
**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: Ken Schatz, DCF Commissioner

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

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Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

Section 5.221 of state legislation requires that the Office of Economic Opportunity 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, health and safety of their home.

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which operates with state and federal funding. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to five non-profit community Weatherization Assistance Programs. OEO provides extensive quality assurance and quality control through a variety of methods. These include inspection and monitoring of at least 10 percent of all weatherized units; and 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 that prioritizes customers based on household need, including those receiving Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This system provides enhanced program management, data and reporting capabilities. It also supports the day-to-day operations and management of the Weatherization Program for the Weatherization Agencies and the Office of Economic Opportunity. In SFY 2020, OEO expanded Hancock Energy Software administrative support and technical assistance to the network through contracted services.

Efficiency Coaching and the One Touch Referral program continue to be an important piece 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 partner programs. Both help remove barriers to weatherization and maximize the investments of the Weatherization Assistance Program. The OEO Weatherization Program won a national HUD Healthy Homes award in 2017 for its One Touch Program and the 2018 ACEEE Health and Energy Linked Program (HELP) Award. This past year, OEO added several partner programs to One Touch including local food shelves and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA).

The largest barrier to home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. Unfortunately, there are many other structural issues present in our client's homes that also prohibit Weatherization. These include leaky roofs, wet basements, knob and tube wiring, and other structural issues all too common in Vermont's low-income housing stock. Vermont's Weatherization Program is leading the nation in the way vermiculite insulation can be treated in a home. OEO secured an additional \$150,000 in VLITE funds for Vermiculite remediation in the 2019-2020 program year and continues to leverage Zonolite Trust Funds for its clients to aid in vermiculite remediation costs. OEO also provided funding for home repair and vermiculite remediation to Weatherization Assistance Providers to reduce the number of low-income homeowners for whom weatherization was deferred due to structural issues in the building.

The Legislature appropriated \$1.3 million in one-time general fund in SFY2019 for the Weatherization Assistance Program to expend over a two-year period. In conjunction with the Weatherization Policy Advisory Committee, OEO developed and issued an RFP to pilot a statewide approach to Multi-Family Weatherization. 3E Thermal at Capstone Community Action was awarded funds to weatherize 185 multi-family units in SFY2020 and SFY2021.

In 2019, the Clean Energy Development Fund in the Department of Public Service granted OEO funds to support the installation of high efficiency wood and pellet stoves in Weatherization clients' homes. This funding will conclude at the end of SFY20 and will benefit well over 100 low- income families by providing them with a safe, efficient and renewable heat source.

Performance Data for completed State Fiscal Year 2019 (SFY19)

1. Number of households weatherized in SFY19 (July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019*):
767 households (573 1-unit dwellings, 194 2+ unit dwellings)
2. Average program investment per household: **\$9,689¹**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **34%²** per home equating to **\$745³** saved per year on heating fuel.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for **322***** fuel assistance households weatherized in SFY19:
83,398⁴
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **259** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **767** homes weatherized in SFY19: **198,653 gallons**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2020 Program Year with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **946** households
8. Projected program spending for current SFY2020: **\$11,794,767**
9. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the 767 households weatherized in SFY19: **1,886 tons**

¹ This cost is the job cost average (JCA) and is determined from the total of material, on site labor and offsite costs only.

² This savings is estimated savings based on modeling of the homes Weatherized during SFY19.

³ Savings are calculated on \$2.87 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil during SFY19 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ All energy usage and savings are converted to gallons of oil, for ease of data evaluation. Oil is the most common fuel used by low-income Weatherization clients.

*** 42.5% of the total households Weatherized last year were Fuel Assistance recipients. 57% of the 1-unit households weatherized received Fuel Assistance, and 7% of the 2 or more units households received Fuel Assistance.