
**Report to
The Vermont Legislature**

Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

In Accordance with 2008 Act 192 Sec 5.221(b) [H.891]

**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**

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Performance Indicators for the Vermont Weatherization Assistance Program

2008 Act 192 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, 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.

In 2014 OEO implemented new projects including efficiency coaching and a health and safety referral program called “One Touch.” The “One Touch” program helps clients benefit from individualized referrals to other state and local programs assisting low income individuals and families.

The largest barrier to home weatherization is the presence of vermiculite insulation, a material known for containing asbestos. OEO used Vermont Low Income Trust for Electricity (VLITE) funds to assist 18 homes containing vermiculite insulation that otherwise would not have received weatherization. Plans for helping more homes containing vermiculite insulation with VLITE funds are in place for 2015. There are more than 500 homes containing vermiculite already waiting to be served and it is estimated that approximately 10 percent of new clients applying for weatherization have vermiculite insulation as well. The majority of these homes won’t be able to receive weatherization services due to this health and safety issue. Other funding sources are needed to treat the vermiculite insulation so that these homes can receive weatherization funding and services. This is a very serious issue for the clients in these homes as they are typically living in the draftiest and poorest insulated homes in Vermont. These households cannot be served without finding other non-weatherization funds, of which very few exist.

In program year 2014 (PY14), the Vermont Weatherization Program completed the \$10,000,000 Green Mountain Power (GMP) funding agreement. Starting July 1, 2015 the program will see a 30 percent decrease in funding and the number of homes that can be served due to expiring GMP funds. State-wide, the lay off of many well trained and productive Weatherization staff will occur and the current one year long waiting list for Weatherization services will get longer.

OEO has implemented a state-of-the-art web-based data management system with an integrated energy audit tool that prioritizes customers including those receiving LIHEAP. This system will provide enhanced program management, data and reporting.

OEO and the Fuel Assistance Office met periodically throughout PY14 to determine additional ways to advance coordination between LIHEAP and the Weatherization Program. This coordination has already been strengthened. Each year the LIHEAP program provides Weatherization a complete list of LIHEAP recipients with their fuel consumption history for the past year. This information allows Weatherization providers to streamline the eligibility verification process of LIHEAP clients (auto-qualified) and allows high energy intensity homes to be prioritized for Weatherization service.

OEO will release its new Administrative Policy and Procedures Manual early this year which will ensure consistency, uniformity and quality state wide.

Performance Data for completed Program Year 2014 (PY14)

1. Number of households weatherized in PY14 (July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014): **1,281**
2. Average program expenditure/household: **\$8,965¹**
3. Average energy savings: **30%²** per home equating to **\$692³** saved per year on heating oil.
4. Total 1st year gallons of #2 oil saved for **511** fuel assistance households weatherized in PY14: **109,865⁴**
5. Average annual gallons of #2 oil saved per household: **215** gallons of oil
6. Total gallons of oil saved: Total combined 1st year savings represented by gallons of #2 oil for the **1,281** homes weatherized in PY 2014: **275,415**
7. Projected number of households to be weatherized during the current 2015 PY with Home Weatherization Assistance Program Funds and Department of Energy Funds: **1,116** households
8. Projected program expenditures for current PY 2015: **\$11,248,249**
9. The amount (in tons) of CO2 prevented from entering the atmosphere from the **1,281** households weatherized in 2014: **3,028**
10. Number of households receiving a heat pump hot water heater installed with VLITE funds: **43***
11. Number of households receiving solar hot air panels installed with VLITE funds: **53***
12. Data for Combined Energy and Non Energy Benefits is not available. This information will be provided next year after a Program Evaluation of the Weatherization Program is completed.

*These are homes that received VLITE funds and received weatherization

¹ The job cost average (JCA) is determined from material, labor and offsite costs. This increased JCA over past years is a result of the prioritization of High Energy Intensity homes per past years' legislative mandate.

² This savings percentage is estimated from Energy Savings modeling on each home weatherized. A Program Evaluation of Weatherization is in process with results due to be released during the winter of 2015.

³ Savings are calculated on \$3.22 per gallon which was the average price per gallon of oil sold in Vermont in December 2014 (source DPS Vermont Fuel Price Report).

⁴ 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.