
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

**In Accordance with 2006 Act 215 Sec 134(b);
2008 Act 192 Sec 5.221(b) (H. 891)**

**Submitted to: Senate Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on Appropriations**

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Office of Economic Opportunity**

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**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES
Department For Children And Families**

Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

Section 5.221 of state legislation requires the Office of Economic Opportunity to compile performance data and present a report of the past year's weatherization activity, on or before January 30 each year to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. This report is to include such information as (1) the number of homes weatherized; (2) average program expenditure per household; (3) average percent savings; (4) energy and non-energy benefits combined; (5) benefits saved per dollar spent; (6) average savings per unit of heating fuel; (7) gallons of oil saved; (8) projected number of households to be weatherized in the current program year; and (9) projected program expenditures for the current program year.

The mission of the Vermont Weatherization Program is to help low-income Vermonters save fuel and money by improving the energy efficiency, and health and safety of their home while reducing carbon emissions.

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which operates with state and federal funding. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to five non-profit regional Weatherization Assistance Programs and one statewide Program, 3E Thermal, which specializes in multi-family weatherization. OEO provides extensive quality assurance and quality control through inspection and monitoring of at least 10 percent of all weatherized units as well as daily monitoring and oversight via its statewide, web-based data management system called Hancock Energy Software. The data management system includes an integrated energy audit modeling tool and prioritizes customers based on Vermont statute which includes consideration of whether a household receives Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assistance¹.

Efficiency Coaching and the One Touch Referral program are an important piece of the weatherization process. Coaching enhances the focus on client education and behavior change. One Touch is a web-based referral service to and from other home, health and human service partner programs. Both help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize the benefits the Home Weatherization Assistance Program provides to clients.

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program completed 1,033 units in SFY22. The Program received additional funds from Vermont's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) LIHEAP award and ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) award. With these new funds, the Program aimed to increase production by approximately 35% in SFY 2022; however, due to several challenges, weatherized 279 fewer units than projected. The ability to hire for crew positions remains the primary challenge of the program. Statewide, the program maintained a 10-15% vacancy of crew positions last year. COVID remained a disruption to weatherizing homes, and significant inflation of material costs raised actual job costs above budgeted. For example, cellulose insulation (the most used material)

¹ LIHEAP eligibility includes a household with gross income equal or less than 185% of the federal poverty level.

saw a price increase of 50% during the year, and spray foam insulation (the second most used material) saw cost increases of 100%.

The largest barrier to low-income home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. Last year, OEO again secured \$125,000 of the Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) funds for vermiculite remediation and continues to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds. There are also many other structural issues present in Vermont’s older housing stock which can prohibit weatherization such as leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues. Historically, these issues would “defer” weatherization of a home indefinitely. Vermont’s Weatherization Program has adopted a “zero deferral” policy in recognition that addressing non-energy related issues that otherwise prevent weatherization is a critical equity policy. Additional funding to address deferral issues comes from the Vermont Community Foundation, as well as one-time ARPA SFR funds.

The Weatherization Program has received an influx of new funding this year from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This has allowed OEO to increase its full-time state Weatherization staff from 3 to 6 in order to support quality control, training, and technical assistance. ARPA SFR funds will continue to be used to address deferral issues, install high efficient, low emitting wood and pellet stoves, cold climate heat pumps and heat pump water heaters during weatherization.

Performance Data for completed State Fiscal Year 2022 (SFY22)

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY22 (July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022):
1,033 households (564 1-unit dwellings (includes 167 mobile homes), 121 2-4 unit dwellings, 348 5+ unit dwellings (includes 118 shelter units))

By County:

Addison:	38 households
Bennington:	47 households
Caledonia:	93 households
Chittenden:	267 households
Essex:	10 households
Franklin:	34 households
Grand Isle:	9 households
Lamoille:	47 households
Orange:	96 households
Orleans:	101 households
Rutland:	67 households
Washington:	78 households
Windham:	82 households
Windsor:	64 households

2. Average program investment per household: **\$10,306**

3. Average energy savings: Approximately **28.8%**² per household, or **\$921.60**³ saved per year by a household heating with #2 heating fuel.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for **313*** fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY22: **75,120 gallons**⁴
5. Average Annual Savings, total Annual savings, and number of households served (by household main fuel type).⁴

#2 oil saved: avg. of **240** gallons saved annually, **81,246** total gallons saved by **338** households.

Kerosene saved: avg. of **198** gallons saved annually, **16,056** total gallons saved by **81** households.

Propane saved: avg. of **208** gallons saved annually, **36,001** total gallons saved by **173** households.

Natural Gas saved: avg. of **222** therms saved annually, **5,788** total therms saved by **26** households.

Cords of wood saved: avg. of **1.5** cords saved annually, **200** total cords saved by **134** households.

Tons of pellets saved: avg. of **1.25** tons saved annually, **64** total tons saved by **51** households.

Kwh saved (electric heat): avg. of **1,961** Kwh saved annually, **96,134** Kwh saved by **49** households.

6. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current SFY 2023 with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds, ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) Funds, and Department of Energy (DOE) Funds: **1,458 households**
7. Projected program spending for current SFY 2023: **\$22,219,856** (all funding sources)
8. The amount of CO₂ prevented from entering the atmosphere annually from the **1,033** households weatherized in SFY22: **2,717,476 pounds**.

² This savings is estimated savings based on energy modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY22.

³ Savings are calculated on \$3.84 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY22 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ Oil is the most common fuel used by low-income Weatherization clients and thus used for this calculation.

* 30% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 54% of the 1-unit households weatherized received Fuel Assistance, and 3% of the 2 or more units households received Fuel Assistance.

⁴ Fuel savings is not available for all 1,033 households served, as some mobile homes were not modeled but served via the approved Wx priority list.