

April 15, 2025 House Energy & Digital Technology

Efficiency Vermont's weatherization programs

Peter Walke, Managing Director
Juliana Bortz, Program Manager



Weatherization: what it is &
why we care about it

Program History

Program Overview

Supporting Customers

Results

Ongoing Customer Challenges

Growing the contractor base

Agenda

Weatherization: what it is & why we care about it



“My home is drafty and cold all winter. My heating bills are really high, too. What should I do?”



Understanding weatherization



Insulation

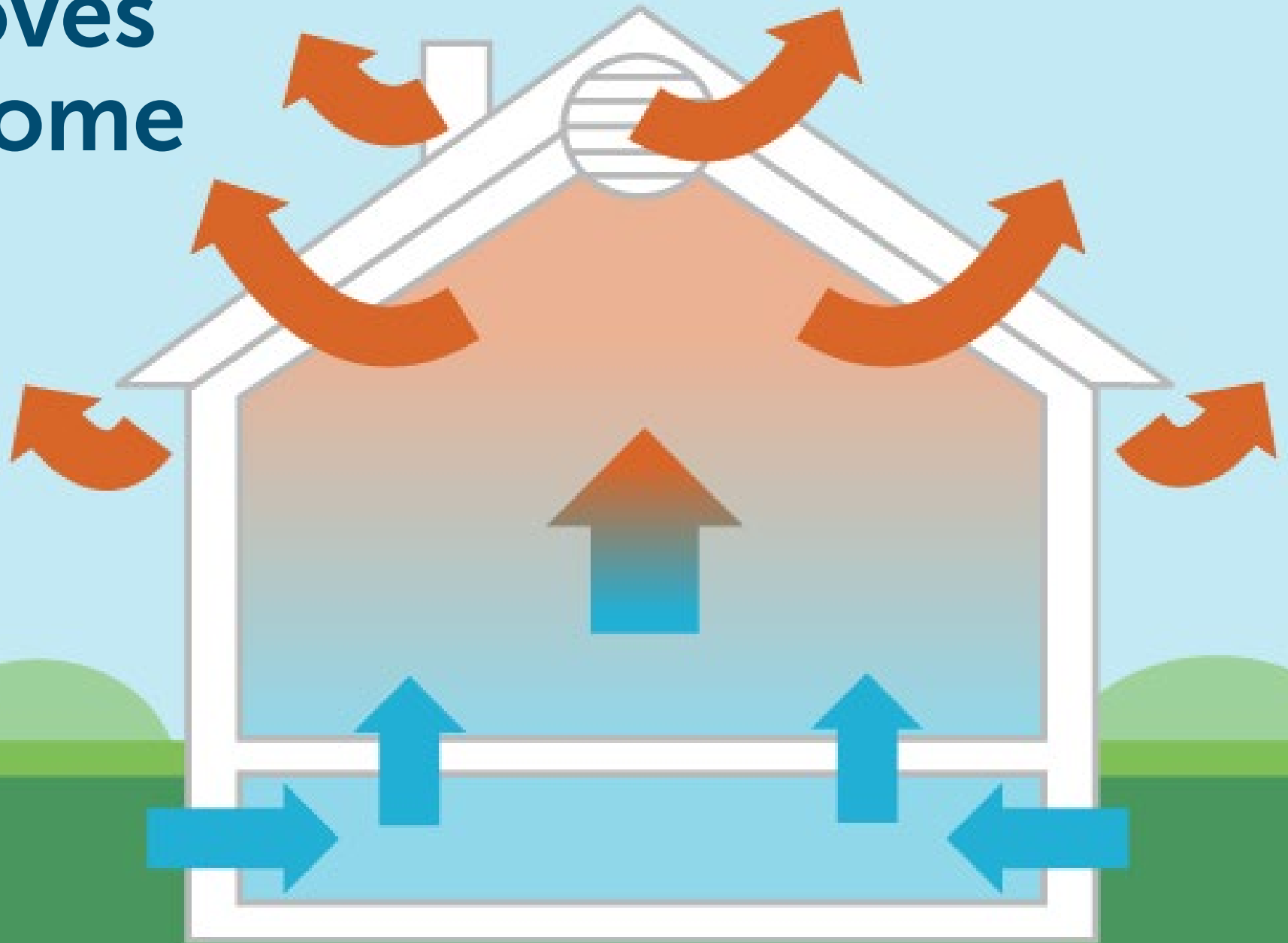
Air Sealing

Comfort & Savings!

How air moves through a home

■ Warm Air

■ Cool Air



How homes benefit from weatherization



Saves money



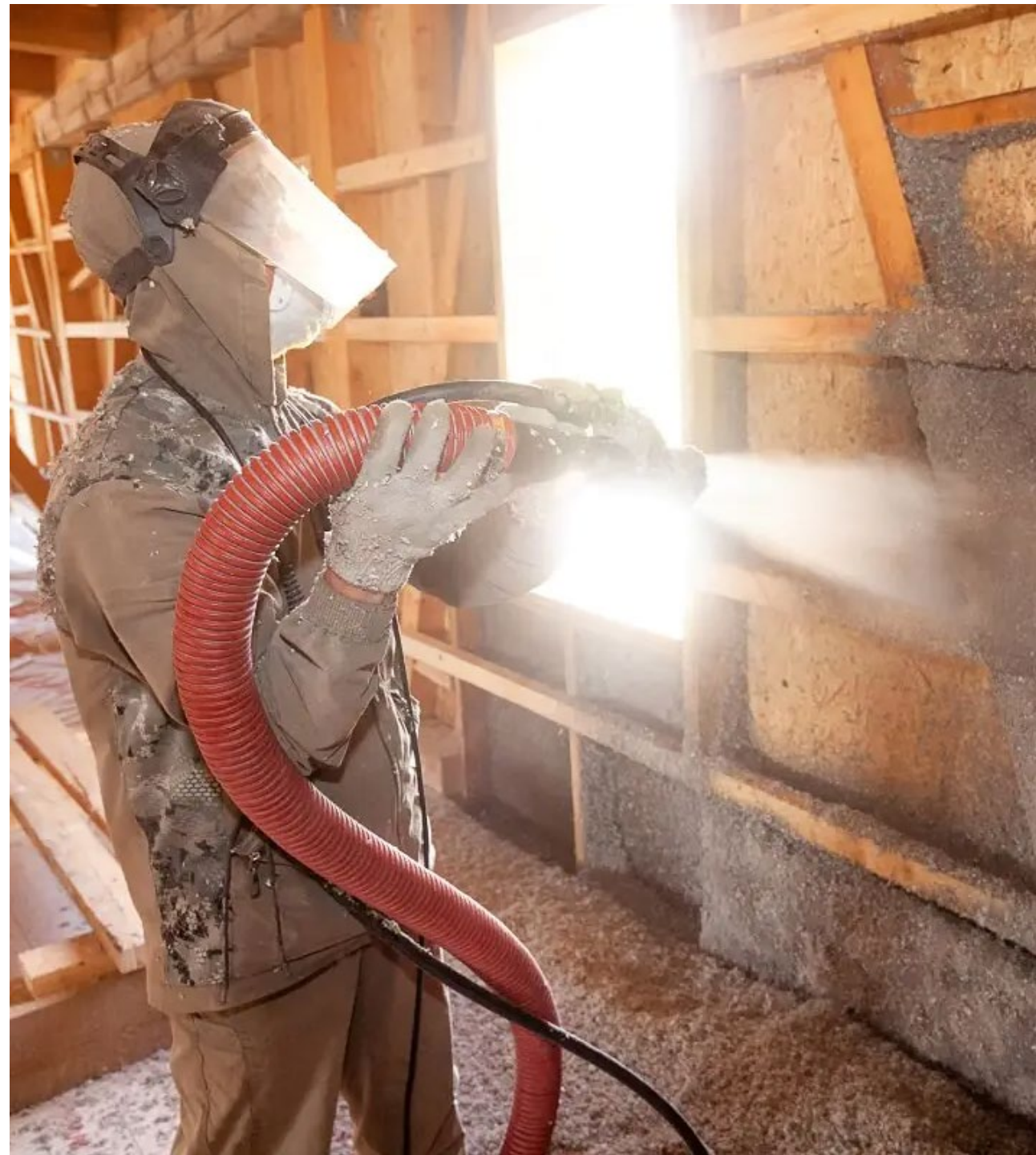
Saves energy



Increases comfort



Reduces emissions



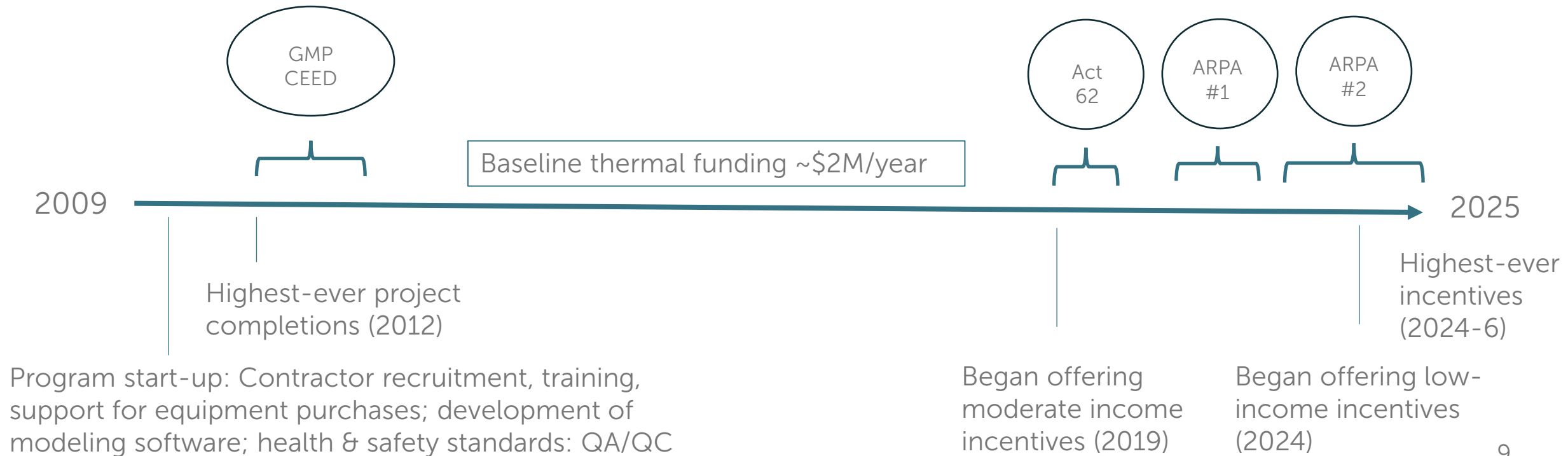
Efficiency Vermont weatherization program history

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Program Timeline

Building a market - and workforce - for weatherization



Program Overview



Our Home Performance with ENERGY STAR rebate

The rebate:

- Low-income households: 90% of project costs back, up to \$9,500
- Moderate-income households: 75% of costs back, up to \$9,500
- Higher income households: 75% of cost back, up to \$4,000

Connecting with a Contractor

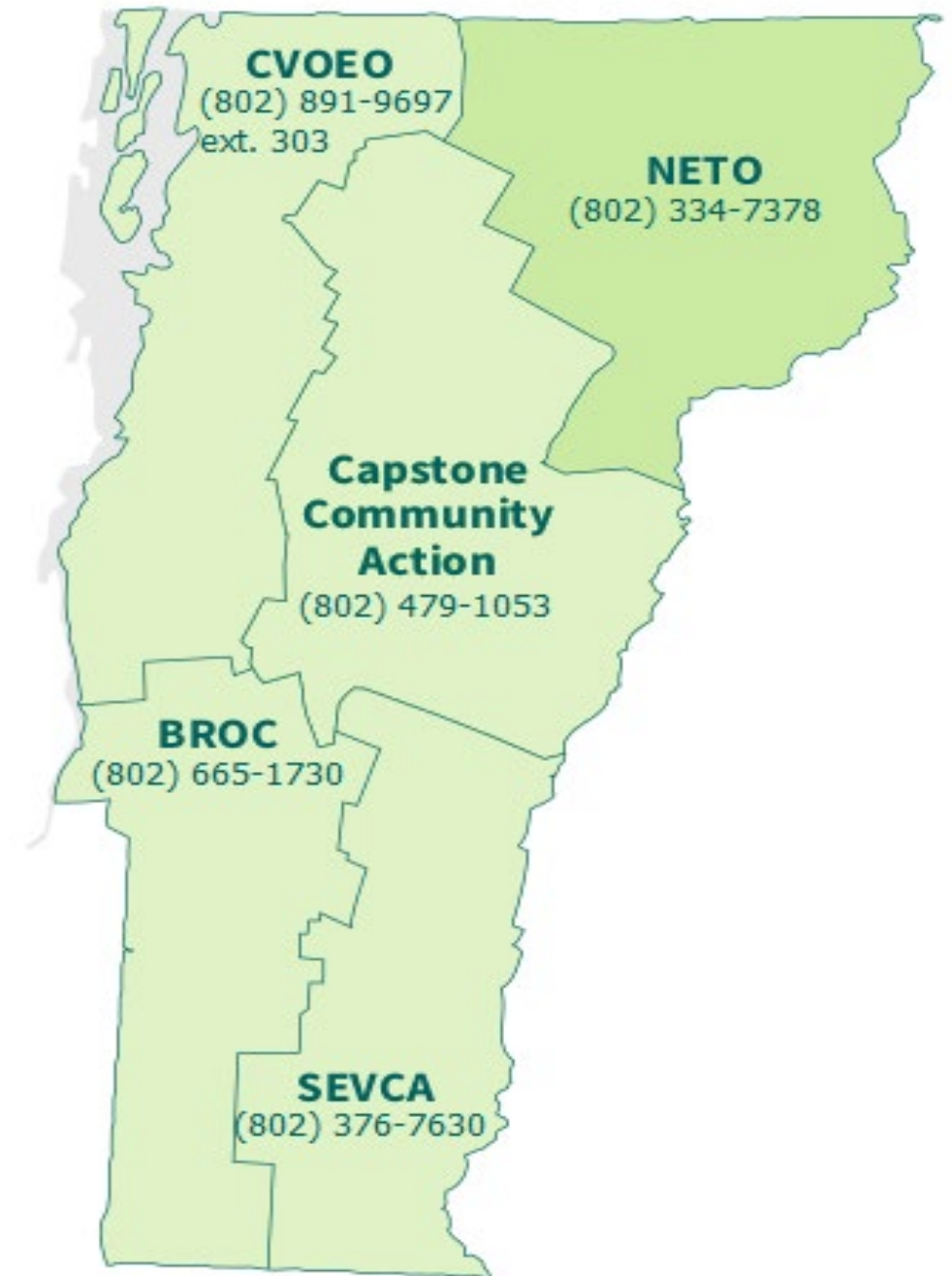
- **Efficiency Excellence Network contractors** are specially certified for exclusive access to Home Performance rebates
- These contractors are listed on the searchable **"Find a Pro" tool** on our website



Helping low-income households access free weatherization

Partnering with the state's 5 WAPs (Weatherization Assistance Programs)

- WAPs offer free services for eligible low-income households (including manufactured homes)
- Longstanding partnership with 3E Thermal to allow them to go deeper with weatherization
- Customers connect to their local Community Action Agency and associated WAP
- EVT further supports WAP customers with rebates & programs to help reduce energy use





Supporting Customers

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Customers can start with a free Virtual Home Energy visit

- Free 90-minute virtual tour of a home with an Efficiency Vermont Energy Consultant
- A 1:1 video conversation to understand a home's needs & customer goals
- Offers guidance on specific areas for improvement
- Customers receive a personalized list of next steps

Removing barriers to weatherization

Our Home Repair program enabled weatherization in homes that otherwise wouldn't have been able to weatherize

- Launched Oct. 1, 2024 for low- and moderate-income households
 - \$2.25M in ARPA funding
- Offered up to \$15,000 per household for home repairs deemed necessary to move forward with a weatherization project
 - Eligible repairs: roofs, plumbing, foundations, asbestos/vermiculite/mold remediation & more
- EVT Funds fully allocated as of April 2025
 - Funding still available to support WAPs



Financing weatherization projects

Home Energy Loan

- 0% interest financing for low- or moderate-income households
- Low financing for other income levels on terms up to 15 years
- Finance 100% of a project, up to \$25,000

Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)

- VT Housing Finance Agency partnership
- Also called “on-bill financing”
- No credit check required
- Pays for a weatherization project through a monthly charge on a customer’s utility bill

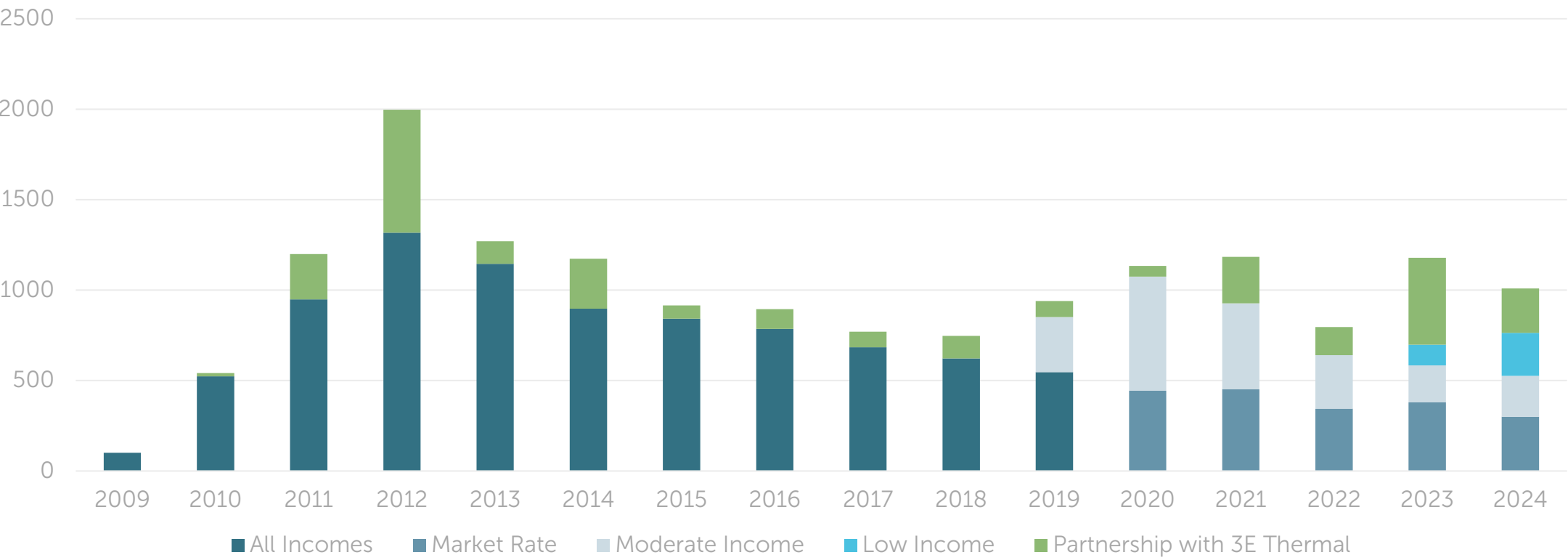


Results



Annual Housing Units Served

By income



- Ongoing need for costly home repairs before weatherization can take place
- Upfront cost barriers
- Manufactured/mobile homes face unique barriers to weatherization
- Geographic equity

Ongoing Customer Challenges

Growing the Contractor base

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(Re)building the workforce

Recruit more contractors who can sustain & grow their Wx businesses

Strategy

Motivate adjacent trades businesses to expand into weatherization

Encourage current EEN contractors to expand their capacity

Support creation of the Wx Workforce Training Center, and ensure it is a strong resource for EEN contractors

69



HPwES contractor EEN membership trend since 2020

52

Overview

Encourage new entrants to join the EEN/HPwES network & current members to take on more projects.

Provide direct (technical and financial) support to contractors in expanding their businesses to serve more customers.

Ongoing partnership with VT Sustainable Jobs Fund “Tools of the Trade” contractor business training program.

Wrote business plan and RFP for OEO & pledged financial support to the center.

Will serve as a longstanding sponsor of the center, ensuring it is structured to meet the unique recruitment, training, and placement needs of private contractors; help build long term stability.

Questions?

Peter Walke

Managing Director

E pwalke@efficiencyvermont.com

D (802) 540-7710

Juliana Bortz

Program Manager

E jbortz@efficiencyvermont.com

D (802) 540-7889

20 Winooski Falls Way, 5th Floor

Winooski, VT 05404

efficiencyvermont.com

