

H.410 BACKGROUNDER

Efficiency Standards Improvement Act¹

H. 410 will provide significant electricity and fuel bill savings to Vermont consumers and businesses, reduce water use, and continue four decades of fair and cost-effective federal and state resource efficiency standards. The bill builds on the success of **Act 42 of 2017** by setting new standards for residential and commercial products in VT.

*By 2035 H. 410 will net Vermonters
\$215 mil in cumulative energy savings.*

What are resource efficiency standards?

State appliance and equipment efficiency standards assure that household and commercial products perform at a minimum level of energy and water efficiency, providing savings for consumers, businesses, and state and local governments. Efficiency standards ensure that the products we purchase use less energy and water while preserving quality and affordability.

What's in it for Vermont?

Standards reduce energy and water waste and cut emissions: When the resource efficiency standards in **H. 410** become effective, Vermonters will see significant savings. If the standards become effective in 2020, after five years products covered by the standards would generate annual savings as follows:

Annual VT savings in 2025	Equivalent to annual savings for Vermonters of:*
60 GWh of electricity	\$9.3 mil on electricity bills, or almost \$40 per household
92 billion BTUs of natural gas	\$2.8 mil on fuel bills, or almost \$12 per household
224,000 gallons of propane	
456,000 gallons of fuel oil	
496 million gallons of water	(depends on well or town water, local rates, etc.)
22,000 metric tons of CO ₂	The same as taking 5,782 cars off the road

* based on 2017-18 GMP, VGS and DPS reported energy prices.

The package of resource efficiency standards in H. 410 will:

- **Keep money in Vermont** that would have been paid to mostly out-of-state energy providers.

¹ Official title: An act relating to adding products to Vermont's energy efficiency standards for appliances and equipment.

- **Payback quickly and provide long-term benefits.** Most of the products that comply with the new Vermont standards are the same price or cheaper than less efficient alternatives and purchasers start saving right away. When efficient products do cost more, the payback from savings is in 2 years or less.

Resource efficiency standards are good for the environment:

- **Benefits to air quality and greenhouse gas emissions:** Cutting hot water waste reduces pollution from oil, propane, and natural gas water heaters in Vermont. Reducing wasted electricity decreases pollution from power generation.
- **Benefits to water infrastructure:** Reducing water waste reduces strain on water supply and delays the need for drinking water and wastewater system upgrades. Water efficient plumbing measures are already available on the market at no incremental cost to the consumer.

ACEEE State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

Vermont is known as a resource efficient state. Despite our high heating requirements, Vermont has the sixth lowest per capita annual energy consumption of all U.S. states. Vermont tied for first place when ACEEE published its first state energy efficiency scorecard in 2006. Since then Vermont usually has finished in the top five, but always behind Massachusetts and California. In 2017 Vermont **earned points for passing state efficiency standards in Act 42.** Passing **H. 410** will earn Vermont additional points and could help move us up in the scorecard rankings.

[Which products are covered?](#)

H. 410 will expand Vermont’s existing appliance, equipment, and lighting efficiency standards to cover the following new products:

Consumer Products	Commercial Products	Plumbing Products	Lighting
Computers and monitors	Hot food holding cabinets	Faucets	High CRI fluorescent tubes
Portable electric spas	Water coolers	Urinals	
Ventilation fans	Commercial dishwashers	Showerheads	
Uninterruptible power supplies	Fryers	Toilets	
Telephones	Steam cookers	Spray sprinkler bodies	
Portable Air Conditioners	Rotary air compressors		

[How did we choose standards for H. 410?](#)

The standards in the bill are either completed federal standards held back by the Trump administration or standards developed by the ENERGY STAR program, EPA’s WaterSense program, or the California Energy Commission. In all cases, multiple products in the market today meet or exceed each of the proposed standards.

[For more information, contact:](#)

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