



Department of
Development

Office of Community Services (OCS)



OCS
Update

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10 Year Anniversary of the Residential Update

Submitted by Tim Lenahan, OCS Staff

This edition of the Residential Update marks the 10-year anniversary of our publication. It has been our pleasure to communicate to our network through the Update, and hard to believe that ten years have passed.

Many changes to the office have occurred over the last ten years, while other aspects of the Residential Unit have stayed the same. Staff have come and gone, but the core mission has remained. As we look back, we can see that the focus to provide the best service possible to low-income households has also remained.

A recent change has been the shifting of the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP), Electric Partnership Program (EPP), and staff from the Ohio Energy Office to the Office of Community Services (OCS). With this change comes a change in the Residential Update. To reflect the broader scope of the programs managed by the OCS, the name has recently been changed to the OCS Update.

During the past ten years, the office has developed and implemented the Electric Partnership Program, as well as continued to improve the HWAP. We have conducted evaluations of both programs with positive results. The EPP received an American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) award as an exemplary utility-funded program.

Numerous weatherization demonstrations have occurred across the state to highlight the good work that is delivered every day. Many of those demonstrations were featured in the Residential Update. We would like to thank all of the agencies that took the time and made the effort to host a weatherization demonstration. Looking at the way the new administration views the weatherization program, these events planted the seeds that resulted in the support for the program.

One thing that has remained constant throughout this time is that the agencies have met their goals of serving low-income families. Not only in improving the energy efficiency of homes, but also to empower customers to take control of their energy use. We have seen significant improvements in the health and safety of the customers, and partnered with Healthy Homes and the REACH project to explore additional opportunities.

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During this timeframe, the state hosted three national Affordable Comfort Conferences and a Department of Energy Regional Conference. These events gave the network an opportunity to see and hear the latest in program design and implementation.

Past issues of the *Residential Update* have been posted on the OCS website. This will change going forward and only the critical articles will be accessible.

The next ten years will be exciting times for energy conservation programs. We hope that we can be there to tell you all about it and share your successes.

HWAP Appropriations

Submitted by Tim Lenahan, OCS Staff

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) network started this year with no funding allocated in the President's budget. This was clearly disappointing for supporters of the program. Since this was an election year, Congress didn't pass a budget bill and took the route of the now familiar Continuing Resolution (CR).

The CR changed everything. The CR included emergency funding for the HWAP in the amount of \$250 million. This was in addition to the normal base allocation, although that amount was not specified. The CR also included a significant boost in Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding. Since the Ohio program receives at least 15 percent of the LIHEAP allocation, the increase in both sources of funds created an immediate need to ramp-up the program to meet the resulting increase in customers served. The Office of Community Services was able to add an additional \$7 million to the Program Year 2008 grants to help with this effort. The increase in funding for Fiscal Year 2009 will be a challenge to meet.

As the economy worsens and energy prices remain a concern, the new administration is taking bold steps to jumpstart the economy. The program currently weatherizes about 130,000 homes per year. In Ohio, we could see our goals go from the projected 8,000 homes next year to 33,000 homes. No matter what the final number is, any significant funding from the Stimulus Bill will require major expansion of delivery capacity. This expansion will occur nationally, putting significant pressure on equipment and material manufacturers to meet the needs. Insulation machines, blower doors, combustion testers, and infrared cameras may be hard to get as the line forms. Another item that may be hard to get, or supply and demand may create price spikes, is cellulose. A shortage of cellulose would be a significant barrier to the million-home goal.

One aspect of the huge increase in funding is there is no commitment to maintain these levels beyond this one-time award. Hiring and training staff will test the system as agencies will be required to expand staff to deliver services, but may face layoffs in a couple of years if funding drops. The arguments between crews versus contractors will have to be reviewed again. Job creation is one of the goals of the Stimulus Bill and we will not meet our goals without additional workers. The best source of that labor will be the debate, but a job created is a job created.

The Ohio Weatherization Training Center has received increased funding to help meet the training needs. They will expand staff and create regional training hubs to bring training to workers. They are also working to change the training to reduce the necessary time to complete training.

The increase in units will force us to review our process and look for ways of completing homes quicker with no decrease in quality. It will be hard to change our ways. We can't lose our focus on the customer and continue our approach of doing no harm.

The bottom line is the Weatherization Program will finally be given a chance to show its stuff. The challenges will be great, but "we can't do it" is not an acceptable answer to the new administration. It will be up to all of us to work together to meet the expectations and prove we can deliver the goods.

Recent Questions from the Energy Coordinator Orientation

Submitted by Tom Andrews, OCS Staff

As you may already know, the Energy Coordinator Orientation was held on January 13-15, 2009 in Columbus. Here are a couple of items that came out of the recent Energy Coordinator / Manager Orientation that raised our interest. The first item was the result of a discussion on the HWAP/EPP Low Use Baseload component. Some of the attendees thought that they needed to look at the total electric consumption of the home, rather than just the non-heating and cooling usage.

An HWAP Customer (Mrs. Iam Cold) has electric consumption as follows:

Jan.	250 kWh	Feb.	250 kWh	Mar.	250 kWh	Apr.	250 kWh
May	250 kWh	Jun.	1000 kWh	Jul.	1000 kWh	Aug.	1000 kWh
Sept.	1000 kWh	Oct.	250 kWh	Nov.	250 kWh	Dec.	250 kWh

Take the two lowest usages for the shoulder months (Spring = March, April, May) (Fall = September, October, November) and add them together, then divide by two. You would get a baseload of 250 kWh per month. Multiply the monthly baseload by 12 to get the annual baseload usage, which in this case is 3,000 kWh. Even though the total electric consumption is 6,000 kWh, Mrs. Iam Cold is eligible for Low Use Baseload along with the HWAP service.

You may also use the on-line referral spreadsheet which can be found at <http://development.ohio.gov/hwapdata>. Use the drop down screen to pick your agency, then type in the password that your agency uses to input HWAP production information. Click on *Referrals Calculation and Reports*, then click on *Referrals Calculations* to access the input screen.

The second issue involved the Priority Points list developed by each agency. The Department of Energy recommends that a *Household with High Energy Use* can be part of the priority point calculation. But an attendee asked a very good question, "What is considered to be High Energy Use?"

One way, of course, is to determine the British Thermal Units per Square Footage of the home per Heating Degree Days (BTU/Sq.Ft./HDD). Many of you have seen this formula on the first page of the Data Collection Form. BUT, this does not help in prioritizing the home because an inspector has to go to the home before this calculation can be completed. Is there a method in which priority points can be determined based upon the information collected BEFORE the actual visit?

By setting a threshold for high energy usage (for example, let's say 900 ccf of natural gas), a conversion to British Thermal Units (BTUs) can be done and then all homes, with all types of fuel, can be viewed and determined if they exceed the high energy usage threshold.

Another quick example may be helpful. XYZ Agency has determined that a household with 900 ccf of natural gas is a High Energy User. Mr. R.U. There heats his home with fuel oil. What previous usage of fuel oil would Mr. There have used to qualify his household as a High Energy User? Well, there are approximately 100,000 BTUs of heat in every ccf (hundred cubic feet or therm) of natural gas. There are approximately 139,000 BTUs in every gallon of fuel oil. Therefore, the XYZ Agency has set as a threshold of 90 million BTUs as a High Energy User (100,000 BTUs times 900 ccf = 90,000,000). Divide 90 million BTUs by the BTU content of a gallon of fuel oil (90,000,000 / 139,000). This shows that Mr. R.U. There would have to use 647 gallons of fuel oil annually to be considered a *High Energy User*. Hopefully, if Mr. There had used that much fuel oil then HWAP can and will make a huge impact on his future usage in the home.

Further information regarding BTU content of different fuels can be found in Appendix 9 of the *Residential Energy* book written by John Krigger and Chris Dorsi.

American Electric Power Shelter Conservation Program

Submitted by Tim Lenahan, OCS Staff

Since the spring of 2007, the Community Development Division (CDD) has been working with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) to provide services to reduce the electric usage at shelters located in the American Electric Power (AEP) service area. AEP provided the funding for the work.

COHHIO conducted a survey of shelters to determine which ones desired assistance and had high enough electric usage to justify the work. The results of the survey showed that shelters are located in two distinct building types, ones that resemble residential structures and ones that would be defined as commercial buildings. Two different approaches were used to deal with them.

COHHIO contracted with Energy Information Systems that used Go Sustainable Energy to conduct assessments of the commercial style shelters. Although the AEP funds can only be used to reduce electric usage, the assessments looked at all energy uses to provide information to the shelters if other funding becomes available. The majority of these shelters have natural gas heat and hot water, so the focus for retrofits has been on lighting replacements, motor replacements on exhausting equipment, and upgrades to walk-in type freezers. COHHIO works with the shelter to hire contractors to perform the upgrades.

The CDD staff has helped with the assessments of the residential type buildings. There has been a mix of retrofits in these buildings because some of them do have electric heat and can therefore have shell retrofits completed, in addition to lighting and appliances. The work on these buildings is done by a local EPP or HWAP provider.

More than 20 shelters have been helped by the program. COHHIO will be looking for additional projects in the future. A few of the shelters already completed may also be targeted for the installation of solar thermal systems to supplement the electric hot water heaters. Staff will assist in the review of these projects before a solar installer is called out to the buildings. The program will end on June 30, 2009.

Program Year 2007 OVERALLS Results

Submitted by Dennis Biddle, OCS Staff

The statewide success rate average at meeting the Ohio Variable End Results Air Leakage Level Scale (OVERALLS) Target Reduction Goal continued to climb slightly for the first half of Program Year 2008, up to 76 percent. Thirty two providers met their Target Goal on at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of their homes; in Program Year 2002 only nine providers accomplished this. In Program Year 2002, 25 providers hit their target on at least half of their OVERALLS applicable homes. Now all but one has done it and they're knocking on the door. The following are the statewide OVERALLS rankings for the first six months of Program Year 2008:

Agency	Pass %
111G - Mt. Pleasant NOW	100%
111C - Cudell	100%
116 - Lancaster Fairfield	100%
137 - Clermont	100%
132 - Wayne Medina	100%
103 - SOURCES	94%
120 - LEADS	94%
1330 - Scioto	93%
108 - Clinton Clark	93%
111B - CHN	92%
142 - WSOS/Erie Huron	92%

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119 - HHWP	92%
105 - CLS	92%
129 - Stark	89%
144 - GLS / MRM	89%
121 - Lorain	89%
127 - PICCA	89%
139 - EANDC	88%
133R - Columbiana	86%
123 - MYCAP	86%
133E - GMN	86%
112D - Warren Co. Comm. Svcs.	85%
133I - Jackson Vinton	85%
133K - KnoHoCo	83%
138 - GLS	83%
111J - Fairfax	82%
122 - NHS Toledo	81%
133B - HAP CAP	81%
126 - WSOS	80%
133D - Gallia Meigs	79%
133C - Belmont	78%
114 - DMU	77%
130 - Summit	73%
133M - Pike	71%
133H - Ironton Lawrence	71%
109 - Cuyahoga	70%
117 - Fayette	69%
133G - Highland	69%
140 - MORPC	69%
133P - Washington Morgan	68%
134 - Miami	68%
111K - Detroit Shoreway	67%
133F - HarCaTus	66%
145 - IMPACT	66%
113 - NOCAC	65%
136 - Van Wert	63%
111D - Community Housing Solutions	62%
133J - Jefferson	62%
102 - Ashtabula	62%
112A - CAP Dayton	62%
131 - Trumbull	60%
133L - Muskingum	57%
133A - Adams Brown	55%
110 - Ohio Heartland	50%
133N - Ross	50%
107 - Cincinnati	39%
128 - Portage	NA
TOTAL	76%

Providers who continue to struggle meeting the expected 90 percent success rate should contact their OCS technical monitor and/or OWTC liaison for technical assistance. Providers who desire a detailed spreadsheet of their data should contact their OCS technical monitor.

Energy Savings for Couch Potatoes

Submitted by Tim Lenahan, OCS Staff

It seemed like the monthly energy bill had gained a few kWh lately, so it was time to break out the energy meter to see what was causing the problem. Recent articles on the power use of new TVs made it a good place to start. The TV in question was an LCD flat screen of a modest 32" screen, by today's standards.

A four-day monitoring period showed the following use: the TV was using 142 watts. Based on the metering, with our use, the estimated annual consumption was 479 kWh, which is as much as a new Energy Star refrigerator. With the other equipment, cable box, receiver, and DVD (off) the combined use was 338 watts or 771 kWh per year.

It was noticed that since the last time this group was metered, the stand-by power had dropped to 19 watts. The cable box is the only new component so some progress has been made there.

It used to be that the system used as much power while "off" as it did when it was on. That is no longer the case. So while advances have been made in reducing stand-by power consumption, usage while on is going up fast. LCDTVs usually use half as much as PLASMA sets and 32" is on the small end of the sizes being bought today.

What to do? All new TVs have an energy saving feature that is accessed through the menu screens. Here is what happened on this set: the energy savings feature has three settings; high, medium, and low. Remember, the set used 142 watts with the energy savings feature off. Set to the lowest energy savings setting, the power use dropped to 90 watts. With the energy drop, came a drop in the brightness of the screen. Each successive setting resulted in a darker image. On medium, use dropped to 66 watts. At the highest energy savings setting, use dropped to only 59 watts. The impressive energy reductions were unfortunately also followed with unacceptable reductions in the brightness of the screen. So it was back to the lowest energy savings setting and 90 watts. The reduction in brightness was acceptable considering a 50 watt reduction. So the next time you are out on an EPP or other baseload audit, you may find some significant energy savings at the end of the remote.

Latest OCS Staff Additions

Submitted by Susan Moser and Tim Lenahan, OCS Staff

On January 4, 2009, Michael Higgins joined the Outreach and Support Unit within the OCS as the Training Officer.

Mike previously worked for the Department of Job and Family Services where he served as a Training Officer since joining the State in July 2006. Prior to state employment, Mike worked in the private sector after he retired from the U. S. Army. Mike has worked at all levels of instructional and training development/implementation. Mike's expertise will be used to develop and provide training for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan, HEAP, and other programs.

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Michael Higgins, Training Officer



Mike Moyer, Technical Field Representative

On January 20, 2009, Mike Moyer joined the Residential Unit within the Office of Community Services. Mike is the newest technical field representative for the office and will be working in the Electric Partnership Program and Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

Mike comes to the OCS from LEADS where he was an inspector, crew supervisor, and in-house trainer since 1996. He also worked in the Electric Partnership Program. Before that, Mike worked for the Kno-Ho-Co weatherization program. He has a total of 25 years working in the program, and brings with him a wealth of knowledge in weatherizing homes and will be a valuable asset to the office. Mike will be taking over the agencies previously monitored by Steve Creed, who has since left OCS.

Upcoming Events

ACI Home Performance Conference

*April 27-May 1, 2009
Kansas City, MO*

Infrared & Weatherization Conference

*May 7-8, 2009
Columbus, OH*

Department of Energy National Training Conference

*July 20-24, 2009
Indianapolis, IN*

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