

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

RFP EM-021-2025: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS IMPACT EVALUATION

Last Revised 4-9-2025

Q1: Are bids considered confidential?

A1. No.

Q2: How many weatherization/insulation contractors participated in the program during the evaluation period? Can Efficiency Maine provide name, phone, and email for all of these participating contractors?

A2. We can provide names and contacts for all vendors that participated in the evaluation period. There are currently 66 vendors approved for residential weatherization rebates. Their names, phone number and emails are all available on our Vendor Locator tool:
<https://www.energymaine.com/at-home/vendor-locator/?svc%5B%5D=3&zpc=04106&dst=10&srt=2>

Q3: Why does Efficiency Maine recommend targeting propane rather than oil for the billing analysis?

A3. Propane deliveries are typically more frequent and provided by a single company that owns the tank. This makes it easier to gather comprehensive delivery data and estimate how much fuel was used during the heating season. Oil deliveries may be from multiple companies and less frequent. Efficiency Maine is open to including participants of any fuel type that can have actionable data used and applied in the study.

Q4: The RFP states that “the Trust does not record utility account numbers in effRT for weatherization rebate recipients.” Can you please clarify whether the selected bidder will need to conduct an analysis to match the weatherization rebate participant tracking data to utility customer records (in order to facilitate utility billing data requests)?

A4. Contact information is stored in effRT for all rebate recipients and consists of physical and mailing addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers as provided by the customers. Not all customer records will contain all data types. Address matching may be required to link rebate recipients to fuel data and may require working with the customer to gather bills or account information to request data from their provider.

Q5: Does the existing mechanism to request billing data allow to do so for premises for which the EMT does not have the account numbers? For example, based on customer names or premise addresses.

A5. The mechanisms of matching and gathering heating usage information differs from each service provider. The bidders should assume that information will need to be gathered from either the customer directly or from each service provider with account information from the customer. Please note that with the exception of electricity and natural gas, delivered fuels are likely provided by an unregulated fuel dealer and not a regulated utility.

Q6: Can the Trust provide a range or estimate of the budget allocated for this evaluation?

A6. We do not have a range or estimate for this RFP. We are seeking quotes for a 100 home sample outlined in the RFP. Bidders are welcomed to provide fixed costs and flexible per-home costs that can be adjusted if it helps the bid.

Q7: Can you confirm that the TRM review is limited to the residential air sealing and insulation measures being examined in the evaluation?

A7. Yes, only the measures in the evaluation are included in the TRM review.

Q8: The RFP mentions that the scope includes verification of measure installation. Does this require site visits? If so, how many site visits do you expect are needed?

A8. Site visits are not seen as necessary for this evaluation. Verifications through surveys or other agreeable methods would suffice.

Q9: Do you have any expectations for how in service rates are calculated? Do you want sampling for ISRs to also reach a precision of 10% at an 80% confidence level?

A9. In service rates can be self-reported or any other means of identification. We have an 80/10 expectation for the Insulation Rebate and LMI Insulation Rebate measures and are interested in ISR as far as it contributes to the adjusted gross energy impacts.

Q10: What sensitivities are required for the benefit-cost analysis?

A10. We are asking bidders to perform a sensitivity analysis considering evaluation uncertainty and alternative methodologies such as the following.

- a. Upper and lower bound of the verified impacts confidence interval.
- b. Upper and lower range of assessed measure costs.
- c. Upper and lower bound of assessed net-to-gross ratio.
- d. Alternate avoided cost data sets as provided by the Trust.

Q11: Can Efficiency Maine provide estimated shares of the primary space heating fuels for the 5,913 homes that have participated over the evaluation period?

A11. There are some homes that we do not have a primary heating fuel listed in effRT. We do know from baseline studies that the primary heating fuel of Maine's housing stock is approximately 56% oil, 13% electric, 14% propane, 10% wood, 7% natural gas, and <1% coal.

Q12: RFP Table 3 (homes exclusively heated with gas or propane) shows a notably lower count than Table 2 (all participating homes). Is the difference in counts between Table 2 and Table 3 primarily attributable to homes heated by oil?

A12. The majority of counts that appear in Table 2 but not Table 3 are homes that are either heated by oil, or that we do not have sufficient data to determine their primary heating fuel.

Q13: Can Efficiency Maine further distinguish the counts in Table 3 between gas and propane?

A13. Yes. In compiling this, there were determined to be a small number of propane homes missed in Table 3 of the RFP. An updated Table 3 is below, followed by the counts of propane and natural gas respectively.

Updated Table 3

Program	Air Sealing	Attic Insulation	Basement Insulation	Underbelly Insulation	Wall Insulation	Total Homes
HESP	383	549	451	11	199	853
AHI - Moderate Income	57	81	80	1	26	136
AHI - Low Income	72	95	87	2	43	150
All Programs	512	725	618	14	268	1139

Propane counts from Updated Table 3

Program	Air Sealing	Attic Insulation	Basement Insulation	Underbelly Insulation	Wall Insulation	Total Homes
HESP	247	402	362	11	155	655
AHI - Moderate Income	42	73	74	1	24	126
AHI - Low Income	58	87	84	1	40	139
All Programs	347	562	520	13	219	920

Natural Gas counts from Updated Table 3

Program	Air Sealing	Attic Insulation	Basement Insulation	Underbelly Insulation	Wall Insulation	Total Homes
HESP	136	147	89	0	44	198
AHI - Moderate Income	15	8	6	0	2	10
AHI - Low Income	14	8	3	1	3	11
All Programs	165	163	98	1	49	219

Q14: Can Efficiency Maine share more information on the desired stratification or assumptions in variation used to estimate a sample size of approximately 100?

A14. We would like to have a representative sample of Insulation Rebate and LMI insulation Rebate homes in our sample. Stratification that would be desired would be to gather a roughly geographically representative and roughly representative individual upgrade (wall insulation, attic insulation, basement insulation, air-sealing) mix. We would be open to alternate sampling sizes if there is a valuable trade off between the cost impacts and the actionable data generated.

Q15: Does Efficiency Maine desire results at 80% confidence / 10% precision for the study results overall, or at individual strata of interest such as Insulation Rebate / LMI Insulation Rebate?

A15. We would like 80%/10% precision at the Insulation Rebate and LMI Insulation Rebate strata