
**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

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

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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 1,139 homes or "units" in state fiscal year (SFY) 2023. This was an increase of 106 units from the prior year. The Program made significant strides in filling vacant crew worker positions statewide. One of the main reasons for this reduction of crew vacancies and increase in the number of homes Weatherized is due to the Minimum and Prevailing Wage requirement that OEO implemented at the start of FY23. This significant increase in crew pay resulted in the successful recruitment and retention of crew workers statewide. OEO offers training and technical assistance to providers to address issues around performance and production to ensure statewide equity.

The largest barrier to low-income home weatherization continues to be 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.

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

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

The ARPA funds allowed OEO to increase its full-time state Weatherization staff from 3 to 6 last year to support quality control, training, and technical assistance. ARPA SFR funds will continue to be used to address deferral issues, install high-efficient, low-emitting wood and pellet stoves, cold climate heat pumps, and heat pump water heaters during weatherization.

Performance Data for Completed SFY 2023

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY 2023 (July 1, 2022, thru June 30, 2023): 1,139 households (654 1-unit dwellings (includes 176 mobile homes), 150 2-4 unit dwellings, 335 5+ unit dwellings (includes 53 shelter units))

By County:

Addison:	16 households
Bennington:	53 households
Caledonia:	86 households
Chittenden:	70 households
Essex:	25 households
Franklin:	63 households
Grand Isle:	7 households
Lamoille:	75 households
Orange:	83 households
Orleans:	108 households
Rutland:	94 households
Washington:	163 households
Windham:	196 households
Windsor:	100 households

2. Average program investment per household: **\$11,868.90**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **29.7%**² per household, or **\$1,026**³ saved per year by household heating with #2 heating fuel.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for 362⁴ fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY23: **82,174 gallons**⁵.

² This savings is estimated savings based on energy modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY23.

³ Savings are calculated at \$4.52 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY23 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ 32% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 52% 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 **270** gallons saved annually, **105,570** total gallons saved by **391** households.
 - b. Kerosene saved: average of **238** gallons saved annually, **21,896** total gallons saved by **92** households.
 - c. Propane saved: average of **230** gallons saved annually, **50,370** total gallons saved by **219** households.
 - d. Natural Gas saved: average of **231** therms saved annually, **6,468** total therms saved by **28** households.
 - e. Cords of wood saved: average of **1.6** cords saved annually, **269** total cords saved by **168** households.
 - f. Tons of pellets saved: average of **1.3** tons saved annually, **81** total tons saved by **62** households.
 - g. Kwh saved (electric heat): average of **2,105** Kwh saved annually, **134,720** Kwh saved by **64** households.
6. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current SFY 2024 with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds, ARPA State Fiscal Recovery (SFR) Funds, and Department of Energy (DOE) Funds: **1,565 households**.
7. Projected program spending for current SFY 2024: **\$27,517,866** (all funding sources)
8. The amount of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere annually from the 1,139 households weatherized in SFY23: **3,000,126 pounds**.

⁶ Fuel savings is not available for all 1,139 households served, as some mobile homes were not modeled but served via the approved Weatherization priority list.