

To: Chair Briglin and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Technology
From: Abby White, Director of Communications for Efficiency Vermont
Re: Accelerating Weatherization Budget Memo
Date: February 26, 2019

Founded in 2000, Efficiency Vermont advances sustainable energy solutions for all Vermonters. Through education, services, and incentives we help homeowners and businesses save money, live and work more comfortably, and contribute to a clean energy future.

Efficiency Vermont supports the Governor's Climate Action Commission's recommendations to accelerate weatherization for both low- and moderate-income Vermonters.

We ask the House Committee on Energy and Technology to pass legislation that advances this work with new revenue attached. The purpose of this memo is to describe how additional revenue could be deployed in service to our State's goal of weatherizing 80,000 homes by 2022.

Efficiency Vermont's Weatherization Services

Efficiency Vermont's thermal efficiency services reach every segment of the residential market. We work with dozens of partners—from utilities, to homeownership centers—in providing incentives, technical services, statewide marketing, and training for contractors.

This year we aim to serve over 2,000 households, deploying \$2 million of existing RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative) and FCM (Forward Capacity Market) funds through our network of private contractors and partners.

Ways to Accelerate Impact

Should additional, sustainable revenue be identified, we recommend dedicating a portion of that to customers earning 60 – 120 percent of HUD area median income, with Efficiency Vermont playing a coordinating role in deploying those funds through sliding-scale income-based incentives paired with low-interest Heat Saver loans.

With an additional \$2 million, on top of the existing \$2 million we plan to deploy, Efficiency Vermont could help to double the number of households served, delivering:

- 1,000 additional comprehensive weatherization jobs
- 10 additional low-income comprehensive jobs in collaboration with Weatherization Assistance
- 1,000 additional partial jobs (i.e., attics or basements)
- 100 additional do-it-yourself jobs

These funds would catalyze additional economic activity, including matching investments from homeowners and new sales for private contractors.

To enable this level of growth, we are poised to support marketing and workforce development efforts, leveraging our Efficiency Excellence Network and our statewide marketing efforts.

Thank you for considering this request. I would be happy to talk further. Please contact me at a.white@efficiencyvermont.com or 802-793-7282.