

---

---

**Report to  
The Vermont Legislature**

---

---

# **Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program**

**In Accordance with Act 215 Sec 134(b)**

**Submitted to:** Senate Committee on Appropriations  
House Committee on Appropriations

**Submitted by:** Ken Schatz  
Commissioner

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

**Report Date:** January 31, 2016

# 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 years 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.”*

The Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) administers the Vermont Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) which includes both state and federal funds. OEO monitors and provides training and technical assistance to five non-profit community Weatherization Assistance Programs. OEO provides thorough and extensive quality assurance and quality control through a variety of methods including the inspection and monitoring of 10 percent of all weatherized units as well as daily monitoring and oversight via its statewide, web-based data management system.

The largest barrier to home weatherization continues to be the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. 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. Efficiency Coaching and the One Touch Referral program are 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 other partner programs. Both can help remove some of the barriers to weatherization and maximize the outcomes of the energy savings investments made by the Weatherization program.

The State Weatherization Program has changed the way that Vermiculite insulation can be treated in a home. OEO has secured an additional \$125,000 in VLITE funds for Vermiculite remediation in the 2016 program year. We lead the nation in innovative ways to address Vermiculite and secure the outside funding required to treat these homes.

This past year, the Office of Economic Opportunity also fully implemented its web-based data management system for Weatherization. Hancock Energy Software includes an integrated energy audit tool that prioritizes customers, including those receiving LIHEAP. This system provides enhanced program management, data and reporting capabilities as well as supporting day-to-day operation and management of the Weatherization Program at both the Weatherization Agencies and the Office of Economic Opportunity.

## Performance Data for completed Program Year 2015 (PY15)

1. Number of households weatherized in PY15 (July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015): **1,123**
2. Average program investment per household: **\$8,385<sup>1</sup>**
3. Average energy savings: Approximately **20%<sup>2</sup>** per home equating to **\$434.52<sup>3</sup>** saved per year on heating oil.
4. Total 1<sup>st</sup> year gallons of #2 oil saved for **516<sup>\*\*\*</sup>** fuel assistance households weatherized in PY15: **78,948<sup>4</sup>**
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **153** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **1,123** homes weatherized in PY 2014: **171,819**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2016 PY with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **754** households
8. Projected program spending for current PY 2015: **\$8,000,000**
9. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the **1,043** households weatherized in 2014: **2,655**

---

<sup>1</sup> The job cost average (JCA) is determined from the total of material, on site labor and offsite costs.

<sup>2</sup> This savings percentage was estimated from a Program Evaluation of completed Weatherization Projects.

<sup>3</sup> Savings are calculated on \$2.84 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil sold in Vermont in January 2015 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

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

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> 46% of the homes Weatherized last year also received Fuel Assistance. This percentage is low due to the large percentage of Multi Family homes that received Wx this past year. Of the 488 MF homes Weatherized last year, only 17% of them received Fuel Assistance. 67% of the Single Family homes Weatherized received Fuel Assistance.