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**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

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# **Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program**

**In Accordance with 2006 Act 215 Sec 134(b);  
2008 Act 192 Sec 5.221(b) (H. 891)**

**Submitted to: Senate Committee on Appropriations  
House Committee on Appropriations**

**Submitted by: Sean Brown, DCF Commissioner**

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Office of Economic Opportunity**

**Report Date: January 28, 2022**



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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 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, health and safety of their home while reducing carbon emissions.

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which operates with state and federal funding. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to six non-profit community Weatherization Assistance Programs. The sixth Weatherization Program, 3E Thermal, was officially added this year after the successful completion of a 2-year pilot supported by a one-time appropriation. 3E Thermal specializes in multi-family weatherization projects. OEO provides extensive quality assurance and quality control through a variety of methods. These include inspection and monitoring of at least 10 percent of all weatherized units; and daily monitoring and oversight via its statewide, web-based data management system, Hancock Energy Software. The data management system includes an integrated energy audit modeling tool that prioritizes customers based on household need, including those receiving Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This system provides enhanced program management, data and reporting capabilities. It also supports the day-to-day operations and management of the Weatherization Program for 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 and from other partner programs. Both help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize the benefits the Weatherization Assistance Program provides to clients. In SFY21, the One Touch Referral program expanded to include USDA Rural Development programs to support access to federal loans and grants.

The largest barrier to low-income home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. Unfortunately, there are also many other structural issues present in Vermont's older housing stock which can prohibit Weatherization such as leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues. Historically, these issues would "defer" weatherization of a home indefinitely. Vermont's Weatherization Program has adopted a "zero deferral" policy in recognition that addressing non-energy related issues that otherwise prevent weatherization is a critical equity policy. OEO secured \$125,000 of Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) funds for vermiculite remediation and continues to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds. Additional funding to address deferral issues comes from the Vermont Community Foundation, as well as ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) funds.

The Weatherization Program has received an influx of new funding this year from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). A total of \$7.9 million in ARPA LIHEAP (through 9/30/22) and ARPA SFR (through 6/30/23) will be used to supplement core federal and fuel tax revenue. In addition to addressing deferral issues, ARPA funds will be used to install high efficient, low emitting wood and pellet stoves, Cold Climate Heat Pumps and Heat Pump Water Heaters during weatherization.

**Performance Data for completed State Fiscal Year 2021 (SFY21)**

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY21 (July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021):  
**1,055 households (614 1-unit dwellings, 114 2-4 unit dwellings, 327 5+ unit dwellings)**

**By County:**

Addison: .....	93 households
Bennington: .....	79 households
Caledonia: .....	73 households
Chittenden: .....	85 households
Essex: .....	27 households
Franklin: .....	41 households
Grand Isle: .....	8 households
Lamoille: .....	26 households
Orange: .....	55 households
Orleans: .....	60 households
Rutland: .....	110 households
Washington: .....	147 households
Windham: .....	81 households
Windsor: .....	170 households

2. Average program investment per household: **\$9,539**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **28.7%**<sup>1</sup> per household, or **\$568.40**<sup>2</sup> saved per year by a household heating with #2 heating fuel.
4. Total 1<sup>st</sup> year gallons of #2 oil saved for **316\*** fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY21:  
**77,420 gallons**<sup>3</sup>
5. Average Annual Savings, total Annual savings, and number of households served (by household main fuel type).<sup>4</sup>

#2 oil saved: avg. of **245** gallons saved annually, **90,544** total gallons saved by **369** households.

Kerosene saved: avg. of **191** gallons saved annually, **13,376** total gallons saved by **70** households.

Propane saved: avg. of **200** gallons saved annually, **28,927** total gallons saved by **145** households.

Natural Gas saved: avg. of **195** therms saved annually, **12,266** total therms saved by **63** households.

Cords of wood saved: avg. of **1.6** cords saved annually, **220** total cords saved by **139** households.

Tons of pellets saved: avg. of **1.3** tons saved annually, **71.4** total tons saved by **56** households.

Kwh saved (electric heat): avg. of **2,558** Kwh saved annually, **94,639** Kwh saved by **37** households.

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<sup>1</sup> This savings is estimated savings based on energy modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY21.

<sup>2</sup> Savings are calculated on \$2.32 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY21 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

<sup>3</sup> Oil is the most common fuel used by low-income Weatherization clients and thus used for this calculation.

\* 30% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 47% of the 1-unit households weatherized received Fuel Assistance, and 7% of the 2 or more units households received Fuel Assistance.

<sup>4</sup> Fuel savings is not available for all 1,055 households served, as some mobile homes were not modeled but served via the approved Wx priority list.

6. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2022 Program Year (SFY) with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds, ARPA LIHEAP Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **1,312** households
7. Projected program spending for current SFY2022: **\$16,820,296**
8. The amount of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the **1,055** households weatherized in SFY21: **2,784,878 pounds.**