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**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

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# **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

## Introduction

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.”*

## Program Highlights

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which operates through state and federal funding. 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. These include inspection and monitoring of 10 percent of all weatherized units; and daily monitoring and oversight via its statewide, web-based data management system.

The Office of Economic Opportunity and its five local Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAPS) operate via a web-based data management system called Hancock Energy Software. This system 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 supporting day-to-day operation and management of the Weatherization Program at both the Weatherization Agencies and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

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 other partner programs. Both help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize outcomes of the energy saving investments of the Weatherization program.

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 client's homes that also prohibit Weatherization. These include leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues all too common in Vermont's low income housing stock.

Vermont's Weatherization Program is leading the nation in the way vermiculite insulation can be treated in a home. OEO secured an additional \$150,000 in VLITE funds for vermiculite remediation for the 2017 program year. In addition, Vermont's Weatherization Program is the first in the nation to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds for its clients to aid in vermiculite remediation costs. Up to 55% of the cost of remediation or \$4,100, whatever is higher, is available and leveraged with the VLITE and Wx Funds. This allows the VT Wx Program to help many more families with vermiculite in their homes.

## Program Data

### **Performance Data for completed Program Year 2016 (PY16)**

1. Number of households weatherized in PY16 (July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2016): **774 households**
2. Average program investment per household: **\$8,600<sup>1</sup> per household**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **24%<sup>2</sup>** per home, equating to **\$368<sup>3</sup>** saved per year on heating oil.
4. Total 1<sup>st</sup> year gallons of #2 oil saved for **353\*\*\*** fuel assistance households weatherized in PY16: **64,740<sup>4</sup>**
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **183** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **774** homes weatherized in PY 2016: **141,642 gallons**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2017 PY with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **906** households
8. Projected program spending for current PY 2015: **\$9,532,176**
9. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the 774 households weatherized in 2016: **1,970 tons**

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<sup>1</sup> The job cost average (JCA) is determined from the total of material, on site labor and offsite costs.

<sup>2</sup> This savings is estimated savings based on modeling of the homes Weatherized during PY16.

<sup>3</sup> Savings are calculated on \$2.01 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil sold in Vermont in January 2016 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

<sup>4</sup> 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.

\*\*\* 47% of the homes Weatherized last year also received Fuel Assistance. Of the 186 MF homes Weatherized last year, only 7% of them received Fuel Assistance. 61% of the Single Family homes Weatherized received Fuel Assistance.