

# Local Weatherization Guide

- 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 improve 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 upgrades for you and which improvements can you commit to now?
- 4. Determine how to finance the upgrades.** Review the "Financing" and different program pages to see what options you have.
- 5. Start Saving!** Efficiency upgrades on 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 to reduce how much fossil fuel we consume for heating. **If you need help, give us a call and we will help you figure out if you need to weatherize your home and give suggestions on how to make it possible.**

**We are also providing small grants of up to \$1,000 for folks in need of extra financial assistance. Contact Sustainable Woodstock to apply.**

## How Efficient is your Home?

**One way to find out how efficient your home is to calculate how much energy you use per square foot of your home. 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 it.

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.

Fuel Type	Annual Usage		BTU / unit		Total BTUs
Oil	_____Gals	X	138,200 BTUs/gal	=	
Propane	_____Gals	X	91,600 BTUs/gal	=	
Electricity	_____kWhs	X	3,412 BTUs/kWh	=	
Wood	_____Cords	X	22,000,000 BTUs/cord	=	
Wood pellets	_____Tons	X	16,000,000 BTUs/ton	=	
<b>Total BTUs used:</b>					

**Total BTUS \_\_\_\_\_ ÷ total sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \$2,100**, you must conduct an energy audit at the beginning and end of work completed. The energy audit must be performed by a certified, by Efficiency Vermont, Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor. These contractors are trained in an integrated whole-house approach that looks at your house as a system. The cost of this audit ranges from \$150 to \$800.

**AMF Ludlow, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-228-7627  
*Website:* <http://www.amiludlow.com>  
*Credential:* BPI Certified

**Build Basic Green W Lebanon, NH**  
*Phone:* 802-299-1946  
*Email:* [buildbasicgreen@gmail.com](mailto:buildbasicgreen@gmail.com)  
*Website:* [www.buildbasicgreen.com](http://www.buildbasicgreen.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* Do-It-Yourself, BPI

**Building Energy White River Junction, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-359-7550  
*Email:* [bmellen@buildingenergyus.com](mailto:bmellen@buildingenergyus.com),  
*Website:* [www.buildingenergyvt.com](http://www.buildingenergyvt.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI, Envelope Shell Professional, Mitsubishi Diamond Contractor.

**Central Vermont Insulation Bethel, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-234-524  
*Credential:* BPI Certified

**EarthShare Construction Lebanon, NH**  
*Phone:* 802-356-5066 *Email:* [Ethan@earthshareconstruction.org](mailto:Ethan@earthshareconstruction.org)  
*Website:* [www.earthshareconstruction.com](http://www.earthshareconstruction.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI

**Neighborworks HEAT Squad Rutland, VT**  
*Phone:* 877-205-1147 *Website:* [www.heatsquad.org](http://www.heatsquad.org)  
*Credentials and Awards:* One-stop-shop for home energy efficiency from low-cost audits to objective Energy Advising to in-house financing

**Peach Tree Inc. Windsor, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-674-6005 *Website:* [www.nhvtcontractors.com](http://www.nhvtcontractors.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI

**Shaping Energies LLC Rutland, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-266-0999 *Email:* [tom@shapingenergies.com](mailto:tom@shapingenergies.com)  
*Website:* [www.shapingenergies.com](http://www.shapingenergies.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI Certified

**Snowdog Construction Norwich, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-649-3605 *Email:* [michael@snowdogvermont.com](mailto:michael@snowdogvermont.com),  
*Website:* [www.snowdogvermont.com/](http://www.snowdogvermont.com/)  
*Credentials and Awards:* Do-It-Yourself, zero energy retrofit certified, do simple weatherization measures to deep energy retrofits

**Upper Valley Energy Savings, LLC W Lebanon, NH**  
*Phone:* 603-359-9089 *Email:* [rickbauer123@gmail.com](mailto:rickbauer123@gmail.com)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI

**Van De Ven Construction LLC Hartland, VT**  
*Phone:* 802-436-5542 *Email:* [vandevenconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:vandevenconstruction@yahoo.com)  
*Website:* [www.vandevenconstruction.com/](http://www.vandevenconstruction.com/)  
*Credentials and Awards:* BPI, detailed report with line item pricing of the Efficiency Vermont energy model; will file all paperwork.

**A full list of auditors is available on the Efficiency VT website.**

<https://www.encyvermont.com>

\*BPI= Building Performance Institute

## 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. Receive \$100 towards an audit and up to \$2,000 in rebates for work completed!**

### Why do it:

- Lower energy bills
- Be more comfortable in your home
- Make responsible improvements for our future
- Earn up to \$2,000 in incentives

### Eligibility Requirements:

Homeowners must be able to reduce the air flow of their home by 10% to be eligible for incentives. Review **Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® 2016 Incentives** sheet to see what specific work is eligible for financial incentives.

### Contact information:

**Call Efficiency Vermont and schedule a home energy assessment of your home.**

**1-888-921-5990**

<https://www.encyencyvermont.com>



## Mobile Home Replacement Program

**Replace your mobile home or downsize to an affordable, comfortable, and healthy 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:

- Enjoy lower monthly costs (mortgage and energy costs combined) than with a traditional mobile/manufactured home
- Better air quality, lighting, insulation, and temp., and noise control
- Built in Vermont: long-lasting construction for extreme weather
- Incentives are available to cover the cost of removing an old mobile/manufactured home

### Eligibility requirements:

All prospective homebuyers are encouraged to work with Efficiency Vermont to learn more about 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.encyencyvermont.com/zeroenergy>

**Efficiency Vermont**

## 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~ Weatherization reduces the nation's dependence on foreign oil imports and helps with the nation's energy security ~For every \$1 invested in the weatherization program, \$1.65 in energy-related benefits are returned~ Fosters a more healthy environment!

### Eligibility Requirements:

Limits for gross household income in 2016 for Windsor:

Household Size	Annual Income	Household Size	
1	\$30,420	5	\$46,860
2	\$34,740	6	\$50,340
3	\$39,060	7	\$53,820
4	\$43,380	8	\$57,300

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

### Contact information:

[www.sevca.org/weatherization](http://www.sevca.org/weatherization)

Email [ajarrin@sevca.org](mailto:ajarrin@sevca.org) or [nstoddard@sevca.org](mailto:nstoddard@sevca.org),  
or call (802) 722-4575



## 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.

### Why do it:

~Reduce heating bills~ Increased comfort ~Make needed repairs to your house ~Reduce carbon footprint~ Improved health

### Eligibility Requirements:

Windows and doors that are drafty	Materials cost on a sliding scale dependent on ability to pay
Home owners involved to the best of their abilities	Need of assistance based on income or physical ability
45 minutes from COVER	Volunteer suitable

Household	Monthly	Household	Monthly
1	\$1,765	5	\$4,261
2	\$2,389	6	\$4,885
3	\$3,013	7	\$5,509
4	\$3,637	8	\$6,133

Apply online at [www.coverhomerepair.org/](http://www.coverhomerepair.org/) OR

Print and mail in COVER Home Repair Application

158 South Main Street White River Junction, VT 05001

### Contact information:

Gail Guernsey,  
COVER Homeowner Coordinator  
[gailg@coverhomerepair.org](mailto:gailg@coverhomerepair.org)  
(802) 296-7241 ext.105  
<http://www.coverhomerepair.org/>



## Need help with financing?

### Home Repair Program

The Home Repair Program through the Windham & Windsor Housing Trust 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/>

### The 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/>

### Heat Saver Loan

The Heat Saver Loan, available throughout the State of Vermont, is a fast, easy, and flexible way to finance thermal home energy improvements. Visit the Heat Saver Loan website to check eligibility requirements and get started.

<http://heatsaverloan.vermont.gov/>

### Sustainable Woodstock Grant

Additional small grants of up to \$1,000 are available for weatherization projects for qualified households from Sustainable Woodstock.

Contact us to apply.

[www.sustainablewoodstock.org](http://www.sustainablewoodstock.org)

***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 the CEP. 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](http://www.sustainablewoodstock.org)  
[Zach@sustainablewoodstock.org](mailto:Zach@sustainablewoodstock.org)  
802-457-2911