

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (WAPs)

GOAL: WEATHERIZE 20,000 LOW-INCOME HOMES BY 2020

TO INCREASE ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SAVE MONEY, AND DECREASE FUEL USE.

Baseline Weatherization Story:

- An estimated 125,000 Vermonters lived in “fuel poverty” in 2012 – a 76% increase since 2000.
 - Fuel poverty = 10% or more of monthly household income is spent on energy services.
- The WAPs are a big part of achieving the state’s goal of improving the energy fitness of 25% of the state’s housing stock by 2020.
 - Vermont set a goal in 2007 to weatherize 20,000 additional low-income homes by 2020.
 - We still need to weatherize more than 10,331 homes to reach this goal (2582/year).
- Low Income Weatherization is a solution to Vermont’s unique energy challenges:
 - VT is ranked 51st in the U.S. in energy affordability.
 - VT has the 2nd oldest housing stock in the nation. These homes have the biggest payoff from weatherization.

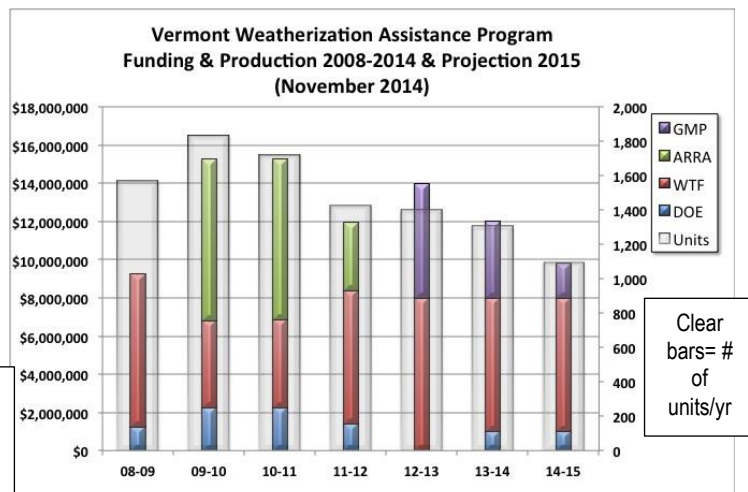
10 VSA §581

It shall be goals of the State:

- (1) To improve substantially the energy fitness of at least 20 percent of the State's housing stock by 2017 (more than 60,000 housing units), and 25 percent of the State's housing stock by 2020 (approximately 80,000 housing units).
- (2) To reduce annual fuel needs and fuel bills by an average of 25 percent in the housing units served.
- (3) To reduce total fossil fuel consumption across all buildings by an additional one-half percent each year, leading to a total reduction of six percent annually by 2017 and 10 percent annually by 2025.
- (4) To save Vermont families and businesses a total of \$1.5 billion on their fuel bills over the lifetimes of the improvements and measures installed between 2008 and 2017.
- (5) To increase weatherization services to low income Vermonters by expanding the number of units weatherized, or the scope of services provided, or both, as revenue becomes available in the Home Weatherization Assistance Fund.

How Much Did We Do?

- From July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014, the WAPs weatherized 1,281 low-income housing units.
- Over the past 18 years, 24,669 low-income housing units have been weatherized.
- The Low Income Weatherization Program is primarily funded by the Gross Receipts Tax – a 0.5% tax on the gross receipts of all non-transportation fuels sold in the state of Vermont. During the five fiscal years between FY10 and FY15, additional funding from ARRA and the GMP/CVPS merger was invested.



How Well Are We Doing It?

- Households that are weatherized by the WAPs see an annual energy savings of over \$600/year.
- Energy coaching provided by the WAPs helps families learn how to conserve energy and get the most out of the weatherization work done to their home.
- 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.

For every \$1.00 invested in weatherization, \$2.51 is returned to the household and the community in energy savings.

Is Anyone Better Off?

- Senior citizens, persons with disabilities, families with young children and Fuel Assistance recipients receive priority for low income weatherization assistance.
 - In FY14, 49% of single family homes weatherized by WAPs were receiving Fuel Assistance.
- Families report that weatherization helps to make their home warmer and more affordable, which means they can focus their resources on other basic needs.

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

- ✓ They save an average of \$692 annually on energy costs.
- ✓ They have better indoor air quality and are safer in their homes.
- ✓ They are warmer and have fewer medical complications associated with being chronically cold.

Vermont is better off because:

- ✓ 150 people were employed statewide in livable-wage, high-skills jobs.
- ✓ Vermonters use less #2 heating fuel – homes that are weatherized use an average of 215 gallons less/year.
- ✓ For every \$1 invested in weatherization, \$2.51 is returned to the household and community – that means if we invest \$12 million/year, we see a return on that investment of over \$30,000,000 over the lifetime of the improvements made.
- ✓ In 2014, low-income weatherization activities prevented 3,028 tons of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere.
- ✓ Families will be healthier, and children will have a better chance to succeed.



**Please Support H.287
to adequately fund the Low Income
Weatherization Assistance Program**