

**WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (WAPs) GOAL:  
TO HELP OVER 14,000 LOW-INCOME VERMONT FAMILIES SAVE FUEL AND  
MONEY BY IMPROVING THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF THEIR HOMES BY 2020**

**Baseline Story**

- WAPs is part of broader goal of improving the energy fitness of 25% of the state's housing stock, or 80,000 homes by 2020 (Act 92).
- WAPs responds to the State's unique energy challenges:
  - *VT ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in the US in energy affordability* (Fisher, Sheehan & Colton 2012).
  - *Households below 200% of the poverty level spend \$3,215 more on their energy bills than what is considered affordable* (Fisher, Sheehan & Colton 2012).
  - *VT has the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest housing stock in the nation.* These homes have the biggest payoff from weatherization. (Efficiency Vermont)
- WAPs is currently primarily funded with .5% gross receipts tax on all non-transportation fuels sold in the state of Vermont.
- In the past five years, the state has chosen to further invest in WAPs with special one-time funding sources, including \$10 million in additional funding for 2011-12 as a result of the Green Mountain Power/CVPS merger agreement and \$20.38 million in ARRA funding between 2009 and 2010.

**GOAL:** Weatherize 14,850 more low-income units by 2020 as a part of Vermont's energy fitness goal.

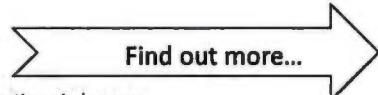
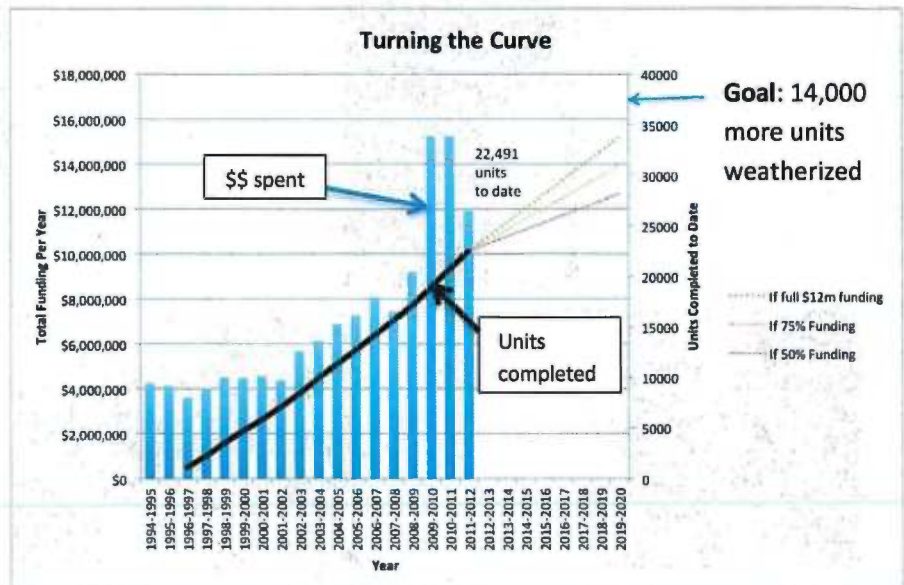
- Over 2,000 households per year need weatherization to meet this goal
- Current cost is \$8,500 per household.

**APPROPRIATION REQUEST:**

- \$12 million/year to maintain program capacity as the means toward meeting the program goal.

**How much did we do?**

- In the FY14 budget (H.530), a total of \$11,986,570 was allocated for weatherization assistance (combination of gross receipts tax + GMP/CVPS merger money).
- In the 2011-2012 program year, WAPs weatherized 1,802 low-income housing units.
- The Weatherization Assistance Program employs 150 people state wide in livable wage jobs.



## How well are we doing it?

- The Weatherization Trust Fund was established in 1990 to stabilize the funding, infrastructure, and technical capacity of the program. The Trust Fund is overseen by the Office of Economic Opportunity and accountability measures are built into the program.
- Vermont's WAPs produce an annual energy savings benefit to a household of \$600-\$1,900 per year, better than the \$437 national average (U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).
- In the FY14 budget bill, the eligibility for weatherization assistance was changed, so that more Vermont households will qualify for weatherization assistance.
- The Weatherization Assistance Programs integrate a referral system to ensure families get other services as well to help them save money and live a healthier life.
- Weatherization workers provide energy coaching so families can conserve energy via behavior change as well as to ensure they get the most out of the Weatherization Program work done on their homes.
- Families report that weatherization helps to make their home warmer and more affordable, which means they can focus their resources on other basic needs.
- For every dollar invested in weatherization, \$2.51 is returned to the household and the community (Vermont Thermal Efficiency Task Force, 2013).

## Is anyone better off?

Senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and families with young children receive priority for weatherization assistance.

### Low-income Vermonters who have had their homes weatherized by WAP are better off because:

- ✓ They are experiencing an average of 37.6% energy savings.
- ✓ They save an average of more than \$1,000 per year on energy costs.
- ✓ They save 270 gallons of #2 heating fuel per year – that's 464,940 gallons for all homes weatherized in the program last year.

