Do-It-Yourself Home Energy Efficiency Pilot Project

2011 Behavior, Energy, and Climate Change Conference

Prepared by Paul Markowitz
Goal of DIY Program

• Ensure interested homeowners received the training and guidance they needed to achieve meaningful energy savings in their homes

• Implemented by Central Vermont Community Action Council, in partnership with Efficiency Vermont

Image courtesy of US EPA
Why DIY?

Huge untapped demand!

• 25% of Vermonters said they were very interested in working under the guidance of a certified professional to make significant energy efficiency improvements to their homes – another 28% -- somewhat interested.
DIY Participants Receive

- Professional energy audit and detailed audit report
- Mid-term inspection after air sealing
- Final inspection by auditor after completion of work
- Direct technical assistance from auditor
- Encouraged to attend a day-long “Weatherization Skillshop”
Roles

Central Vermont Community Action Council (CVCAC)

• Coordinated program
• Presented Weatherization Skillshops
• Developed model documents
• Coached and supported homeowners
• Enrolled and trained auditors
Roles

- **Auditors** - conducted energy audits and prepared reports, conducted mid-way inspections and final test-out, reported results to Efficiency Vermont

- **Efficiency Vermont** - provided financial incentives and tracked savings

Photo courtesy of Efficiency Vermont
Quantitative Results

- 24 Vermont homeowners completed the process
- Participants achieved average energy savings of 39 MMBTUs -- compared to 40 MMBTUs for standard Home Performance with ENERGY STAR jobs
Qualitative Results

- 82% of auditors said quality of work was high, while a similar number said that homeowners had the necessary skills and knowledge.
- 77% of participants said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the DIY program.
- CVCAC and EVT are continuing the program.
Thank You!

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