automatic system as needed. If applicable, then the irrigation system must meet the following:
   a. Automatic system that is controlled either by evapotranspiration controls or soil moisture sensor responsive controls; and
   b. Shrubs and trees shall be installed on a separate zone from turf.

(2) Specific characteristics of available water supply including salinity shall be understood and accounted for during landscape plant material selection,
particularly if reclaimed and/or graywater will be present. Salt tolerant plants shall be selected if the project team identifies conditions warranting this.

(iv) At-grade green space options. An owner may choose any of the options below in order to satisfy green space requirements. The option must be documented within the Site Development Plan. Owners must maintain the green space.

(1) Trees.

a. Projects installing trees must demonstrate on the site development plan how they will be planted with the appropriate supporting infrastructure or provide a tree protection plan detailing how existing trees will be successfully retained. Projects proposing to use trees for at-grade-green space must use green building qualified trees from the Office of the City Forester approved street tree list found at www.denvergov.org/forestry. Ornamental/columnar trees require approval from the Office of the City Forester.

b. All trees shall be provided with soil at least 2 feet deep, the full width of the tree planting area, extending a clear minimum of 15 feet measured horizontally in two opposing directions from the tree trunk.

c. All trees shall have a soil area with a minimum depth of 2 feet, with a maximum 80% proctor density compacted soil that promotes healthy root growth, meeting one of the following soil volumes or horizontal areas (when applicable) detailed in Tables 3A and 3B (depths beyond 2 feet shall not count towards volume minimums for trees planted without structural cells; depths beyond 3 feet shall not count towards volume minimums for trees planted with structural cells). Trees shall receive square footage coverage credit towards compliance in accordance with Tables 3A and 3B.

Table 3A: Tree Standards for Trees without Structural Cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Volume per tree (Cubic Feet)</th>
<th>Horizontal Area of Soil per tree meeting above soil standard (Square Feet)</th>
<th>Coverage Credit per Shade tree (Square Feet)</th>
<th>Coverage Credit per Ornamental / Columnar tree (Square Feet)</th>
<th>Additional Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>&gt;500</td>
<td>&gt;250</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>&gt;700</td>
<td>&gt;350</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>&gt;500</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>1000+</td>
<td>&gt;500+</td>
<td>600</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 3B: Tree Standards for Trees with Structural Cells

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Volume per tree (Cubic Feet)</th>
<th>Depth of Soil per soil standard (Linear Feet)</th>
<th>Coverage Credit per Shade tree (Square Feet)</th>
<th>Coverage Credit per Ornamental / Columnar tree (Square Feet)</th>
<th>Additional Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>&gt;500</td>
<td>2’-3’</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 2</td>
<td>&gt;700</td>
<td>2’-3’</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>&gt;1000</td>
<td>2’-3’</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>1000+</td>
<td>2’-3’</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

d. Additional requirements for existing trees are as follows:
i. Existing canopy cover of established trees may be used instead of Tables 3A & 3B when existing trees are used for new building compliance.

ii. An existing tree may only count towards at-grade green space if approved by the City Forester as a qualified tree (factors include: desirable species, in fair or better condition of health with sound structure for the species, free of communicable insect and disease, in a location capable of supporting the mature size of the tree, etc.) Projects seeking to use existing trees must submit supporting documentation with the site development plan to allow the City Forester to determine if the tree can qualify.

iii. In order for existing trees to be approved and counted towards at-grade green space, a tree protection plan shall be submitted including the following: tree radius at

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location, species, trunk diameter at 4.5 feet above ground, surveyed drip line of existing tree canopy edge, and a maintenance plan to protect tree health during construction which must include continued irrigation of the tree.

iv. Projects proposing to use existing trees for at-grade green space must follow the City Forester tree retention and protection specifications found at www.denvergov.org/forestry.

(2) Groundcover, Shrubs, and Xeric Grasses. In order to comply with required at-grade green space using groundcover, shrubs, or urban agriculture, the proposed vegetation must be included in one of the following resources:

b. https://conps.org/home-2/resources/gardening-with-native-plants/; or

c. For xeric grasses see Table B-3 of UDFCD’s Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual (Volume 3, Chapter 4, Fact Sheet T-3) or current versions of these documents.

(3) Turfgrass. Turfgrass may be installed in the following amounts.

a. 25% of the green space requirement may be met with turfgrass.

b. An additional 25% of the green space requirement may be met with a turfgrass, if the grass areas also provide pollution removal and volume reduction from adjacent impervious areas per UDFCD’s Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual (Volume 3, Chapter 4, Fact Sheet T-1 –Grass Buffer), or current versions of these documents.

(4) Areas for Urban Agriculture. The area must contain protected plant beds with soils appropriate for plants meeting the definition of urban agriculture. Where not made available to the public as a community garden, Urban Agriculture green space shall be planted at least annually with plants meeting the definition of Urban Agriculture.

(5) At-grade green space vegetation allowed in subsections 4.02(e)(iv)(1)-(3) above shall be designed to use an average of 10 gallons maximum per square foot of potable water irrigation per year.

Section 4.03 Renewable Energy Option Requirements for New and Existing Buildings.

(a) On-site solar panels.

(i) Owners of new buildings must provide solar panels covering an area on the building or zone lot that is at least 70% of the total roof area of the building, or an area equal to an amount required to provide 100% of estimated annual average
electricity used at the building. Solar panels must be installed prior to obtaining a certificate of occupancy (TCO or CO).

(ii) Owners of existing buildings may choose to replace either the total roof area or an individual roof section. If the owner chooses to replace the total roof area then he/she must provide on-site solar panels covering an area in one of the following amounts: 5% of the gross floor area of the building; 42% of the total roof area on the building; or an area equal to the amount required to provide 100% of estimated annual average electricity used at the building. If the owner chooses to replace an individual roof section, then he/she must provide on-site solar panels covering an area in one of the following amounts: 5% of the gross floor area of the building multiplied by the area of individual roof section being replaced, divided by the total roof area of the building; or 42% of the individual roof section being replaced.

(iii) Owners of existing buildings have up to 12 months from the date of final inspection and approval of the roof replacement scope to complete installation of solar panels. If the solar panels are not installed within 12 months of final roof inspection, the building will be automatically enrolled in the Energy Program and required to achieve compliance under that program within four (4) years of June 1st of the year of enrollment.

(iv) Solar panels included to comply with regulatory requirements of regulations separate from the Green Buildings Ordinance are not also included as part of compliance with Green Buildings Ordinance requirements.

(v) Projects providing solar panels to comply with the Green Buildings Ordinance shall submit the information typically required by CPD for the review of such systems. Solar panels are required to have a minimum efficiency rating of 18%, and must provide manufacturer’s specifications outlining this efficiency rating with the permit submittal. When selecting this option, the proposed installed system capacity (kW) should be noted on the initial application.

(vi) When a project proposes to provide solar panels under this option, a roof plan must be provided that clearly outlines the total area of the roof, and identifies the areas for panels and associated clearances.

(vii) For existing buildings proposing to provide solar panels that generate at least 100% of the building’s electricity usage, the owner must provide the most recent complete year’s annual average electricity usage so that CPD may determine that the requirement is met. Solar panels providing electricity to existing buildings that are in place prior to the passage of the Green Buildings Ordinance may count towards this requirement so long as adequate coverage is provided and the panel efficiency rating of 18% is demonstrated.

(viii) Owners of new buildings shall provide an energy model indicating the estimated annual average electricity usage.

(ix) Owners of new buildings seeking to provide a renewable energy device other than solar panels shall submit documentation required to demonstrate that the renewable energy device provides a similar generation capacity as solar panels,
(x) The solar coverage area includes code required access around the panels and manufacturer recommended clearances.

(b) Off-site renewables

(i) For new construction projects choosing the 100% off-site renewable energy purchase option, the owner must submit an energy model indicating anticipated electricity consumption and a Green Buildings Declaration Form signed by the building owner committing to own or purchase renewable electricity capacity sufficient to supply 100% of electricity consumption. Anticipated electricity consumption must be shown using the same methodology as is used to demonstrate code performance compliance. Anticipated Site Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/sf/yr) for the building must also be reported from that model.

(1) For buildings where the owner is the only utility account holder, the building owner must present to CPD evidence of ownership or a minimum five (5) year contract for the appropriate amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

(2) For buildings where tenants hold some or all utility accounts, the building owner must present to CASR evidence of ownership or a minimum five (5) year contract(s) totaling the appropriate amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity within 18 months of receiving a certificate of occupancy.

(3) Electricity consumption may vary from the model year to year, therefore for the life of the building, the building owner must maintain contract(s) for sufficient off-site renewable capacity to supply at least 90% of electricity consumption of the building. Evidence of ownership or contracts evidencing the purchase of off-site renewable capacity may be requested at any time by the City, but at a minimum, the building owner shall submit such documentation at the following times:

a. For buildings where the owner is the only utility account holder, documentation must be submitted to CASR upon expiration of the original contract, if applicable, or any time the building is sold. If the building is sold, the new owner must demonstrate the original contract has been transferred to the new owner or that the new owner has purchased an equivalent amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity through alternative means.

b. For buildings where tenants hold some or all utility accounts, the building owner must present documentation to CASR totaling the appropriate amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity every 5 years.

(4) Documentation of off-site renewable electricity must consist of: (1) a subscription, lease, or purchase of a share in a voluntary renewable energy
program offered by Xcel Energy which is built for that customer program, and which has dedicated customer capacity or energy to fulfill that customer’s subscription; (2) a subscription, lease or purchase of a share in a community solar project for which a dedicated renewable energy resource located in Public Service Company of Colorado territory is built for that customer program, and which has dedicated customer capacity or energy to fulfill that customer’s subscription; or (3) evidence of ownership of off-site renewable electricity capacity located in Colorado.

(ii) For existing buildings, refer to section 4.08.

(c) Net zero energy buildings. At permit/plan review, the owner must submit an anticipated energy model and annual EUI that indicates the amount of energy anticipated to be used annually will be offset by the onsite renewable energy source provided in the design documents. At the end of 12 months of normal level of occupancy for that building type, the owner must provide a confirmation to CASR that the systems and building are performing as anticipated, and the building has met the requirements of a net-zero energy building. The documentation shall include analysis of the solar panels or other renewable energy source and a continuous 12-month period of utility bills starting after the TCO was obtained and 60% of normal occupancy levels were achieved. A variance of 5% will be considered as a successful application. If the variance is greater than 5%, a reevaluation of the system and proposed corrective measures will need to be presented to both CPD and CASR.

Section 4.04 Energy Savings Option Requirements for New Buildings.

(a) The requirements below apply to new buildings. Existing building owners who choose to comply with an energy saving model should refer to Section 4.08 below.

(b) The owner must submit at permit/plan review submission, an energy model indicating the baseline code compliance. Additionally, the energy model report must identify at least three key components or systems within the design, or characteristics of the project design, to which higher performance supporting achievement of enhanced performance goals can be attributed. At the completion of the project, a preliminary commissioning report must be submitted to CPD indicating that these items have been installed in accordance with the manufacturers’ recommendations and are performing as designed and intended, prior to obtaining the TCO or CO.

(c) Substantive requirements. The owner shall demonstrate a minimum of 12% annual energy savings above the Denver Building Code. Annual energy savings shall be demonstrated using a performance compliance path allowed in the Denver Energy Code. Projects using any of these methods must use the same methodology as is used to demonstrate code performance compliance and report estimated Site Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/sf/yr) and annual estimated energy use by fuel type for the building from that model.

(i) Projects using an energy savings approach shall meet all other energy code compliance submittal requirements to document compliance with the selected method as required by the City & County of Denver: Other requirements can be found at the following URL:
(ii) Additional energy savings or exceptional calculations for loads or efficiency measures that are not already addressed by the methods above may only be claimed with prior approval by the Building Official.

(iii) New construction projects other than additions and alterations shall be all-electric properties.

Section 4.05 Building Certification Option Requirements for New and Existing Buildings.

(a) New Buildings: The owner shall achieve for the entire building certification under a currently supported version of one of the following:

   (i) LEED Building Design and Construction: New Construction Gold Level;
   (ii) Enterprise Green Communities;
   (iii) National Green Building Standard ICC/ASHRAE 700 Gold;
   (iv) Green Globes: Four Green Globes rating;
   (v) International Living Future Institute Living Building Challenge certification;
   (vi) International Living Future Institute Core Green Building certification;
   (vii) International Living Future Institute Zero Energy certification;
   (viii) International Living Future Institute Zero Carbon certification;
   (ix) Denver Green Code Enhanced Use Program compliance verification; or
   (x) Equivalent alternative approved green building certification.

At permit/plan review, the owner must submit the LEED scorecard and all ancillary documentation associated with meeting the criteria for certification, or equivalent documentation associated with the selected approved third-party certification. To be issued a certificate of occupancy, the building must be pre-certified or submit the LEED design review (or equivalent) with a plan for how any requested changes will be made. Proof of certification must be submitted to CASR 18 months after the certificate of occupancy is given.

(b) Existing Buildings: The owner shall submit to CPD with the roof permit application one of the following for the entire building:

   (i) A LEED Building Design and Construction: New Construction Silver or higher certification and/or a current LEED Operations and Maintenance Silver level or higher certification;
   (ii) Enterprise Green Communities certification;
   (iii) National Green Building Standard ICC/ASHRAE 700 Silver level or higher certification;
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(iv) Green Globes: Three Green Globes level or higher certification;
(v) International Living Future Institute Living Building Challenge certification;
(vi) International Living Future Institute Core Green Building certification;
(vii) International Living Future Institute Zero Energy Certification;
(viii) International Living Future Institute Zero Carbon Certification;
(ix) Denver Green Code Enhanced Use Program Compliance Verification; or
(x) Equivalent approved alternative green building certification.

Alternative certification. The Building Official may allow an alternative method of certification so long as the alternative certification program’s criteria encompasses the entire building and provides for similar energy efficiency as those programs called out above.

Section 4.06 Combination Option Requirements for New Buildings. These options are only available for new buildings.

(a) Green Space and On-Site Solar or Other Renewable Energy Devices Option.
   (i) Coverage requirements. Owners must provide green space in one of the following amounts: 3% of the gross floor area of the building; or 18% of the total roof area on the building. Owners must also provide on-site solar panels covering an area in one of the following amounts: 7% of the gross floor area of the building; or 42% of the total roof area on the building. Other renewable energy devices may be used in place of on-site solar panels as long as the renewable energy devices achieve equivalent total energy production as the on-site solar panels. Other combinations may be approved by the Building Official so long as the area covered equals 10 percent of the gross floor area of the building, or 60% of the total roof area on the building.

   (i) Owners must submit floor plans, site plans, solar panel location plans, and provide a complete analysis of all area calculations and anticipated kW of renewable capacity located on all plans for all options, including but not limited to, solar panels on the roof, solar panels on grade, vegetated roofs, at-grade green space, building floor area, roof area, mechanical equipment, etc. The submission must clearly identify the desired path/option chosen and the percentages of each aspect of the submission (green & solar). Note that solar area includes code required access around the panels and manufacturer recommendations for clearance; however, the vegetated roof area does not include required area for access and other clearances as mentioned in these rules and regulations, the IFC, and the IBC. Green space shall be a minimum of 30% of the required coverage under the alternative coverages of green spaces and on-site solar panel option allowed in Green Buildings Ordinance Section 10-301(a) (2)f.4.

(b) Green Space and Off-site Renewables Option. – Owners must submit all of the applicable items listed in 4.06(a)(i) and (ii) above and the following to demonstrate the
required off-site solar has been purchased and the energy efficiency requirements of this option have been met:

(i) Green space covering an area in the amount of one of the following: 3 percent of the gross floor area of the building; or 18 percent of the total roof area on the building.

(ii) Off-site renewables:

(1) For buildings where the owner is the only utility account holder, the building owner must present to CPD evidence of ownership or a minimum five (5) year contract for off-site renewable electricity capacity equal to the amount of solar that would have been provided on-site prior to issuance of the CO.

(2) For buildings where tenants hold some or all utility accounts, the building owner must present to CASR evidence of ownership or a minimum five (5) year contract(s) totaling the appropriate amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity within 18 months of receiving a certificate of occupancy.

(3) For the life of the building, the building owner must maintain either ownership of or contract(s) for the purchase of required renewable capacity. Evidence of ownership or contracts evidencing the purchase or off-site renewable energy capacity may be requested at any time by the City, but at a minimum, the building owner shall submit such documentation at the following times:

a. For buildings where the owner is the only utility account holder, documentation must be submitted to CASR upon expiration of the original contract, if applicable, or any time the building is sold. If the building is sold the new owner must demonstrate the original contract has been transferred or that the new owner has purchased an equivalent amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity through alternative means.

b. For buildings where tenants hold some or all utility accounts, the building owner must present documentation to CASR totaling the appropriate amount of renewable electricity capacity every 5 years.

(4) Documentation of off-site renewable electricity must consist of: (1) a subscription, lease, or purchase of a share in a voluntary renewable energy program offered by Xcel Energy; (2) a subscription, lease, or purchase of a share in a community solar project for which a dedicated renewable energy resource located in Public Service Company of Colorado territory is built for that customer program, and which has dedicated customer capacity or energy to fulfill that customer’s subscription; or (3) evidence of ownership of off-site renewable electricity capacity.

(iii) Energy Efficiency. Owners must demonstrate a minimum of 2.5% annual energy
savings above the Denver Building Code. Annual energy savings shall be demonstrated using a performance compliance path allowed in the currently adopted version of the IECC and current Denver Energy Code.

(1) Projects using an energy savings approach must use the same methodology as is used to demonstrate code performance compliance and report estimated Site Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/sf/yr) and annual estimated energy use by fuel type for the building from that model.

(2) Projects using an energy savings approach must meet all other energy code compliance submittal requirements to document compliance with the selected method as required by the City & County of Denver: Other requirements can be found at the following URL:

(3) [Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code - City and County of Denver (denvergov.org)] Additional energy savings or exceptional calculations for loads or efficiency measures that are not already addressed by the methods above may only be claimed with prior approval by the Building Official.

(c) **Green Space and Energy Efficiency Option.** Owners must provide green space in an amount equal to the amounts required in Section 4.06(b)(i) above. Owners must also demonstrate a minimum of 5% annual energy savings above the Denver Energy Code. Annual energy savings shall be demonstrated using a performance compliance path allowed in the IECC.

(i) Projects using an energy savings approach must use the same methodology as is used to demonstrate code performance compliance and report estimated Site Energy Use Intensity (kBtu/sf/yr) and annual estimated energy use by fuel type for the building from that model.

(ii) Projects using an energy savings approach should meet all other energy code compliance submittal requirements to document compliance with the selected method as required by the City & County of Denver: Other requirements can be found at the following URL:

[Denver Building Code and Denver Fire Code - City and County of Denver (denvergov.org)]

(iii) Additional energy savings or exceptional calculations for loads or efficiency measures that are not already addressed by the methods above, may only be claimed with prior approval by the Building Official.

(iv) New construction projects other than additions and alterations shall be all-electric properties.
Section 4.07 Payment to the Green Building Fund Option for New and Existing Buildings.
(a) An owner whose building is subject to the requirements of the Green Buildings Ordinance may choose to comply by paying an amount to the Green Building Fund. Upon the owner’s request to comply through payment to the Green Building Fund, the owner must calculate the amount of green space required, and CPD shall calculate the appropriate fee to be paid to the fund. The owner must pay the applicable fee at the same time as payment of building and/or roofing permits. CPD will not issue any building permit for a new building or addition, or a roof permit for an existing building until the owner has paid the applicable fee to the Green Building Fund. Payment of a fee to the green building fund is a one-time payment, and shall be valid for compliance for the life of the building.

(b) In cases where an owner chooses to provide required green space, or required on-site solar panels, or both, but is unable to provide the entirety of the requirement, the owner may pay the applicable amount for no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the combined green space required, or on-site solar panel coverage required, or both, but not provided, and must provide at least seventy-five (75) percent of the combined required green space coverage, or required on-site solar panel coverage, or both.

(c) Revenue received through payments to the fund will offset the cost undertaken by the City in providing new or improved green space within the City. In selecting projects for funding, the City will strive to give priority or preference to the following:
   (i) Low income areas that currently have less green space and trees;
   (ii) Highest impact projects. Prioritize projects that will make substantial impacts in alignment with the uses and purposes outlined in the Green Building Ordinance; and
   (iii) Green spaces located near the buildings that paid into the fund where feasible.

Section 4.08 Energy Program for Existing Buildings.
(a) The Energy Program for Existing Buildings only applies to existing buildings for which project teams are requesting a roof replacement permit. The program provides flexible energy efficiency and renewable energy options and allows building owners to take advantage of recent energy improvement projects for purposes of complying with the Green Buildings Ordinance.

(b) The Energy Program shall be administered by CASR.

(c) An owner may enroll in the Energy Program at the time of roof replacement, or prior to roof replacement. If the owner enrolls prior to roof replacement, then no further action will be required at the time of roof replacement. Enrollment in the Energy Program will be valid for the longer of 20 years or through one roof replacement. When a building owner enrolls in the Energy Program it has up to 5 years from June 1st following the building’s enrollment date to demonstrate it has achieved one of the following:
   (i) Green Building Certification Option. Building Certification through one of the following:
(1) A LEED Building Design and Construction: New Construction Silver level or higher certification and/or a current LEED Operations and Maintenance: Existing Buildings Silver level or higher certification. Does not include LEED ID+C for Commercial Interiors;

(2) Enterprise Green Communities certification;

(3) National Green Building Standard ICC/ASHRAE 700 Silver level or higher certification;

(4) Green Globes: Three Green Globes level or higher certification;

(5) International Living Future Institute Living Building Challenge certification;

(6) International Living Future Institute Core Green Building certification;

(7) International Living Future Institute Zero Energy certification;

(8) International Living Future Institute Zero Carbon certification;

(9) Denver Green Code Enhanced Use Program compliance verification; or

(10) Equivalent approved alternative green building certification.

(ii) **On-site Solar or Other Renewable Energy Device Option.** Installation of on-site solar panels, or other on-site renewable energy devices that achieve equal to or greater additional, new greenhouse gas emission reductions. Solar panels must be a minimum of 18% efficiency and must cover at a minimum one of the following areas. The solar coverage area includes code required access around the panels and manufacturer recommendations for clearance.

1. 5% times gross floor area
2. 42% of the roof
3. An amount required to meet 100% of estimated average electricity used at the location.

(iii) **Off-site Renewables Option.** Ownership or purchase of off-site renewable electricity capacity sufficient to supply 100% of electricity used in the building. Off-site renewable electricity should be demonstrated through documentation evidencing ownership or a minimum of a 5-year contract evidencing purchase of off-site renewable electricity, which will be renewed for the term of the Energy Program. Additionally, the owner must comply with the requirements of subsection (vi) below.

(iv) **Off-site Renewables and EUI Improvement Option.** Ownership or purchase of off-site renewable electricity capacity, which shall be demonstrated through documentation evidencing ownership or a minimum of a 5-year contract, evidencing purchase of off-site renewable electricity, which must be renewed for the term of the Energy Program. The owner must comply with the requirements of subsections (vi) and (vii) below, and reduce annual EUI as follows:
(1) Buildings with a gross floor area of 25,000 – 49,999 square feet will invest in off-site solar equivalent to 10% of the energy used in the building with a minimum 5-year contract and reduce their annual EUI 5% below their baseline;

(2) Buildings with a gross floor area of 50,000 square feet or larger will invest in off-site solar equivalent to 15% of the energy used in the building with a minimum 5-year contract and reduce their annual EUI 7.5% below their baseline.

(v) **EUI Improvement Option.**
Reduction of annual weather normalized site Energy Use Intensity (EUI) as follows:

(1) Buildings with a gross floor area of 25,000 – 49,999 square feet will reduce their annual EUI by 10% below their baseline;

(2) Buildings with a gross floor area of 50,000 square feet or larger will reduce their annual EUI 15% below their baseline.

(3) Buildings in either category of (v)(1) or (2) above, must additionally comply with subsection (vii) below.

(vi) For the off-site renewable electricity options set forth in Sections 4.08(d)(iii) and (iv) above, the building owner must either present evidence of ownership of, or a minimum five (5) year contract(s) for the purchase of the appropriate total amount of renewable electricity capacity. The amount of electricity consumed will be verified through the annual benchmarking report sent to the City via ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager. For the term of the Energy Program the building owner must either own or maintain contract(s) for the purchase of the required renewable capacity.

(1) For building owners who selected to purchase renewable electricity capacity sufficient to supply 100% of electricity used in the building pursuant to Section 4.08(d)(iii), if electricity consumption in the building rises over time, building owners must contract for additional renewable capacity to supply at least 90% of electricity consumption of the building in the previous year.

(2) Documentation may be requested at any time by the City, but at a minimum, the building owner shall submit documentation evidencing the ownership or purchase of off-site renewable electricity capacity at the following times:

   a. For buildings where the owner is the only utility account holder documentation must be submitted to CASR upon expiration of the original contract, if applicable, or any time the building is sold. If the building is sold the new owner must demonstrate the original contract has been transferred to the new owner or that the new owner has purchased an equivalent amount of off-site renewable electricity capacity through alternative means.
b. For buildings where tenants hold some or all utility accounts the building owner must present documentation to CASR totaling the appropriate amount of renewable electricity capacity every 5 years.

(3) Documentation required for off-site renewable electricity:

1. For off-site renewables owned by the building owner, proof of ownership must be submitted in addition to the kWh delivered each year.

2. Documentation of off-site renewable electricity must consist of: (1) a subscription, lease, or purchase of a share in a voluntary renewable energy program offered by Xcel Energy which is built for that customer program, and which has dedicated customer capacity or energy to fulfill the customer’s subscription; (2) a community solar project for which a dedicated renewable energy resource located in Public Service Company of Colorado territory is built for that customer program, and which has dedicated customer capacity or energy to fulfill that customer’s subscription; or (3) evidence of ownership of off-site renewable electricity capacity located in Colorado.

(vii) For annual EUI improvement compliance options set forth in Section 4.08(iv) and (v) above, the required savings will be determined based on the building’s annual energy benchmarking report. The required savings must be maintained annually after initial compliance and will be verified via the building’s annual energy benchmarking report.

Section 4.09 Additions.

For additions, CPD will calculate any coverage requirements using the gross floor area of the building addition or square footage of the roof of the building addition, as applicable. When a building undergoes a roof replacement or recover, and that building previously built an addition less than 25,000 square feet of gross floor area, then CPD will include the gross floor area of the addition in its calculation of the gross floor area of the entirety of the building. Construction that increases the overall height of a building, but does not add interior volume to the building, will be considered a roof replacement, and not an addition.

ARTICLE V: CAMPUSES

Section 5.01 Administration.

(a) Documentation. Compliance with the campuses requirement shall be demonstrated through a Site Development Plan, Infrastructure Master Plan (IMP), or similar site plan document and subsequent building plans. If a campus is required to do an IMP or similar document for other reasons, then compliance with the Green Buildings Ordinance shall be accomplished in that document and subsequent permit submittals. If an IMP is not required, then documentation of compliance with the Green Buildings Ordinance shall occur on a site development plan with subsequent building permits, if required. Submissions should provide information detailing compliance on related sheets, including as applicable, but not limited to, the Cover Sheet, Site Plan, Roof Plan, and Landscape Plan.
(b) **Campus Extent.** The owner(s) of buildings within a campus shall identify the extent of the proposed campus by including all new and existing buildings desired to be included in the campus (identified as such), all surrounding streets, and all surrounding ground level areas utilized to meet the campus requirement.

**Section 5.02 Compliance Options.**
Owners of new buildings within a campus may comply with the green building requirements by providing green space, on-site renewable energy purchase, or a combination of green space and on-site renewable energy purchase at a campus-wide level. Owners of existing buildings within a campus may comply with the green building requirements by providing green space or on-site renewable energy devices at a campus-wide level instead of documenting compliance building by building. Owners of buildings within a campus must comply with any applicable cool roof requirements.

**Section 5.03 Energy Master Plan.**

(a) **When Required.** An Energy Master Plan is required for a campus when complying with:

   (i) On-site renewable energy or a combination of green space and on-site renewable energy for a new building; and

   (ii) On-site solar panels for an existing building.

(b) **Documentation.** Campuses seeking to document compliance utilizing the Energy Master Plan shall provide the following in addition to the requirements of Article IV.

   (i) Any new or existing building roof plans; and

   (ii) A campus site plan showing the location of any new, existing or future building locations

(c) **Energy Master Plan.** The submission shall include the following elements:

   (i) A detailed calculation of what renewable energy generation would have been had the individual building on the campus complied at the individual level with the renewable energy requirements.

   (ii) A summary of the renewable energy projects that will be undertaken in existing and new buildings on the campus. Calculations should be included showing how those projects will generate as much energy as if individual buildings on the campus had complied.

   (iii) Commitment to a deadline by which each project will be complete by and who is responsible for completing it and reporting its completion to CASR.

   (iv) Identification of interim project steps that will be reported to track progress and deadlines by which each step will be complete and submitted to CASR.

   (v) Plan for how the projects will be funded and financed; and

   (vi) A protocol for continuing to monitor energy production to ensure the energy generation is realized.
(d) CASR shall be responsible for reviewing and approving the energy master plan as well as enforcing compliance with the plan.

ARTICLE VI: REPORTING

Every twelve (12) months, CPD and CASR shall prepare a written report of the activities related to, and an assessment of outcomes of, this article, and report their findings and any recommendations to the city council.

(a) The report shall include information about the number of buildings that have selected each compliance option and the total number of cool roofs, square footage of vegetated roofs and at-grade green spaces, solar capacity installed on-site and purchased off-site, and efficiency improvements made.

(b) The report will also characterize the effects those installations have had on improving the urban heat island, adding green space to the City, improving water and storm water management, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.