Local Weatherization Guide 2021

- COVER Home Repair
- Weatherization Assistance Program
- Mobile Home Replacement Program
- Home Performance With ENERGY STAR

Prepared by Sustainable Woodstock
Icicles Hanging From Your Roof?

Icicles indicate that warm air is escaping from your house. Most homes built more than twenty years ago are not energy efficient and lose very expensive heat! As the cost of fossil fuels continues to rise, (fuel prices have increased by 350% since 1999) so will your energy bills. Be proactive and look for ways that you can save money while improving your home’s energy footprint.

Other indicators that your home is leaking valuable heat:
- High heating or energy bills
- Frequent allergies, eye irritation and respiratory problems
- Cold drafts and cold floors during the winter
- Condensation on windows
- Mold or mildew in basement or attic
- Running out of hot water

VT Policies Fight Climate Change!
Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan (CEP) works to combat climate change by setting goals for a diverse and local energy portfolio dependent on renewable energy sources. The CEP has also set a goal of getting 80,000 homes in Vermont to obtain a 25% energy savings by the year 2020. This requires that 3% of the households get upgrades every year; we are currently upgrading less than 1% of homes annually.
Where to Start?

How efficient is your home? Use the steps and chart on the next page to determine how efficient your home is using BTUs/sf. Invite Sustainable Woodstock to help you determine how efficient your home is.

1. Choose the program that is best suited for your home. Review the programs on the next couple of pages to see if you qualify for these great incentives.

2. Get a home energy audit. The audit will give recommendations on what you can do to improve your home’s efficiency. All programs start with an initial assessment of your home’s energy use. Choose an auditor from the list of Home Performance with Energy Star certified home energy auditors.

3. Commit to getting upgrades. Is now the time for you to obtain upgrades, and which improvements can you commit to now?

4. Determine how to finance the upgrades. Review financing options and different program pages to see what options you have.

5. Start Saving! Efficiency upgrades for an average home typically reduce energy bills by 20%, which means you could be saving a couple hundred dollars to a couple thousand dollars per year!

How can Sustainable Woodstock help?

Sustainable Woodstock is committed to creating more efficient housing and reducing how much fossil fuel we consume for heating. If you need help, contact us and we will help you figure out if you need to weatherize your home and give suggestions on how to make it possible.
How Efficient is your Home?

You can find out how efficient your home is by calculating how much energy you use per square foot of space. An efficient home uses less than 40,000BTUs per square foot.

Step 1 – Get your fuel usage for a full year from all sources including oil, gas, wood and electricity. Call your fuel dealer or look at old bills to get this number. The number will be in gallons, kilowatts, cords or tons.

Step 2 – Convert your usage to BTU equivalents. Multiply your usage amount by the BTUs/unit. A BTU or British Thermal Unit converts your fuel types to a common measurement. (Some of these numbers will be BIG.)

Step 3 – Determine the square footage of your livable space. Include all heated spaces, but not your basement unless it’s lived in.

Step 4 – Calculate your number. Divide the total BTUs used by the total heated square foot in your home.

Step 5 – Compare your number to an energy efficient house. Contact Sustainable Woodstock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fuel Type</th>
<th>Annual Usage</th>
<th>BTU / unit</th>
<th>Total BTUs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>_____Gals</td>
<td>X 138,690 BTUs/gal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propane</td>
<td>_____Gals</td>
<td>X 91,452 BTUs/gal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>_____kWhs</td>
<td>X 3,412 BTUs/kWh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>_____Cords</td>
<td>X 22,000,000 BTUs/cord</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood pellets</td>
<td>_____Tons</td>
<td>X 16,000,000 BTUs/ton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total BTUs used:

\[
\text{Total BTUS} \div \text{total sq. ft.} = \text{BTUs/sf.}
\]

Need some help? Give us a call at 457-2911.
Home Performance with Energy Star Certified Auditors Serving Central VT

**What is an energy audit?** The energy audit is a process for determining how much energy your home consumes and to evaluate what measures you can take to make your home more energy efficient.

**Why conduct an energy audit?** To qualify for Efficiency Vermont incentives of up to $4,000 you must meet income guidelines and conduct an energy audit at the beginning and end of work completed. The energy audit must be performed and certified by a Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. These contractors are trained in an integrated whole-house approach that looks at your house as a system. Visit efficiencyvermont.com to find a contractor near you, or check out:

**Analyzing Energy Inc.** Mount Holly, VT  
*Phone:* (802) 289-2177  
*Website:* https://analyzingenergy.com  
*Email:* Jake@analyzingenergy.com  
*CREDENTIALS AND AWARDS:* BPI and EEN member

**Build Basic Green** Hartland 4 Corners, Hartland VT  
*Phone:* 802-299-1946  
*Email:* buildbasicgreen@gmail.com  
*Website:* buildbasicgreen.wordpress.com  
*CREDENTIALS AND AWARDS:* EEN, BPI member

**Building Energy** White River Junction, VT  
*Phone:* 802-359-7550  
*Email:* info@buildingenergyus.com  
*Website:* www.buildingenergyvt.com  
*CREDENTIALS AND AWARDS:* BPI, EEN, Envelope Shell Professional, Mitsubishi Diamond Contractor
Auditors list continued:

COVER Home Repair White River Junction, VT  
Phone: (802) 296-7241 ext.4  
Website: http://www.coverhomerepair.org/  
Credentials and Awards: BPI, EEN member

EarthShare Construction Lebanon, NH  
Phone: 802-356-4383  
Website: www.earthshareconstruction.com  
Credentials and Awards: BPI, EEN member

Peachtree Builders Inc. Windsor, VT  
Phone: 802-674-6005  
Website: www.nhvtcontractors.com  
Credentials and Awards: BPI, EEN member

Snowdog Construction Norwich, VT  
Phone: 802-649-3605 Email: michael@snowdogvermont.com  
Website: www.snowdogvermont.com  
Credentials and Awards: Do-It-Yourself, zero energy retrofit certified, EEN, BPI

van de Ven Construction LLC Hartland, VT  
Phone: 802-436-5542 Email: vandevenconstruction@yahoo.com  
Website: www.vandevenconstruction.com  
Credentials and Awards: BPI, EEN, detailed report with line item pricing of the Efficiency Vermont energy model

Vermont Foam Insulation, Inc Chester, VT  
Phone: 802-367-3113 Email: info@vermontfoam.com  
Website: www.vermontfoaminulation.com

A full list of auditors is available on the Efficiency VT website.  
https://www.efficiencyvermont.com

*BPI= Building Performance Institute  
*EEN=Efficiency Excellence Network
COVER Home Repair

COVER focuses on repairs that improve the home’s ability to provide a safe, comfortable and healthy environment for its inhabitants. Roof repair, accessibility ramp construction, structural floor repair and weatherization are common projects. Most projects are completed in two full volunteer crew days.

Beginning November 2020, COVER will provide custom DIY weatherization kits to eligible homeowners!

Why do it:
• Reduce heating bills  • Increase comfort  • Make needed repairs to your house  • Reduce carbon footprint  • Improve health

Eligibility Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household income &lt; 185% Federal Poverty Guidelines</th>
<th>Urgent need for health and safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home owners involved to the best of their abilities</td>
<td>Need of assistance based on income or physical ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 minutes from COVER</td>
<td>Volunteer suitable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,967</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$4,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$2,658</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$5,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$3,348</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$6,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$4,039</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$6,775</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact COVER today for a free, custom DIY weatherization kit!

Contact information:
office@coverhomerepair.org
(802) 296-7241 ext.4
http://www.coverhomerepair.org/
Weatherization Assistance Program

SEVCA Weatherization provides such services as state-of-the-art energy audits, insulation and air sealing, heating system improvements and other energy-saving measures, all at no cost to residents who meet the income guidelines. A certified energy auditor visits the home to complete an energy audit and prescribe appropriate measures. Then a team of highly trained technicians makes the needed improvements. A Quality Control Inspector ensures that everything was done properly and is of the highest quality.

Why do it:
Save money on heating bills – Reduce your carbon footprint – Foster a healthy environment! Weatherization reduces the nation’s dependence on foreign oil imports, helps improve the nation’s energy security and fights climate change. For every $1 invested in the weatherization program, $1.65 in energy-related benefits are returned.

Eligibility Requirements for Windsor County:
Limits for gross household income:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Annual Income</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$44,408</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>$68,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$50,752</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>$73,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$57,096</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>$78,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$63,440</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>$83,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact SEVCA to see if you qualify and to schedule a walkthrough of your property to assess what efficiency measures can be taken.

Contact information:
www.sevca.org/weatherization
or call (802) 722-4575
Mobile Home Replacement Program

Replace your mobile home or downsize to an affordable, comfortable and healthy net-zero-energy modular home. Many Vermonters live in mobile or manufactured homes with thin walls, meager insulation and poor ventilation that have sky-high energy bills. The Mobile Home Replacement program helps you secure low-interest financing so you can replace your mobile home with a super-efficient net-zero energy modular home. These structures are designed with rooftop solar panels to produce as much electricity as they use, resulting in no energy costs.

Why do it:
- Lower monthly costs (mortgage and energy costs combined) than a traditional mobile/manufactured home
- Better air quality, lighting, insulation, temperature and noise control
- Long-lasting construction for extreme weather
- Income-based incentives and low-interest, 30-year financing

Eligibility requirements:
All prospective homebuyers are encouraged to work with Efficiency Vermont to learn more about net-zero-energy modular homes. Vermont households at 80% of median income, or below, qualify for additional incentives, subsidies and low-interest financing.

Contact Information: Call Efficiency Vermont to speak with an energy consultant
Efficiency Vermont: (888) 921-5990
https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/zeroenergy
Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR is an incentive-based program to improve insulation and air sealing, plus heating and ventilation systems, to ensure safety and health.

How to Redeem

2. Complete enrollment form.
3. Work with your contractor to install qualified measures.
4. Contractor reports completed work to Efficiency VT for review.
5. Receive 50% of project cost back, up to $1,000. Income-eligible Vermonters are eligible for 50% of project costs, up to $4,000 back. See details below.

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Single-family VT residences and rental properties with fewer than five units.
- Achieve minimum air leakage reduction of 10% (as measured by a pre- and post-blower door test) and installation of all recommended health and safety improvements.
- Work must be performed by a participating Efficiency Excellence Network contractor.

Contact information:
Call Efficiency Vermont and schedule a home energy assessment of your home.
1-888-921-5990
https://www.efficiencyvermont.com
Need help with financing?

**Home Repair Program**
The Home Repair Program through the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust and Green Mountain Power helps home owners address critical health and safety issues as well as increase the energy efficiency of their homes through low cost loans, flexible terms and support with identifying a contractor and project oversight. Learn more and apply on the WWHT website.

http://www.w-wht.org/

**NeighborWorks of Western Vermont Energy Loan**
A loan offered by NeighborWorks of Western Vermont is available statewide. Loan funds may be used to finance energy efficiency improvements and necessary health and safety improvements. Qualifying improvements include cold-climate heat pump heating and cooling systems, efficient hot water heaters, air sealing, insulation renewables and more. Visit the Neighborworks of Western Vermont website for more information.

https://www.nwwvt.org/energy-loan/

**Home Energy Loan**
The Home Energy Loan, available throughout Efficiency Vermont, is a fast, easy and flexible way to finance thermal home energy improvements. Visit Efficiency Vermont’s website to check eligibility requirements and get started.

https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/services/financing/homes/home-energy-loan

**504 Home Repair Program**
Low-income, elderly Vermonters can get help with home repairs through a low-interest loan or grant. This is only available to single-family households with someone over the age of 62. For more information visit: https://www.rd.usda.gov/vt
Inform us of your Progress! Tell us how you plan to weatherize your home or if you have already made improvements. We would like to track the progress of our community in meeting the goals of Vermont’s Comprehensive Energy Plan. Contact us with any questions. We are more than happy to help!

Need help deciding which program is right for you or navigating the process?

Contact Sustainable Woodstock to work with a team of highly trained volunteers!

“At Sustainable Woodstock our mission is to inspire, educate and empower everyone to live environmentally, economically and socially responsible lives.”

www.sustainablewoodstock.org
programs@sustainablewoodstock.org
802-457-2911