

Joint Fiscal Committee Meeting  
Home Heating Costs  
June 26, 2008  
Room 11, State House

Purpose

- Gather information on home heating issue
- Identify issues and opportunities for action – for further exploration or activity acceleration
- Develop cooperative working process to benefit Vermonters

Presentations

- 9:00 Administration Overview of plan and initiatives (incoming Secretary Lunderville, Commissioner Reardon)
- Ideas and plan details
  - Sources of funding
- 9:15 Congressional delegation on federal fund availability
- Federal LIHEAP funding picture for next winter
  - Other
- 9:30 Fuel Dealers – (Matt Cota)
- The home heating industry – an update and impacts on customers
  - Actions being taken or recommendations
- 9:45 State Programs
- LIHEAP and Weatherization Programs – (Stephen Dale, Richard Moffi, Jules Junker)
    - Projections – applications, eligibles, funding need
  - Energy Efficiency Vermont
    - Funding
  - Department of Public Service – Activity overview
    - Clean Energy Development Fund
    - Energy bill resources
- 10:20 Other Comments
- CAP agencies – Service delivery
  - Utilities - Implications for other fuels
  - Other State's Programs
- 10:40 Committee Comments, Additional Ideas and Discussion, follow up process, direction

11:00 Adjournment

## Possible Ideas and Areas of Discussion for Short Term Action

- A large-scale bulk purchase of heating fuels coordinated on a regional basis. The savings achieved would be passed directly to consumers.
- Innovative approaches to financing - a dramatic increase in funding available to Vermonters to weatherize their homes and purchase efficient furnaces and other heating appliances.
- Building an aggressive, widespread campaign to assist our congressional delegation in fighting for a substantial increase in federal low-income heating assistance.
- Determining the best new technologies and procedures for home weatherization and making sure they are available to Vermonters
- Creating “energy banks” using the food bank model
- Administration proposals
- 4 day work week investigation
- Incentives and promotion of wood alternatives and chip production
- Use of hedging to achieve better prices for Vermonter
- Early timing of LIHEAP payments to assist fuel dealers with cash flow and secure better price
- Look at adequacy of Vermont’s state and local emergency response for high energy prices
- Connecticut proposal: Requires the state to develop a planning scenario model that will predict impacts based on the price of oil. The model will predict future impacts on heating, transportation, food cost, road paving, fleet operations, education, and public health.