

Home Weatherization Assistance Program



**VERMONT'S
WEATHERIZATION
PROGRAM**



Weatherization

Warmer, safer and more energy efficient homes.

- **Energy audit** to identify where improvements can be made
- **Energy renovation** (e.g., insulation, sealing up drafts, improving ventilation)
- **Coaching** on energy saving best practices
- **Referrals** for health & human services



Last Year

- ~ \$12m for Weatherization
- 1055 units weatherized (about a 20% increase)
 - 614 1-unit dwellings
 - 114 2-4 unit dwellings
 - 327 5+ unit dwellings
- Average program investment per household: \$9,539
- Average energy savings, approximately 28.7% per household
- 1,392 tons of CO₂ prevented from entering the atmosphere

Last Year

The Program also:

- Addressed deferral issues with home repair & vermiculite remediation (VLITE)
- Continued the 3E Thermal multi-family (5+) pilot (GF one-time)
- Installed high-efficient wood and pellet stoves (CEDF)
- Add a “COVID” adjustment to the allowable cost per unit (ACPU)
- Moved to “subsidize” the first three months of new crew employment as 100% training time

This Year

- \$16.8m for Weatherization
- Expect 1312 units this year
- Represents approximately 35% ramp up
- ARPA Investments in Weatherization
 - \$4m in ARPA SRF funds to address deferral issues, install heat pumps, and install stoves and multi-family Weatherization
 - \$3.9m in ARPA LIHEAP funds (through 9/30) for home weatherization.
 - 550 added homes in SFY22 and 23 with ARPA investment.

This Year

Also:

- Launched statewide campaign for worker and customer recruitment
- Truck & equipment purchases to scale up program
- Now officially 6 “weatherization agencies”, not 5
- Wage study
- Active participants in the Climate Council, EAN Weatherization at Scale Group, Workforce Development Group, Led the Energy Savings Counseling Group

Where We are Going

- Zero Deferral Policy
- Standard Operating Practice:
 - Cold Climate Heat Pumps and Heat Pump Water Heaters
 - Wood Stove Installation
- Ability to nearly double by 2026 with additional investments
 - ARPA SFR
 - DOE (infrastructure)
- Increase ACPU to support wages and use market-driven wage standard

Challenges:

- Crew vacancies – hard to hire; subcontract shortage
- Material cost increases

Energy Equity – Just Transitions

- Look at data to understand which communities and demographics are being served and adjust our work to focus on and serve impacted communities
- Ease access/reduce barriers to entry
- Offset burdens/costs and Maximize benefits
- A Whole Home approach
- Create more opportunities for customer voices to shape our work
- Workforce – jobs with good wages and benefits, diversify the workforce

Energy Savings Counseling

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/Energy-Savings-Counseling-Report-2021.10.15.pdf>

The Energy Counseling Savings Group (“Group”) was convened to meet the requirements established in the Appropriations Act for SFY 2021 (Act 74). Section E.234.3 (b) calls on the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) in the Department for Children and Families (DCF) to lead the Group to develop a plan for the coordinated and effective deliver of counseling services designed to enroll and deliver energy savings programs to their target service populations. By October 15, 2021, OEO is charged with delivering a plan for coordinating and enhancing energy counseling services to Vermonters with low and moderate-income who could benefit from the State’s energy savings programs, including thermal and transportation energy efficiency programs.

Energy Savings Counseling

The first meeting was convened by the Committee Chairs on June 30, 2021. Thereafter, met 9 times over the three months prior the report deadline.

- Establish a Definition and Goals for Energy Savings Counseling
- Overview of current energy saving counseling efforts in Vermont
- Informal survey of Vermonters with low and moderate incomes
- Future opportunities to enhance and coordinate energy counseling services

Energy Savings Counseling

Working Definition of Energy Savings Counseling:

- Energy Counselors help people make decisions about energy, and access resources to save energy or use cleaner energy.
- Energy Counselors:
 - Provide trusted, unbiased information.
 - Work to understand someone's personal financial situation and energy use.
 - Help people make a plan that fits their needs, goals and capacity.
 - Navigate energy savings programs, because they have a broad understanding of what is available, how programs work, and the financial resources available.
 - Help people take the steps needed to achieve their goals.

Energy Savings Counseling

11 “opportunities” identified, such as:

- Targeted services to reach tenants
- Improve connection with town energy committees/VECAN
- Implement and evaluate new Energy & Financial Coach initiative led by Vermont's Community Action Agencies
- Training and/or standards for energy counselors or coaches
- Integrate work within other sectors/networks: homeownership centers, schools, home inspectors, etc.