
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

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

**Prepared by: Geoff Wilcox, Weatherization Program Administrator
Office of Economic Opportunity**

Report Date: January 31, 2021



Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

2008 Act 192 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, health, and safety of their home.

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 five non-profit community Weatherization Assistance Programs. 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 called 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 and 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. In SFY 2020, OEO expanded Hancock Energy Software administrative support through contracted services, which continues in SFY 2021.

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. Vermont's Weatherization Program won a national HUD Healthy Homes award in 2017 for its One Touch Program and the 2018 ACEEE Health and Energy Linked Program (HELP) Award. OEO has continued to add partners to the One Touch program as well as refine the process for optimum benefits for clients.

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 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. 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 in the 2020-2021 program year and continues to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds for its clients to aid in vermiculite remediation costs. OEO also provides funding for home repair and vermiculite remediation to Weatherization Assistance Providers to reduce the number of low-income homeowners for whom weatherization is deferred due to structural issues in the building.

The Weatherization Program halted production at the end of March for approximately eight weeks due to the COVID public health emergency. During this time, staff employed by Weatherization Assistance Providers worked remotely or from their offices, when required. OEO provided substantial training and technical assistance during this time to crew workers, which ultimately leads to high quality work. The temporary pause in production resulted in less homes being weatherized in SFY20 than planned. Work resumed in late

May, with COVID Health and Safety plans in place at offices and in the field. The SFY20 and SFY21 program periods were combined resulting in a two-year performance period. This will allow the Weatherization Program the opportunity to increase production during SFY21 to offset the lower number of homes weatherized due to COVID.

Performance Data for completed State Fiscal Year 2020 (SFY20)

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY20 (July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020):
648 households (413 1-unit dwellings, 235 multi-unit dwellings)
2. Average program investment per household: **\$11,872¹**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **31%²** per household, or **\$680³** saved per year by a household heating with #2 heating fuel.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for **232*** fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY20:
62,872⁴
5. Average Annual Savings, total Annual savings, and number of households served (by household main fuel type).

#2 oil saved: avg. of **271** gallons saved annually, **73,983** total gallons saved by **273** households.

Kerosene saved: avg. of **245** gallons saved annually, **12,250** total gallons saved by **50** households.

Propane saved: avg. of **198** gallons saved annually, **22,770** total gallons saved by **115** households.

Natural Gas saved: avg. of **270** therms saved annually, **6,210** total therms saved by **23** households.

Cords of wood saved: avg. of **1.8** cords saved annually, **178** total cords saved by **99** households.

Tons of pellets saved: avg. of **1.5** tons saved annually, **57** total tons saved by **38** households.

Kwh saved (electric heat): avg. of **2,532** KWH saved annually; **126,600** KWH saved by **50** households.
6. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2021 Program Year (SFY) with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **1,118** households
7. Projected program spending for current SFY2021: **\$13,298,613**
8. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the 648 households weatherized in SFY19: **1,620 tons**

¹ This is the job cost average (JCA) and is determined from the total of material, on site labor and offsite costs only. The actual ended JCA ended up higher than budgeted in SFY20 due to COVID hiatus and disruptions. At the end of the 2-year grant period, the average for the 2-year Program Year will be lower.

² This savings is estimated savings based on energy modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY20.

³ Savings are calculated on \$2.51 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY20 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ Oil is the most common fuel used by low-income Weatherization clients and thus used for this calculation.

* 35.7% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 52% of the 1-unit households weatherized received Fuel Assistance, and 7.5% of the 2 or more units households received Fuel Assistance.