

Single-Family Weatherization Baseline Assessment, Recommendations

Weatherization Standard

Multifamily: CL&P agrees that the recommendation that the Energy Efficiency Board (EEB) develop a weatherization standard for multifamily buildings. CL&P worked collaboratively with the EEB in the development of the current draft single family weatherization standard, and looks forward to focusing efforts on the development of a multifamily weatherization standard.

Basements: CL&P agrees that classifying basements as “conditioned” or “unconditioned” can be challenging. Moreover, there may be limited cost effective opportunities to insulate basements (either walls or ceilings). CL&P is interested in developing a streamlined rating process to determine weatherization qualification for homes (see “Streamlined Rating”, below). CL&P will work to develop flexibility into this tool to allow for the many types of basement configurations that exist while providing homeowners with various cost effective options.

Slabs: CL&P agrees that the slab insulation requirement should be removed from the current draft weatherization standard.

Draft Definition. CL&P agrees with the recommendation to review the current draft definition and revise it based on the study results (See “Streamlined Rating”, below).

Frame Floors. CL&P agrees with this recommendation and believes that the final definition of weatherization should address all frame floor locations. Note that basement insulation became a qualifying measure in HES and HES-IE in 2014.

Program Opportunities

Targeting. CL&P agrees that the program should target non-electrically heated homes built prior to 1980. Note that CL&P is currently performing a segmentation analysis which will rate homes based on energy savings potential as well as other demographic characteristics. The results of this study will be incorporated into that effort. CL&P has requested that working files associated with this study be provided, as they may provide additional information that can be used in this effort.

Insulation. CL&P will work with HES vendors to ensure that they are discussing wall insulation upgrades and options with homeowners. In addition, CL&P will review current incentive and financing options to help induce insulation upgrades.

Air Infiltration. CL&P agrees that the HES program should continue to focus on air infiltration reductions during the initial HES visit. In addition, CL&P will work with HES vendors and review current incentives and financing in an effort to continue to increase the number of insulation upgrades in the HES program.

Basement Insulation. CL&P agrees that the HES program should target more basement insulation opportunities. In 2014, basement insulation (for both walls and ceilings) was incorporated into the HES and HES-IE programs.

Infrared Cameras. CL&P agrees that infrared cameras can be used to identify opportunities. Many HES vendors recognize this and already use infrared cameras where feasible to help identify opportunities and maximize savings.

Asbestos and Vermiculite. The companies previously helped address these issues through the Healthy Homes Initiative and will continue to work with other agencies to address this issue, and will pursue financing options for the removal of asbestos and vermiculite.

Streamlined Rating. CL&P agrees that the EEB should consider the pros and cons of various software options for assessing weatherization compliance. CL&P believes that is advisable to pursue the development of a streamlined rating process or a customized spreadsheet tool. The process/tool will incorporate the findings of this study, including but not limited to basements, slabs, and energy consumption of various components. In addition, it will consider cost effectiveness where feasible and may rely upon the results of the Phase II Potential Single Family Potential Study.

CL&P believes that in order to successfully build a robust yet rigorous model, it must have access to data and working files from this study that can be used in the development, testing and calibration of the model. As mentioned previously, this data can also be used in residential segmentation efforts that are currently underway. CL&P has requested this data but has yet to receive a response. CL&P would like to know whether it will be receiving this data, and if not, an explanation as to why this data will not be made available.