

New Initiatives

Lead Safe Weatherization: Pollution Occurrence Insurance Requirement

The authorizing legislation for WAP does not specifically address lead-based paint hazard reduction. However, in providing Weatherization services, WAP is required to implement Lead Safe Weatherization – a series of protocols and procedures to ensure that lead paint that has to be disturbed because of Weatherization does not harm clients and crews when working in “targeted housing.” Grantees, as part of their state plan, assure the agencies have “adequate liability coverage.”

The DOE Final Rule 10 CFR Part 440, Allowable expenditures, Section 440.18 (10), “includes the cost of liability insurance for Weatherization projects for personal injury and for property damage as an allowable program expenditure.” Weatherization Program Notice 08-1, Program Year 2008 Weatherization Grant Guidance, Section 2.6 reminds states and local agencies:

“...Pollution Occurrence Insurance (POI) is part of, or an addendum to, general liability insurance, and therefore charged on the liability insurance line item. Local agencies shall review their existing policies to ensure that they have adequate coverage”.

DOE interprets POI coverage as a means of protecting local agencies against litigation arising from energy-related activities that disturb lead-based paint in client’s homes. This insurance can be purchased by either the state, local agency, or private contractor.

By 2010, DOE will align the Weatherization LSW practices with EPA’s Lead; Renovation, Repair, and Painting Program Final Rule, published in the Federal Register April 22, 2008. Specifically, no where in this rule does EPA require contractors/renovators to carry POI and states have asked WAP management to seek input from DOE’s General Counsel on whether it is prudent for the Program to lift this requirement.

1. Is POI coverage necessary and at what level is the coverage required (Local Agency, State or DOE), since to our knowledge, there have been no known claims with this insurance?
2. Does DOE have the authority to require POI coverage for Weatherization activities?
3. Is the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Program required to provide POI coverage for low-income persons; if so, how are program funds allocated to comply with this requirement?

Headquarters expects to clarify the need for POI in PY 2009.



HUD estimates within the national housing inventory, twenty-six million homes have significant lead-based paint hazards.



American Territories to Become Weatherization Program Grantees

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Section 411(c), adds Puerto Rico and the territories and possessions of the U.S. to the definition of “state” for the purpose of the Weatherization Assistance Program. DOE will be proposing that beginning with Program Year 2009, the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands will be added to the Program. A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to expand the definition of “state” to include the territories and to amend the financial assistance allocation procedure to reflect the expanded definition is being developed for issuance.

The issues in adding the American territories to the Program are:

- Establishing and training an effective delivery infrastructure, and
- Determining how to allocate Weatherization grants in a way that is equitable to the territories and the 51 existing grantees.

Some of the lessons learned in providing training to hot-climate states can be applied to the American territories to help them attain technical proficiency more quickly. However, the remote location of the territories and size of anticipated grants will present challenges in applying a training model that has emphasized hands-on instruction on local housing stock. On-line presentations featuring illustrative photographs and videos will likely be used to minimize or eliminate trainer travel costs while approaching an on-the-job training environment.

One of the major issues in applying the allocation formula to the territories is that data used by the allocation formula to estimate the financial burden that energy costs place on low-income households does not exist for the territories. The five territories are all in hot climates with virtually no heating load. They are all islands. The main fuel type used in low-income households in the territories is electricity, which is expensive due to their island locale. One state with a Weatherization Program shares these characteristics with the territories – Hawaii. Therefore, DOE expects to look to data for Hawaii (that is unavailable for the territories) in computing allocations for the new Weatherization Program grantees.

National Evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program

Implementation of the national evaluation has been suspended by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. States and local agencies will be notified of the implementation schedule and their responsibilities under it by Program Notice if and when the Department determines to proceed with evaluation activity.

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy has commissioned a strategic evaluation of the program to assess a variety of program structures and options for program development. Some state and local agencies may be contacted by the contractor hired by the Office to conduct the assessment to gather facts and opinions from members of the network and cooperation in this effort is requested of contacted parties.

DOE will continue to encourage states to proceed with individual state evaluations. We do ask that each State undertaking such an evaluation coordinate its plans with DOE so that we may share this information to gain the maximum results from our Program. Technical assistance is available to states through DOE to help with the design and analysis plans for state evaluation studies. DOE published the report, “Estimating the National Effects of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program with State-Level Data: A Metaevaluation Using Studies From 1993 to 2005” and a “non-energy benefits study.” The individual evaluations conducted by the states were critical to these efforts. Both of these documents can be accessed on the ORNL Web site.

Whole-House Weatherization Training for Hot-Climate States

Applying Lessons Learned to the American Territories and Native Americans

The Hot Climate Initiative is a cooperative effort undertaken by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Weatherization network to improve the performance of the Program in the nation’s hot-climate zones where estimated energy savings have been below the national average. Intensive, hands-on training in Weatherization best practices was piloted in Mississippi in 2002 and 2003 and then expanded to North Carolina (2003), Tennessee (2004), Alabama (2004), Georgia (2005), South Carolina (2006), and Florida (2006). In 2006 and 2007, several states received follow-on training targeting high-potential local agency staff and emphasizing specialized technical topics. In Fall and Winter of 2008, Louisiana will be introduced to this comprehensive, whole-house Weatherization training that has been continually updated and improved over the past six years.

The proven “on-the-job” whole-house Weatherization training approach used in the Southeastern U.S. should be effective in training tribal organizations seeking to take a more active role in providing Weatherization services to low-income Native Americans. The remote location of the territories and limited anticipated grants will present challenges in applying a training model that has emphasized hands-on instruction on local housing stock.

Providing Technical Training to Native American Tribal Organizations

Providing effective Weatherization services to low-income Native Americans is challenging for many reasons. The remote, rural location of many eligible Native American homes increases travel and labor costs, and can strain the ability of coordinators to find and train crews. Yet, interest in Weatherization is growing within the Tribal network.

DOE's Annual Operating Plan process funds a number of regional training and technical assistance (T&TA) projects each year. One such project provided a technical workshop last year by Montana State University (MSU) on Weatherization Training for Tribes. Based on its success, MSU was requested to conduct another workshop. The second workshop targeted Weatherization for Native American Tribes in the Northern and Central Plains region. The training was tailored to specific tribal needs. Different approaches to structuring tribal Weatherization programs were outlined for tribes with no existing program. The technical elements required for effectively weatherizing homes were also covered. For tribes with existing Weatherization programs, the training included a comprehensive review of Weatherization strategies and equipment as an introduction for new crew staff and a refresher for existing coordinators, monitors, and crews. Prior to the word getting out on the regional Weatherization Web site (www.weatherization.org), there were 23 individuals from 14 separate Tribes signed up from North Carolina to California.

Approaches are currently being considered to provide hands-on technical training and how to best use the lessons learned from the whole-house Weatherization training for hot-climate states in this very different environment. Hosted by Weatherization staff serving the Navajo Nation and the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona, technical staff from Simonson Management Services (SMS), support contractors to the Weatherization Program, and staff from the Project Management Center toured tribal lands in central and northeastern Arizona to learn the current state of tribal Weatherization. Training delivery options for technical hands-on Weatherization training are being developed.

Between workshops and on-site technical training, the goal is to develop a standardized curriculum and training resources that will raise the level of Weatherization services delivered by existing coordinators and crews. The long-term goal is that these activities will attract more Native Americans into the Weatherization network in order to expand the capacity and reach of the Program on tribal lands.

Weatherization is GREEN

Weatherization, the nation's premier residential home renovation program is also the nation's most cohesive residential "green" program. Weatherization has been a pioneer in modernizing the building industry's skills in providing energy efficient upgrades. No program in America is having the daily impact that Weatherization has in reducing the carbon footprint of the nation's housing.

- Reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1.79 tons for every house weatherized
- Reduces power plant emissions and improves air quality
- Reduces fine particulate matter in the air we breathe
- Reduces dependence on imported oil
- Reduces energy consumption equivalent to 18 million barrels of oil per year

WAP National Results: New FY 2008 Department of Energy data

- The average first-year bill savings based on the current DOE price estimates in current dollars is now \$413. (PER YEAR)
- The estimated average energy benefit in real dollars over the life of the measures is \$5,274.
- The estimated average cost per unit in 2006 dollars is \$3,204 from all sources.
- The benefit/cost ratio (FOR ENERGY SAVINGS ONLY) is 1.65.

Weatherization's Advanced Technical Approach

Weatherization techniques and diagnostic applications are the foundation of the green building movement in America. Crews use advanced technologies and new building science findings to address the whole system of energy production and movement in the house.

Weatherization trains technicians in skills conventional builders never used before. We have been developing the "green collar" building efficiency workforce for ten years before the term was invented. Technologies taught and perfected by our workforce includes:

1. Diagnostic Tools:

- Blower door test identifies air leakage
- Infrared Camera - Illustrates heat loss
- Pressure Pan and Manometer test air flow and pressures. Leaky ducts waste 10-30%.
- Combustion Analyzer - Tests composition of heating system flue gases for efficiency and safety
- Draft Test "Backdrafting" that can draw toxins into home,
- Natural Gas Leak Detector

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America.

Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.



U.S. Department of Energy
Energy Efficiency
and Renewable Energy

For more information contact:

EERE Information Center
1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)
www.eere.energy.gov

2. Investment analysis
 - Advanced audit software estimates potential energy savings & provides list of cost-effective measures
3. Installing Measures:
 - Installing insulation, emphasis on sidewall insulation by trained specialists;
 - Sealing ducts;
 - Tuning and repairing heating and cooling systems;
 - Mitigating air infiltration; and
 - Reducing electric base load consumption.

Weatherization's Use of Green Products

By incorporating “green” and environmentally friendly products into our program, we further the impact of Weatherization’s influence and impact. The following are common materials used on a daily basis by Weatherization programs.

- Bio-based/Green Roof Coating
- Bio-based Foam Insulation
- Recycled Fiberglass Insulation
- Cotton Insulation
- Cellulose Insulation
- Caulk
- Recycled Paint
- Bio-based Wood Sealers
- ENERGY STAR ® Appliances
- FSC Certified Lumber
- Compact Fluorescent Lights

With Weatherization, it is easy being GREEN!

Weatherization Day Activities

Weatherization Day, October 30th, was conceived as a means to focus local, state, and national attention on the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the work being performed by dedicated members of the WAP network.

Capitalizing on the Department of Energy’s (DOE) declaration of October as Energy Awareness Month, Weatherization Programs across the country band together to make a strategic push to raise the public’s awareness of the work we do every day.

The importance of Weatherization Day cannot be over emphasized. In 2007, many states participated in activities throughout the month of October to highlight the accomplishments of the Program and to promote that Weatherization Works! Below is a table that outlines activities that included media coverage, site demonstrations, Governor Proclamations, and other activities. * Represents activities reported to the National Association for State Community Service Programs (NASCS), as of November 2007.

State	Media Coverage	Site Demo	Proclamations	Other
Alabama	*			
Alaska	*			
Arkansas	*	*	*	
California	*		*	
Connecticut		*		
Florida	*	*	*	*
Georgia	*	*	*	
Idaho			*	*
Illinois	*	*		*
Indiana		*	*	
Iowa				*
Kansas	*	*	*	
Maine				*
Massachusetts				*
Michigan	*		*	
New Mexico				
North Carolina	*		*	*
Ohio		*	*	
Oklahoma	*	*	*	
Oregon				*
Pennsylvania			*	
Rhode Island	*	*		
South Carolina			*	
Tennessee	*	*	*	
Texas	*	*	*	*
Virginia	*			*
Washington	*			*
West Virginia	*	*	*	*
Wyoming				*

‘Other’ Weatherization Day Activities:

- Energy Fair Booths
- Recognition Luncheons and Receptions
- CFL Giveaways
- Extreme Energy Makeovers
- One-day Energy Savings Blitz
- Workshops
- PIC Promotional Materials
- Energy Tax Holiday
- Carbon Reduction Campaign