
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

In Accordance with 2008 Act 192 Sec 5.221(b)

Submitted to: Senate Committee on Appropriations
House Committee on Appropriations

Submitted by: Ken Schatz
Commissioner

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Office of Economic Opportunity

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Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

Section 5.221 of state legislation requires that the Office of Economic Opportunity 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.”*

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which includes both state and federal funds. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to five non-profit community Weatherization Assistance Programs. OEO provides thorough and extensive quality assurance and quality control through a variety of methods including the inspection and monitoring of 10 percent of all weatherized units as well as daily monitoring and oversight via its statewide, web-based data management system.

The largest barrier to home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. There are many other structural issues present in our clients' homes that also prohibits Weatherization. These include leaky rooves, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues common in Vermont's low income housing stock. Efficiency Coaching and the One Touch Referral program are important pieces of the weatherization process. Coaching enhances the focus on client education and behavior change. One Touch is a web-based referral service to other partner programs. Both help remove some of the weatherization barriers and maximize the outcomes of energy savings investments made by the Weatherization program.

The State Weatherization Program has changed the way that Vermiculite insulation can be treated in a home. OEO has secured an additional \$125,000 in VLITE funds for Vermiculite remediation for the 2016 program year. We secure the outside funding required to treat these homes and are leading the nation in innovative ways to address Vermiculite.

In the past year, the Office of Economic Opportunity has fully implemented its web-based data management system for Weatherization. Hancock Energy Software includes an integrated energy audit tool that prioritizes customers, including those receiving LIHEAP. This system provides enhanced program management, data and reporting capabilities as well as supports day-to-day operation and management of the Weatherization Program at the Weatherization Agencies and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

Performance Data for completed Program Year 2015 (PY15)

1. Number of households weatherized in PY15 (July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015): **1,123**
2. Average program investment per household: **\$8,385¹**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **20%**² per home equating to **\$434.52³** saved per year on heating oil.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for **516⁴** fuel assistance households weatherized in PY15: **78,948⁵**
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **153** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **1,123** homes weatherized in PY 2014: **171,819**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2016 PY with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **754** households
 - *This number is substantially reduced from PY15 due to the ending of Green Mountain Power funding; these one-time funds were for \$3M a year for three years which ended June 30, 2015. The total funding for the three years was approximately \$10M.*
8. Projected program spending for current PY 2016: **\$8,000,000**
9. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the **1,043** households weatherized in 2014: **2,655**

¹ The job cost average (JCA) is determined from the total of material, onsite labor and offsite costs.

² This savings percentage was estimated from a Program Evaluation of completed Weatherization Projects.

³ Savings are calculated on \$2.84 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil sold in Vermont in January 2015 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ 46% of the homes weatherized last year also received Fuel Assistance. This percentage is low due to the large number of Multi-Family homes that received Wx this year. Of the 488 MF homes weatherized last year, only 17% of them received Fuel Assistance. 67% of the Single Family homes weatherized received Fuel Assistance.

⁵ All energy usage and savings is converted to gallons of oil, for ease of data evaluation. Oil is the most common fuel used by low income Weatherization clients.