

THE RECOVERY ACT: VERMONT CLOSE UP

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to help low-income households invest in energy efficiency. Operated in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Native American tribes, and U.S. Territories, weatherization funds are used to accomplish the WAP's mission: *To reduce energy costs for low-income residents — particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, and families with children — by improving the energy efficiency of their homes while ensuring their health and safety.*

More than 900 community agencies across the country apply energy-efficiency measures to low-income homes using the most advanced technologies and testing protocols in the housing industry. The resulting energy savings help decrease energy costs for WAP clients and our country's dependence on foreign oil. In Vermont, this work is done by five local agencies.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, the WAP received \$5 billion of funding to expand its current program and achieve the goals set forth in the Act. Here's how *weatherization works* for Vermont and America!

What does the Recovery Act mean to Vermont?

The goal of the Recovery Act is to stimulate state and local economies — quickly. Vermont will receive over \$527 million to invest in education, infrastructure, healthcare, public safety and energy projects; to save or create jobs; and to help protect essential state services that Vermonters rely on every day.

Vermont's Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) was awarded a **\$16.8 million** Recovery Act grant for weatherization over a three-year period¹. In the first year of the Recovery Act grant, Vermont:

- Created over 31 jobs²;
- Purchased 5 new trucks²;
- Purchased 5 insulation blowers²;
- Purchased 6 combustion analyzers²;
- Trained 115 weatherization staff²; and
- Weatherized 898 homes².

VERMONT'S WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM			
	Core Funds ³	Recovery Act Funds ¹	Homes Weatherized
Recovery Act Funding 2009 ¹		\$4.5 million	898
Program Year 2009	\$6.3 million	-	907
Program Year 2008	\$9.2 million	-	1,570
Program Year 2007	\$8.1 million	-	1,427
WEATHERIZATION FACTS			
Average annual energy savings per household ⁴		\$437	
Average space heating savings		35%	
Benefits returned for every \$1 invested ⁴		\$2.51	

¹ The Recovery Act Funding covers three years, from April 2009 through March 2012.

² Vermont Weatherization Program Report, May 2010.

³ The Core Funding is comprised of Regular DOE grant funding and Vermont Weatherization Trust Fund.

⁴ ORNL/TM-2010/66, EIA February 2010 Short Term Energy Outlook.

The Power of Partnership

Vermont's WAP has a unique characteristic: long-term collaboration. OEO has partnered with the same five local agencies for 30+ years:

- BROC - Community Action in Southwestern Vermont
- Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC)
- Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO)
- Northeast Employment & Training Organization (NETO)
- Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)

Vermont's collaborative approach is generating impressive results.

Within the first six months of the Recovery Act, Vermont agencies have weatherized over 50% of their three-year goal: **1,612 units**. The state is on track to meet its Recovery Act goal by March 2011 — one full year before the act's end date.

The Recovery Act & Jobs

The Vermont Technical College received a Recovery Act grant to establish a weatherization training center in Vermont, creating new jobs for skilled trainers. In the last six months, the college has trained over 75% of weatherization staff from the five local agencies. The Vermont WAP owes a lot of its success and accomplishments to plentiful training and technical assistance. Each agency receives frequent hands on and classroom training for new and experienced staff to ensure top quality work and benefits for its clients.



Vermont is truly a shining example of how experience, consistency, and partnership are the keys to success!

Weatherization Works

Weatherization provides long-term solutions to energy and non-energy issues for low-income households. Challenges such as unsafe combustion systems or mold and moisture problems are addressed during the weatherization process. Addressing both energy and non-energy issues improves the efficiency of the homes and the overall quality of life for residents.

For every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization currently returns \$2.51 to the household and society⁴:

- \$1.80 in reduced energy bills
- \$0.71 in non-energy benefits
 - increased local employment
 - improved housing quality
 - better health and safety

Weatherization also reduces national energy consumption and curbs the demand for imported oil.

BROC's weatherization crews receive comprehensive dense pack insulation training from one of the Vermont Technical College trainers.

Annually, weatherization decreases national consumption by the equivalent of 24.1 million barrels of oil.

Weatherization truly works for Vermont and America!



For more information about the Weatherization Assistance Program, go to:

dcf.vermont.gov/oeo/weatherization
www.eere.energy.gov/weatherization
www.waptac.org

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov/informationcenter

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