

Farmworker housing support

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Senate Agriculture Committee
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Efficiency
Vermont

Efficiency Vermont farmworker housing support

History

September 2018 – Met with Milk with Dignity Standards Council and Migrant Justice and began collaborating on improving farmworker housing conditions

December 2019 – Approached VHCB, with MSDC, about issues within the FWH space and requested funding to improve farmworker housing

January 2020 – Started working with first farm on new FWH and the USDA RD 514 loan program

September 2020 – Engaged Geoff Wilcox, OEO Weatherization Program Administrator, about farmworker housing needs and if Wx could play a role in repair and replacement

February 2021 – Applied for VLITE and VT Community Foundation funding with MDSC to support new FWH initiative and John Ryan wraps up FWH Needs Assessment

June 2021 – Met with VHCB to review funding needed to move new farmworker housing projects forward

November 2021 – VHCB releases RFP for FWH Repair Program – hires CHT to manage program in December

December 2022 – VHCB approves funding for new FWH (\$520k) and loan terms – hires CHT to manage program

Farmworker Housing Needs Assessment

600 farmworker dwellings housing 2,000 workers

- » 150-200 dwellings would require small scale improvements of under \$5,000.
- » 100-150 dwellings would require moderate scale improvements of between \$5,000 and \$50,000.
- » 75-100 dwellings would require either major renovations or replacements at a cost of \$50,000 or more.

In addition to improving the quality of existing housing, a survey of farmers indicates that the potential exists for adding at least 50-75 new on-farm farmworker dwellings in the state, if the financing and permitting conditions were supportive of that effort.

Eligibility for FWH Repair Program:

Pre-1976 mobile homes or home is otherwise past its useful life;

Housing in barns or other agricultural structures;

Housing that can't be brought into compliance with the rental housing code.

Efficiency Vermont Services

Farmworker Repair

Coordination with OEO Weatherization Assistance Program to help farmers leverage Wx and electrical efficiency upgrades through Efficiency Vermont's Low Income Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP)

- Appliance Replacement
- Heat Pump Water Heaters
- Cold Climate Heat Pumps for Conditioning
- Lighting

Technical support evaluating proposed scopes of work and identifying opportunities to have greater impact through repair work

Helping farmers connect with qualified contractors through our Efficiency Excellence Network (EEN)

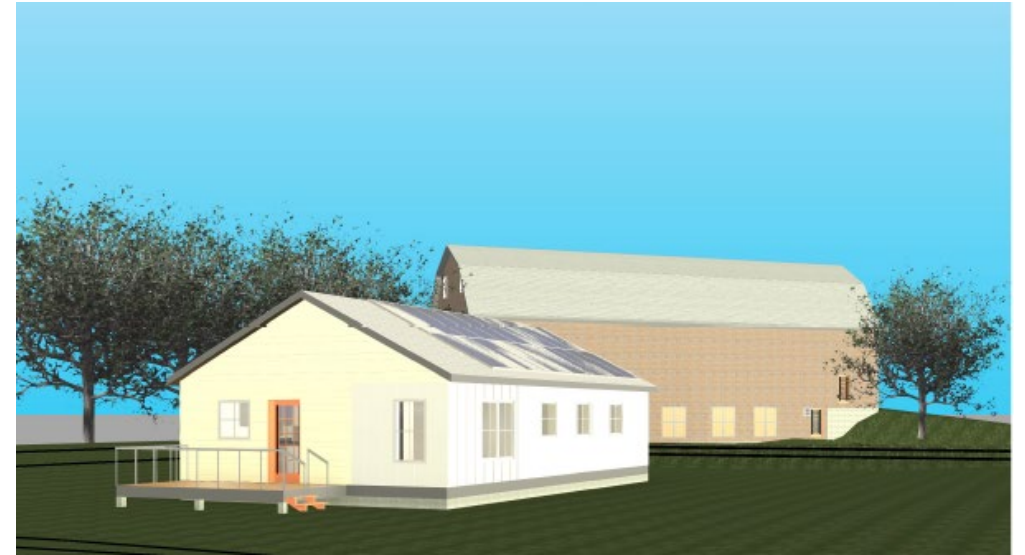
Efficiency Vermont launched a hybrid BPI Building Analyst class to support the current Efficiency Excellence Network contractors (increased bench strength) and to onboard new contractors from edge industries. There are currently 25 students in the class.

Engaging with farmers to evaluate other energy efficiency opportunities on the farm to reduce their energy burden

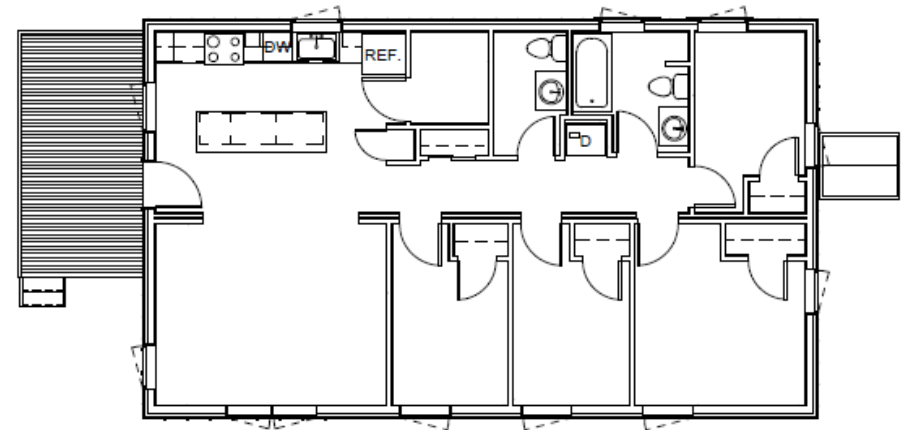
Efficiency Vermont Services

New Farmworker Housing

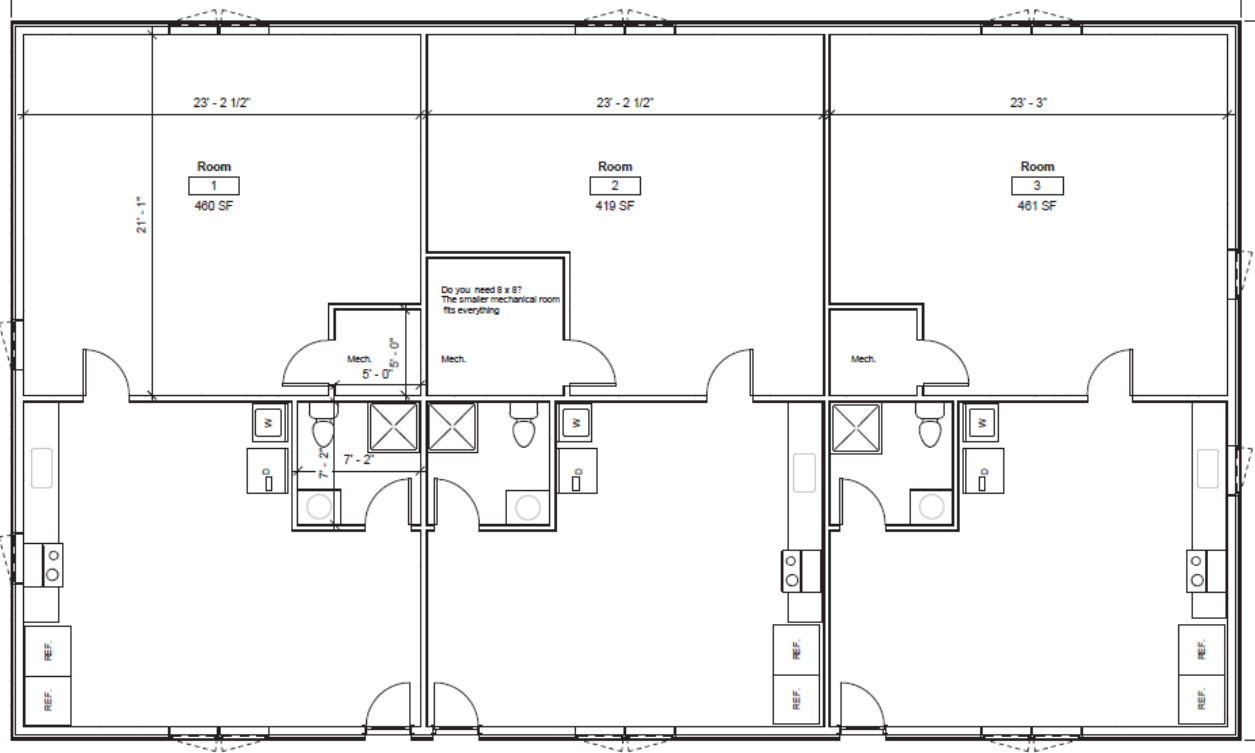
- Technical support from site planning and building design to permitting
- Exclusive Efficiency Vermont HP Certification and incentives
- Confidence building is a healthy, durable, energy efficient home backed by Efficiency Vermont
- Working with highly skilled builders supported by Efficiency Vermont's energy consultant team
- Incorporation of the latest energy efficiencies technologies and best building practices
- Low energy load home helps the state meet its climate action goals



4 Bedroom / 2 Bath – 26' x 44'



Case Study – High Performance Tri-plex



Questions?

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