# TECH Permitting Pilot Stakeholder Group Summary

The final TECH Permitting Pilot Stakeholder Group Session occurred in March 24th. The session topped out at **120 attendees**. Some of the key takeaways from the Stakeholder Group session are provided below.

## Key Takeaways

1. Engagement with contractor and manufacturer groups are vital to the successful adoption of a streamlined permitting process. The materials developed go a long way to ensure the HPWH Permitting process is easier to navigate, however, there needs to be wider buy-in. Attendees recommended, specifically, to find an industry partner to champion the developed resources.
2. Proliferation of resources to ensure a simplified process was raised as a priority. Attendees requested a list of jurisdictions following the permitting process and using the TECH Permitting Pilot materials. Some concern was raised regarding jurisdictions having differing processes. While the resources may work for a host of jurisdictions, they may not work for all.
3. The market has an existing information gap between jurisdictions and contractors who are familiar with clean heating technologies and jurisdictions and contractors who are *not* familiar with clean heating technologies. Attendees raised a need for continued outreach and education to jurisdictions/contractors who are not yet familiar with heat pump water heaters and other clean heating technologies.

## Specific Notes

Below are some specific notes captured at the various sessions.

### Permit Review Breakout Session I – Review of Materials

* Materials presented should have the option to include jurisdiction information and branding to help with wider spread adoption.
* There are outstanding CLSB licensing considerations and guidance that is needed to clarify if plumbers can conduct the electrical work associated with HPWH installations
* The industry should be familiar with the electrical load estimator, as it mirrors pre-existing calculators used in the solar industry

### Permit Review Breakout Session II – Future of HPWHs

* The materials appear to be helpful, but will be informed by the level of engagement done with contractor groups. Additionally, the speed of a permit process is dependent upon the size of a given jurisdictions building department. While the process can be expedited, there will still be differences in the amount of time needed to successfully achieve a permit
* CSLB licensing guidance continues to be a roadblock in HPWH adoption. There are instant permitting requirements for certain trades. CSLB should be more engaged and provide better guidance.
* Industry partners were a large component for helping the solar industry gain widespread adoption. Heat pump water heaters need a similar level of engagement and buy-in at the industry level
* Technical assistance for both the building department and the contractor would be helpful. The process and code requirements are not intuitive to building department staff or contractors. Having a level of engagement helping both building departments and contractors navigate the process would be beneficial.

### Permit Applicant Breakout Session I – Review of Materials

* The materials are helpful, however, it would be beneficial for contactors to see a list of jurisdictions who have adopted the process and materials presented. One of the hurdles for HPWH adoption is differences in requirements from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Including a list of existing partners would be helpful for contractors.
* Mirroring the Solar App and including an online permitting process would be helpful. There should be a focus on not only materials developed, but on process improvements to simplify the requirements needed for a contractor to obtain a successful permit.

### Permit Applicant Breakout Session II – Future of HPWHs

* For the materials and process to be successful for contractors, it will need to be proliferated to other jurisdictions outside of the pilot. One of the barriers contractors are facing is a multitude of different requirements and processes between jurisdictions. The process and materials need critical mass and buy-in from a multitude of jurisdictions, contractors, and manufacturers to be successful.
* There was a call to action among contractor groups to champion the materials developed for wider adoption. Contractor groups called upon TECH to facilitate meetings with building department staff in various jurisdictions