

2005 National Evaluation of the Weatherization Assistance Program: Experts Planning Committee Telephone Conference

May 23, 2005

CHARTER

PURPOSE

The Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) has begun the planning for a new national evaluation of the DOE Weatherization Assistance Program to build upon the previous national evaluation performed in 1990 by ORNL. A Network Planning Committee comprised of leaders of the weatherization network met in March 2005 and provided input on the information that should be provided by the national evaluation. They also provided input on the availability of data at the national, regional, state, and local level that are pertinent to the national evaluation and insight into how the data collection effort can best be coordinated and streamlined. The purpose of this Experts Planning Committee is to solicit from experienced evaluators of weatherization and energy programs their input on the design of the national evaluation, including consideration of sampling approaches and their statistical underpinnings, energy metering techniques and technologies, data collection surveys, energy analysis methods, and standardization of information.

ACTIONS

To achieve this purpose the Experts Planning Committee will discuss:

1. General implementation issues such as how a weatherized unit should be defined within the context of the evaluation and the value of case studies within the evaluation.
2. The application of PRISM to single-family and multifamily homes to determine energy savings in primary heating fuel, cooling, and baseload energy consumptions, including how billing data can best be collected from utilities to reduce attrition and its best use in hot climates.
3. The need for submetered field tests or alternative analysis approaches to deal with energy savings issues that cannot be addressed through traditional analysis of billing data such as houses and buildings heated by bulk fuels, cooling, baseloads, and energy savings in houses in hot climates.
4. Methods for selecting sample and control groups, especially in multifamily buildings.
5. The integrated energy analysis and expected accuracy of energy savings results of large multifamily units.

6. The extent to which the individual performance of measures should be evaluated and intermediate measurements that can be made under the evaluation to examine specific weatherization measures and their implementation.
7. The gaps that should be filled in the literature on non-energy benefits as part of the evaluation and the data that need to be collected under the evaluation to quantify non-energy benefits.
8. How to collect consistent information on costs and program funds among states and agencies.
9. Methods for evaluating audit, client education, training, and monitoring approaches and their impact on energy savings.
10. How explanatory factors and process variables affecting energy savings and cost effectiveness should be quantified and analyzed.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. A clear definition of what housing units will and will not be included in the evaluation.
2. A better understanding of the methods to improve billing data collection to reduce attrition, the application of PRISM (especially in hot climates and to electrically-heated houses), and extent to which PRISM and alternative analysis methods can be used to address key evaluation issues.
3. Recommendations on submetered studies that will be needed.
4. Recommendations on how to obtain an integrated multifamily energy analysis.
5. Insight into sample and control group selection.
6. Guidance on how to approach the analysis of non-energy benefits, individual measures, audits, client education, training, and monitoring approaches.
7. Lists of data that should be collected to study non-energy benefits, individual measures, and factors affecting energy savings and cost effectiveness.