



**DENVER**  
CLIMATE ACTION,  
SUSTAINABILITY &  
RESILIENCY



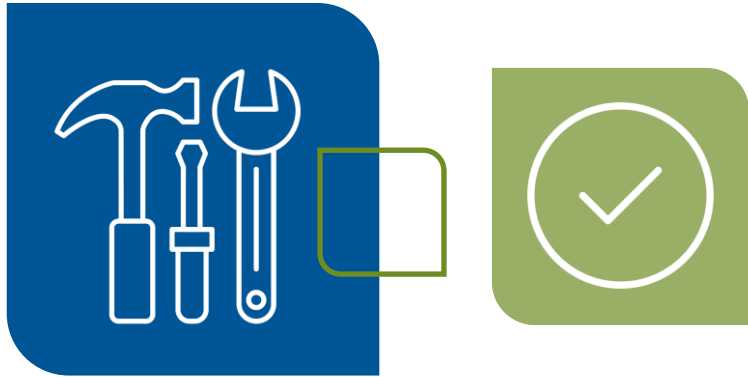
# Energize Denver

**Ordinance Update Overview for  
Buildings 5,000 – 24,999 sq. ft.**

**May 2026**



# The Energize Denver Performance Policy is...



## Energy Efficiency Requirements

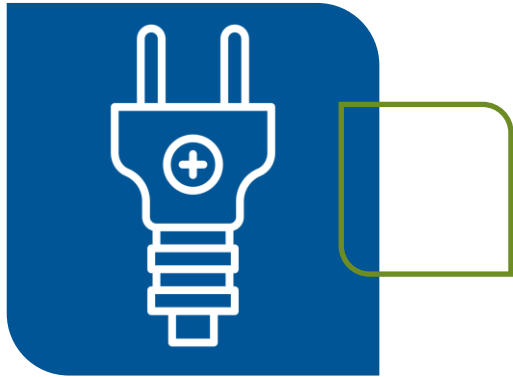
The policy requires each building to meet a certain level of energy efficiency through operations and equipment improvements to a building



## Building Size Categories

- 5,000 - 24,999 sq. ft. (8,000 buildings) must upgrade their lighting to LED or install solar to meet 20% of their usage.
- 25,000+ sq. ft. (3,000 buildings) must meet certain levels of energy efficiency based on building type by 2032.

# The Energize Denver Building Performance Policy is NOT...



## An Electrification Requirement

Buildings are not required to electrify to be in compliance.



## A Mandate to Replace HVAC Systems

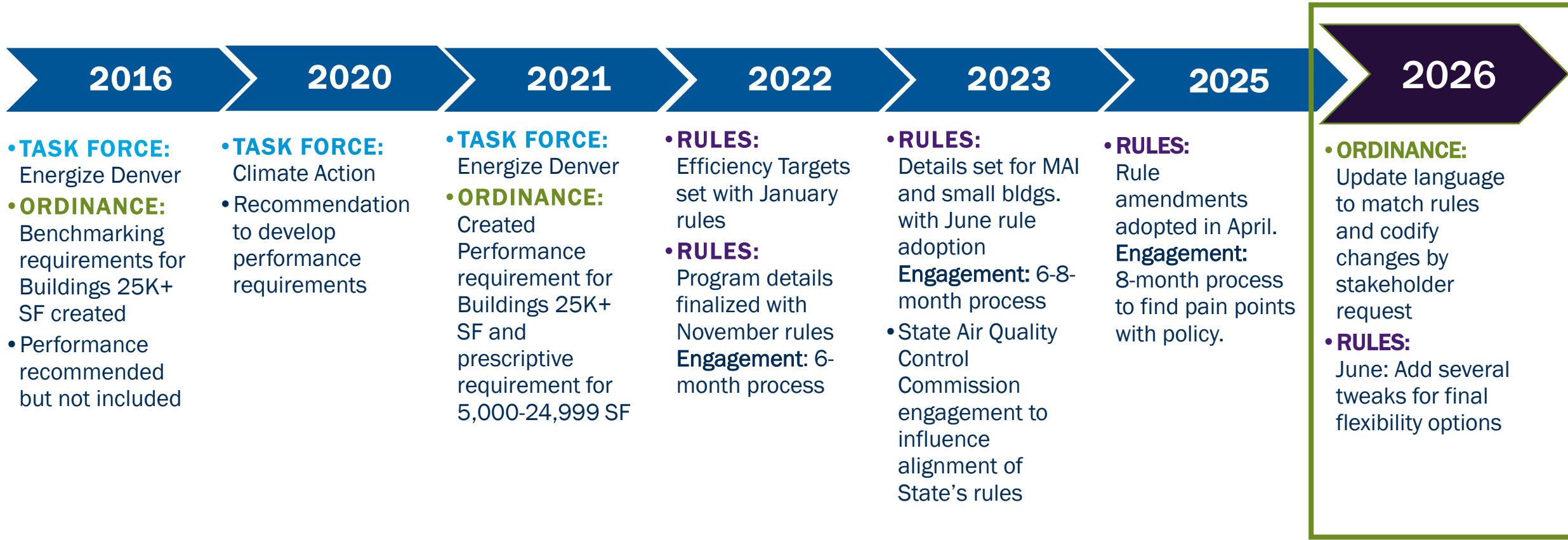
Replacing space and water heating systems before the end of system life is not required for the Performance Policy.



## A 30% Energy Reduction Requirement for Every Building

The ordinance's overarching goal is a 30% reduction in energy use, but each building's target is unique.

# Energize Denver Policy Engagement



# Funding & Support

## Building Management Portal

Launched in 2025, a centralized platform for managing compliance, tracking progress and accessing resources.

## 1:1 Coaching Services

Expanded support capacity and personalized consultations for building owners to develop tailored compliance strategies.

## Enhanced Service Provider Trainings

Expanded training programs for professionals supporting energy compliance efforts.

## Compliance Status Disclosure

Providing buildings with the ability to demonstrate compliance for real estate transactions through a disclosure letter.

## New Support Hub

In Summer 2026, we're launching a new website that clearly communicates building owner actions and available support at each step.

## Financial Assistance

2025 rebates available for energy audits and prof. development, and a variety of financial support mechanisms are available through partners, including low-interest loans, grants, and other funding sources.



**In conclusion of the multi-year refinement of the Energize Denver Building Performance Policy, some final 2026 administrative and codifying amendments were needed.**

While administrative in nature, these updates and improvements strengthened clarity, aligned ordinance language with retrofit realities, and ensured the policy continues to put compliance within reach for Denver's buildings.

# What Ordinance Amendments Achieved

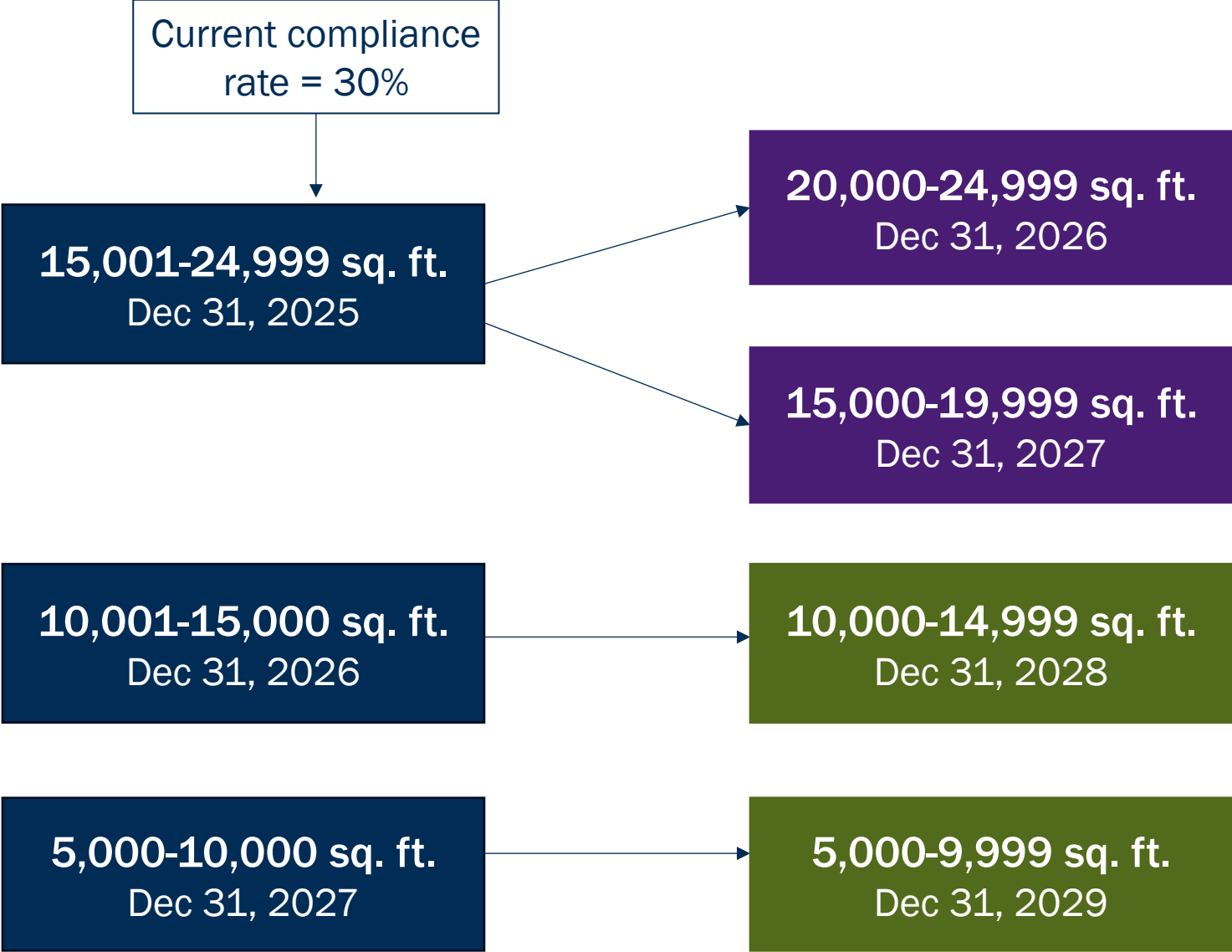
As a final step in incorporating stakeholder feedback and concluding this improvement process, the targeted ordinance and select rule amendments:

- codified updates already implemented through rules and technical guidance;
- clarified language for consistency and ease of implementation;
- ensured the ordinance reflects the flexibility mechanisms now available to buildings; and
- aligned Denver's policy with updated national Building Performance Standard best practices.

# What Ordinance Amendments Did Not Do

- Did not alter the core policy structure adopted in 2021
- Did not expand covered buildings
- Did not create new performance requirements
- Did not impose electrification mandates or require HVAC replacement before end of system life
- Did not require each building to reduce energy use by 30%
- Did not change Denver's commitment to, or progress towards, meeting our climate goals

# Extended deadlines for 5,000-24,999 sq. ft.



# Added Disclosure upon Sale for buildings 5,000-24,999 sq. ft.

## Current Policy:

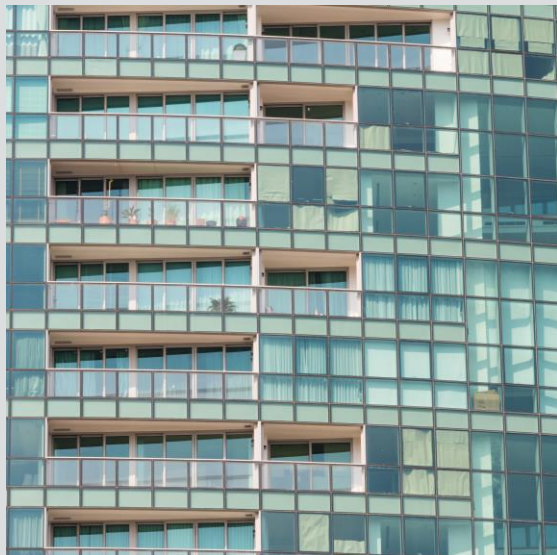
- Previous ordinance applied disclosure upon sale requirements to buildings 25,000 sq. ft. and larger.

## Changes we made:

- Changed ordinance so it applies to all buildings 5,000+ sq. ft.

## Reasoning:

- Energize Denver compliance status is important in assessing the value of the building (buildings in compliance may have more value).



# Accompanying Rule Updates

- Simplifying timeline extension documentation requirements
- Simplifying documentation instructions for Lighting and Renewable pathways
- Applications are no longer necessary for alternate compliance options
- Simplifying 15% reduction option – energy audit no longer necessary
- Simplifying Residential Condominium option – removing renewable energy requirement
- Clarifying what happens after penalty assessment
- Creating a simplified restaurant option and electrification option

# Clarifying what Occurs after Penalty Assessment

## Current Policy:

- Even after penalties assessed, owner has an opportunity to file timeline extension with compliance plan to get more time, but this option was not in ordinance or rules.
- CASR would pause penalty assessment until plan completed and reassess.
- Basic appeals process

## Changes we're proposing:

- Add language that the executive director may allow all or a portion of assessed penalties to be reinvested in completing energy efficiency measures to reach the target.
- Codify allowing a compliance plan and timeline extensions submission after penalties are assessed.
- Refining appeals processes.

## Reasoning:

- Codifies current flexibility for building owner's long-term certainty.
- Adds reinvestment opportunity after penalty assessment

# Creating a Simplified Restaurant Option

## Reasoning:

- Restaurant energy use has a wide range.
- This variation is greater than in other building types and stems from differences in operating hours, kitchen-to-dining ratios, menus, and equipment loads.
- Most restaurants are part of a mixed-use building.

## Changes we're proposing:

- Work with Owners and Colorado Restaurant Association over next 2-3 months to develop specialized option
- Possible idea: design a prescriptive list of measures that would save them money and reduce energy such as:
  - LED lighting
  - Smart thermostats
  - Exhaust fan timers
  - Lower hot water temperatures for dishwashing
  - Tighter refrigeration door seals
  - Walk-in refrigerator evaporator motor upgrades

# Creating a Prescriptive Electrification Option

## Current Policy:

- Electrification can count towards compliance if doing it results in a 15% energy use reduction.

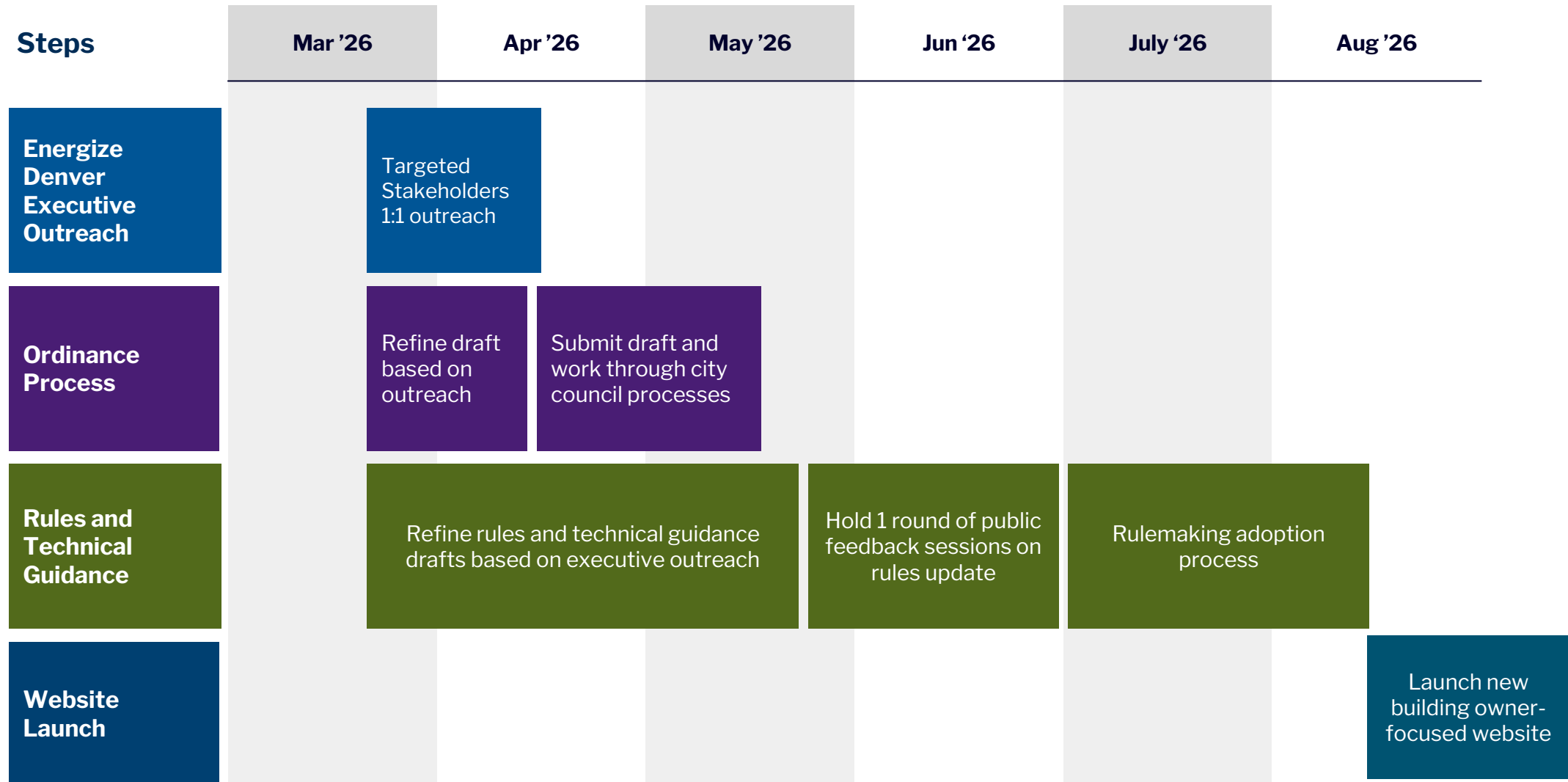
## Changes we're proposing:

- Adding a prescriptive option that contains a specific list of acceptable heat pumps for space heating.
- If the building installs at least one piece of equipment that meets the specs for their main space heating, they can be considered compliant with Energize Denver.

## Reasoning:

- Makes electrification of space heating equipment easier to prove for compliance.
- Gives program managers more to work with when encouraging buildings to electrify.
- Installing one piece of electrified equipment introduces the owner into the world of electrification and its benefits.

# Timeline



# Focused Feedback Discussions in June

The feedback sessions in June will mostly be focused on large building but if you're interested in the restaurant option that will cover both small and large, it will be covered first.

Topics for feedback:

- Restaurant Option (small and large)
- Residential Condominium simplified requirements (large only)
- 10-year Capital Plan for Timeline Extension (large only)
- Electrification credit changes (large only)
- MAI Custom Target (large only)

# Register for a Feedback Session

- Ordinance & Rules Update Briefing: June 8, 12-1pm - [register](#)
- Feedback Session: June 12, 2-3pm - [register](#)
- Feedback Session: June 15, 12-1pm - [register](#)
- Feedback Session: June 16, 9-10am - [register](#)
- Feedback Session: June 17, 10-11am - [register](#)
- Feedback Session: June 17, 1-2pm - [register](#)



## Energize Denver Help Desk

- Hours: 8am-5pm, M-F
- Phone: (844) 536-4528
- Schedule a Phone Appointment: <https://energyreporting.as.me/appointment>
- Email for Buildings 25,000 sq. ft. and larger: [energizedenver@denvergov.org](mailto:energizedenver@denvergov.org)
- Email for Buildings 5,000 - 24,999 sq. ft.: [energizesmallbuildings@denvergov.org](mailto:energizesmallbuildings@denvergov.org)



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