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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) (H. 891)**

**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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**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES  
Department For Children And Families**

# 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 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 a statewide, web-based data management system.

The Office of Economic Opportunity and the five community-based Weatherization Assistance Programs (WAPS) use 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 local agencies and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

*Efficiency Coaching* and the *One Touch Program* continue to be an important piece of the weatherization process. Coaching enhances the focus on client education and behavior change. One Touch provides screening and referrals for additional health and human services. It uses a web-based tool to make automated referrals to participating partners. Both programs help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize the investments of the Weatherization Program. In 2017, the OEO Weatherization Program won a national Healthy Homes Award from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the One Touch Screening and Referral Program.

Unfortunately, there are many issues present in client homes that prohibit Weatherization. The largest barrier to home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos.

Vermont's Weatherization Program is leading the nation in identifying ways to treat vermiculite insulation in a home. In 2017, OEO secured an additional \$150,000 in Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) funds for vermiculite remediation and became the first State Weatherization Program to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds to aid in vermiculite remediation costs. The Zonolite Trust is a national trust created to help educate the public about the possible health effects of asbestos-containing vermiculite and to provide partial reimbursement for vermiculite removal to qualified claimants. Other structural issues that can prevent weatherization work include leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other issues common in Vermont's older housing stock. When weatherization work is prevented due to structural issues, these households are put on a deferral list until the home repairs are completed. OEO continues to cultivate financial resources to help clients address their needed home repairs and vermiculite remediation.

### **Performance Data for completed Program Year 2017 (PY17)**

1. Number of households weatherized in PY17 (July 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2017): **893 households (533 1-unit dwellings, 351 2+ unit dwellings, and 9 shelters)**
2. Average program investment per household: **\$8,465<sup>1</sup>**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **24.5%<sup>2</sup>** per home equating to **\$442<sup>3</sup>** saved per year on heating oil.
4. Total 1<sup>st</sup> year gallons of #2 oil saved for **389** fuel assistance households<sup>4</sup> weatherized in PY17: **72,626<sup>5</sup>**
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **186.7** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **893** homes weatherized in PY 2017: **166,723 gallons**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2018 Program Year with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **896** households
8. Projected program spending for current PY 2018: **\$9,975,545**

The amount (in tons) of CO<sub>2</sub> prevented from entering the atmosphere from the 893 households weatherized in 2017: **1,592 tons**

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<sup>1</sup> The job cost average 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 PY17.

<sup>3</sup> Savings are calculated on \$2.37 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil sold in Vermont in December 2017 (source Vermont Fuel Price Report, Department of Public Service).

<sup>4</sup> 44% of the homes weatherized last year were fuel assistance recipients. Of the 154 multi-family homes weatherized (homes in buildings with 5 or more units), only 0.6% were fuel assistance recipients compared to 66% of the single unit homes weatherized.

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