

The Garden State Flourishes with Weatherization

New Jersey was nicknamed the “Garden State” in the 1800s in recognition of its fertile soil and agrarian economy. Today, it is among the most urbanized, densely populated, and industrialized states in the nation. Ninety percent of New Jersey’s population lives in an urban area. Fulfilling the energy needs of this highly concentrated population poses unique challenges. Low-income households in particular are vulnerable to volatile changes in energy markets. New Jersey’s partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization) reduces the energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy-efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

Low-income households typically spend 14% of their annual income on energy, compared with 3.5% for other households. This burden becomes more pronounced when energy prices spike. Low-income families often have to cut back on other necessities to pay their energy bills. Weatherization reduces home energy consumption, which provides a permanent boost to the household’s budget.

CHISELING DEEP FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Chiseling is a technique of working deeply into the subsoil with a chisel plow to break compaction. The Weatherization Program strives to achieve the highest energy efficiency standards for homes, while breaking the cycle of dependence on foreign oil. The bulk of New Jersey’s energy consumption is comprised of petroleum and natural gas. The state ranks 12th in the nation in overall energy consumption.

New Jersey’s Department of Community Affairs (DCA) bridges the gap between energy conservation and consumption. The DCA’s Office of Low-Income Energy Conservation administers the state’s Weatherization Program and 20 local agencies deliver weatherization services to eligible residents in every county.

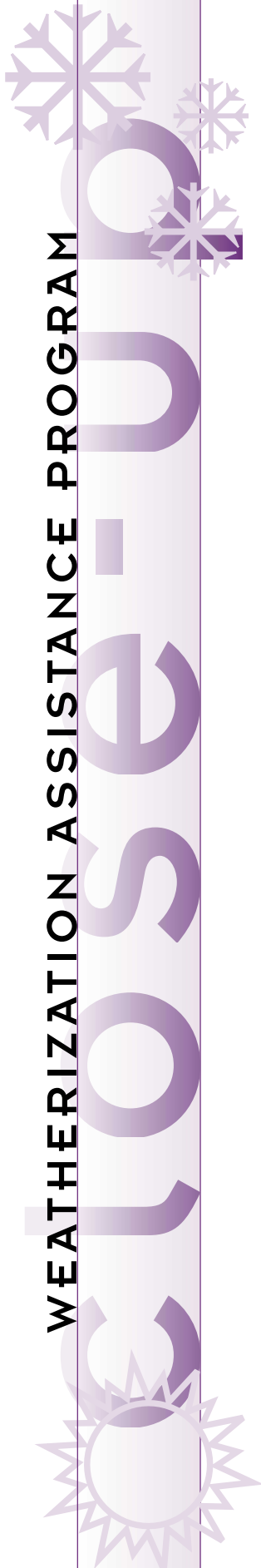
NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Homes weatherized in 1999	68,000
DOE allocations in 1999	\$135 million
Average annual energy cost savings per household	\$300
Average space heating savings	25-30%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested	\$2.10
Jobs supported	7,000

NEW JERSEY

Homes weatherized in 1999 (with DOE \$)	827
DOE funding in 1999	\$3.1 million
Clients served in 1999	2,049
Elderly	16%
People with disabilities	5%
Families with children	10%

Since the inception of the program in 1977, New Jersey has weatherized more than 125,100 low-income dwellings and has provided assistance to more than 309,200 residents. New Jersey has repaired or replaced 13,514 heating systems for low-income clients who otherwise would have no safe means of obtaining heat throughout the winter.



PROFESSIONAL SERVICE HELPS

WEATHERIZATION BLOOM

New Jersey prides itself on the professionalism and courtesy of its workforce. Professionally trained weatherization crews use computerized energy audits and advanced diagnostic equipment, such as the blower door, to determine the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures appropriate for each home. Typical weatherization services for single-family and mobile homes include installing insulation; sealing ducts; tuning and repairing furnaces; and mitigating heat loss through windows, doors, and other infiltration points. Clients are also educated on proper use and maintenance of installed measures.

The County of Passaic

Weatherization Assistance Program provided services to a disabled homeowner, who greatly appreciated the caring, polite, and professional nature of the weatherization workers. "The Manager was very helpful in filling out the forms for the program... The gentlemen that came in to do the work were courteous and efficient."

HARVESTING THE BENEFITS

Weatherization measures create benefits for the entire community. Marilyn Howser* received weatherization services, which improved her financial situation during very trying times. "Since losing my last full-time, permanent job almost two years ago, I have struggled to make ends meet and keep my home. Your efforts will be of great help in that endeavor, not only in terms of weatherization improvements but also in terms of cost savings."



Weatherization crew installs insulation in the attic of a New Jersey home.

Up to 80% of the money spent on energy in low-income communities immediately leaves the area. By reducing energy bills for low-income families, Weatherization reduces the export of energy dollars. Keeping money in the community spurs local economic growth and creates additional jobs.

Reducing residential energy demand decreases electricity generation and avoids emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, and other pollutants. This improves local air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma. Weatherization measures also mitigate residential and power plant emissions of greenhouse gases. Weatherization reduces annual carbon dioxide emissions by an average of one metric ton per weatherized home or one-third the emissions of an average automobile. Weatherization

advances New Jersey's goal to keep the Garden State blooming.

WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Weatherization is an important ally in New Jersey's efforts to become more energy-efficient and to alleviate environmental pollution. Weatherization produces an impressive range of benefits for low-income households and communities. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.10 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization measures reduce national energy consumption and dampen demand for imported oil. Weatherization works for New Jersey and America!

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the subjects.*



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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Visit the Weatherization Web site at: www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance
or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732



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