
**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: Chris Winters, Commissioner
Department for Children and Families**

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Act 192 (2008) Section 5.221 of state legislation requires the Office of Economic Opportunity to 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, and 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), with state and federal funding. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to five non-profit regional Weatherization Assistance Programs and one statewide Program, 3E Thermal, which specializes in multi-family weatherization. OEO provides extensive quality assurance and quality control through inspection and monitoring of at least 10 percent of all weatherized units, as well as 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 and prioritizes customers based on Vermont statute, which includes consideration of whether a household receives Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) assistance.¹

Efficiency Coaching and the One Touch Referral program are important pieces 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 home, health, and human service partner programs. Both help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize the benefits the HWAP provides to clients.

The HWAP completed Weatherization services at 1,211 homes or "units" in state fiscal year (SFY) 2024. This was an increase of 72 units from the prior year. The Program continued to make strides in increasing the number of crew workers statewide due in large part to the Minimum and Prevailing Wage requirement that OEO implemented at the start of FY23. This significant increase in wages has continued to be a successful recruitment and retention tool for crew workers statewide and contributed to the increase in the production of Weatherized homes again this year.

The largest barrier to low-income home weatherization is the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. There are also many other structural issues present in Vermont's older housing stock that 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 continued a "zero deferral" goal in recognition that addressing non-energy related issues that otherwise prevent weatherization is a critical equity policy. However, the number of homes with vermiculite insulation are significant and there is not sufficient funding to fully address the

¹ LIHEAP eligibility includes a household with gross income equal or less than 185% of the federal poverty level.

need. Currently funding to address deferral issues comes from one-time ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) funds.

ARPA SFR funds are being used in State Fiscal Year 2025 to address deferral issues, install high-efficient, low-emitting wood and pellet stoves, cold climate heat pumps, and heat pump water heaters during weatherization. This funding is expected to be fully utilized in SFY 2025 or midway through SFY2026.

Performance Data for Completed SFY 2024

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY 2024 (July 1, 2023, thru June 30, 2024): 1,211 households (768 1-unit dwellings (includes 221 mobile homes), 183 2-4 unit dwellings, 260 5+ unit dwellings (includes 34 shelter units))

By County:

Addison:	40 households
Bennington:	90 households
Caledonia:	113 households
Chittenden:	160 households
Essex:	24 households
Franklin:	38 households
Grand Isle:	10 households
Lamoille:	65 households
Orange:	73 households
Orleans:	155 households
Rutland:	113 households
Washington:	167 households
Windham:	87 households
Windsor:	76 households

2. Average program investment per household: **\$11,958**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **28.8%**² per household, or **\$1,015.29**³ saved per year by a household heating with #2 heating fuel.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for 401⁴ fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY24: **104,661 gallons**⁵.

² Average energy savings is based on energy modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY24.

³ Savings are calculated at \$3.89 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY24 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ 33% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 49% of the 1-unit households weatherized received Fuel Assistance, and 12% of the 2 or more units households received Fuel Assistance.

⁵ Oil is the most common fuel used by low-income Weatherization clients and thus used for this calculation.

5. Average Annual Savings, total Annual savings, and number of households served (by household main fuel type).⁶
 - a. #2 oil saved: average of **261** gallons saved annually, **99,201** total gallons saved by **380** households.
 - b. Kerosene saved: average of **242** gallons saved annually, **23,260** total gallons saved by **96** households.
 - c. Propane saved: average of **247** gallons saved annually, **45,075** total gallons saved by **182** households.
 - d. Natural Gas saved: average of **178** therms saved annually, **3,918** total therms saved by **22** households.
 - e. Cords of wood saved: average of **1.6** cords saved annually, **244** total cords saved by **152** households.
 - f. Tons of pellets saved: average of **1.3** tons saved annually, **104** total tons saved by **80** households.
 - g. Kwh saved (electric heat): average of **2,238** Kwh saved annually, **181,350** Kwh saved by **81** households.
6. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current SFY 2025 with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds, ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) Funds, Department of Energy (DOE) Funds, and BIL Funds (Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law): **1,443 households**.
7. Projected program spending for current SFY 2025: **\$26,623,743** (all funding sources).
8. The amount of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere annually from the 952 1-4 unit households weatherized in SFY24: **4,774,586 pounds**.

⁶ Fuel savings is not available for all 1,211 households served. Some mobile homes were not modeled but served via the approved Weatherization priority list and fuel savings for some multi family homes is not available.