

Residential Registered Vendor Monthly Newsletter April 19, 2023



- 1) **How to Handle IRA Questions** – For those fielding questions about the Inflation Reduction Act (“IRA”), the following information can help customers understand why they should not wait to make home upgrades.

The IRA’s incentives for home efficiency improvements fall into two categories:

1. expanded and increased federal tax credits administered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and
2. funding for rebates that Efficiency Maine will use to support programs in Maine.

There is good news for customers wanting to upgrade their homes: the new tax credits are currently available, and customers can take advantage of both the tax credit and Efficiency Maine’s existing generous energy efficiency rebates. Below are partial lists of the incentives available now.

Efficiency Maine Rebates:

1. Heat pump water heaters: up to \$950
2. Insulation: up to \$8,000
3. Heat pumps: up to \$2,400
4. Geothermal: up to \$3,000
5. Biomass boilers: up to \$6,000

2023 Federal Tax Credits:

1. Heat pump water heaters: 30% up to \$2,000/yr
2. Heat pumps: 30% up to \$2,000/yr
3. 200+ amp circuit panels: 30% up to \$600/yr
4. Insulation and air sealing: 30% up to \$1,200 /yr
5. Energy audits: 30% up to \$150/yr
6. Geothermal: 30% no cap
7. Wood/pellet stove/boilers: 30% up to \$2,000/yr

Important Note About the IRA Tax Credits:

A taxpayer may not claim a credit of more than \$2,000 for total expenditures on heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, and biomass stoves and boilers in any single year. For other upgrades (excluding geothermal) listed above, an aggregate annual tax credit cap of \$1,200 applies.

Takeaways

Today is a great time to invest in energy efficiency. Generous incentives are available now, and the sooner homeowners upgrade, the sooner they'll start saving money.

IRA funding for rebates is not expected before the end of 2023. Although the federal rules for how the IRA rebate funds may be used have not yet been finalized, there are a few assumptions homeowners can make regarding the disbursement of these funds. First, Efficiency Maine is not planning to add IRA rebates on top of existing rebates for the same upgrades. Second, even once the future IRA rebates are available, customers who are purchasing heat pump water heaters or are weatherizing their homes with insulation would likely see rebate amounts about the same as those that Efficiency Maine currently offers. Lastly, any increase in rebates for heat pumps would only affect low- and moderate-income households.

Efficiency Maine will continue to provide updates as we know more about implementation.

- 2) **Heat Pump Rebate Eligibility Update** – Good news. To increase flexibility, we've eliminated the expiration date for determining [heat pump rebate eligibility](#) using HSPF ratings. Our updated requirements are as follows:
 1. Tier 1 heat pumps must have an [AHRI rating](#) equal to or greater than any of the following:
 - 9.5 HSPF₂
 - 10.0 HSPF for systems with multiple indoor units or a ducted indoor unit
 - 12.0 HSPF for systems with a single indoor unit
 2. Tier 2 heat pumps:
 - Home does not have natural gas utility account, and
 - Must have an [AHRI rating](#) equal to or greater than 10.4 HSPF₂ or 12.5 HSPF
- 3) **Tip from the Field** – Indoor units work well when installed high on a wall, but height can also make them hard to reach when it comes time to clean the filter or service the indoor unit.
- 4) **Homeowner Initials on Claim Forms** – As you may have noticed, all residential rebate claims now have an initials box for QA inspections. To avoid rebate processing delays, please make sure your customers add their initials.
- 5) **Fact of the Month** – We're issuing more weatherization rebates now than ever before - up 200% from last year for income-eligible homes.
- 6) **Tool of the Month** – We have a new brochure highlighting our income-eligible rebates and you can [order](#) them on our website or by calling 866-376-2463.

- 7) **Heat Pump Installation Training Opportunities** – The following courses are being offered by Efficiency Maine Registered Trainers. You can request a scholarship by filling out our scholarship [form](#).

Dates	Course Title	Location	Registration Information
4/20/2023 – 4/21/2023	Heat Pump Installer*	F.W. Webb	Click for course information
5/15/2023 – 5/19/2023	Heat Pump Installer*	Maine Energy Marketers Association	Click for course information
5/15/2023 – 5/19/2023	Heat Pump Installer*	Kennebec Valley Community College	Click for course information
5/22/2023 – 5/26/2023	Heat Pump Installer*	Central Maine Community College	Click for course information
6/26/2023 – 6/30/2023	Heat Pump Installer*	Maine Energy Marketers Association	Click for course information

* Eligible for [Efficiency Maine scholarship](#) (50% up to \$500)

- 8) **Weatherization Training Opportunities** – Build Green Maine is offering BPI Training & Testing classes. If interested, please follow this link to the [BPI course registration](#). You can request a scholarship by filling out our scholarship [form](#).

Dates	Course Title	Location	Registration Information
4/27/2023 – 5/1/2023	Building Analyst Professional 2-Day Webinar & Testing	Build Green Maine	Click for course information
5/15/2023 – 5/19/2023	Building Analyst Technician Field Training and Testing (2 Days)	Build Green Maine	Click for course information

9) **Top Insulation Performers (past four months)**

1. Horizon Residential Energy Services
2. Evergreen Home Performance
3. Free Energy Maine

10) **Top Heat Pump Performers (past four months)**

1. Dave's World
2. Royal River Heat Pumps
3. Valley Home Services

11) **Top LMI Insulation Performers (past four months)**

1. New England Spray Foam Insulation
2. Webb Insulation
3. CJ Insulation & Subcontractors, and The Breathable Home

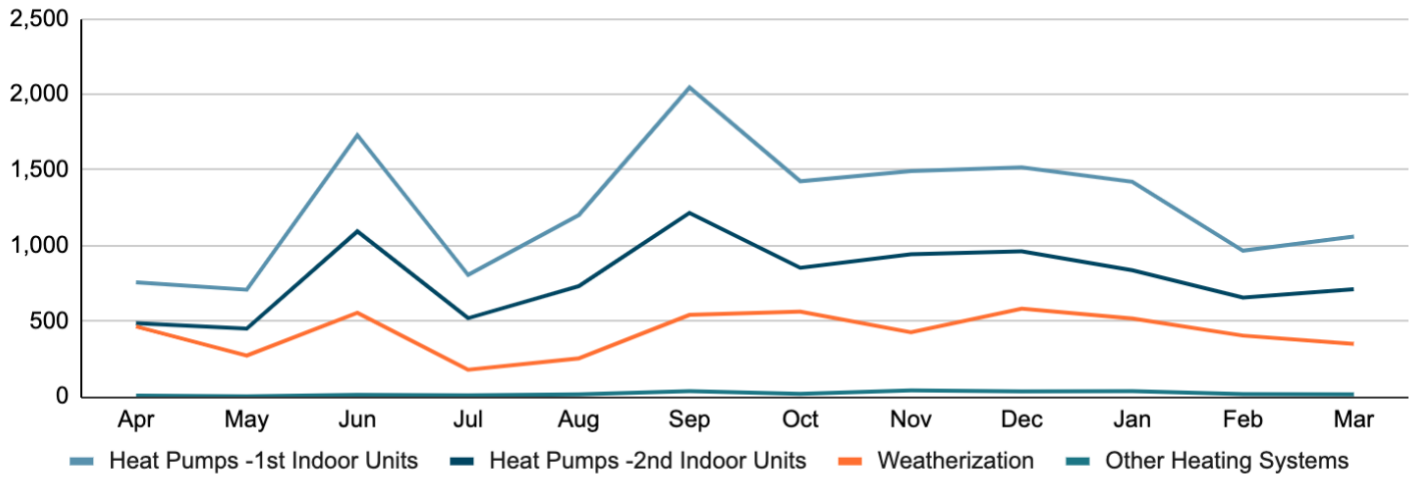
12) **Top LMI Heat Pump Performers (past four months)**

1. Valley Home Services
2. Dave's World
3. Hometown Heat Pumps

PROGRAM RESULTS

Home Energy Savings Program (HESP)

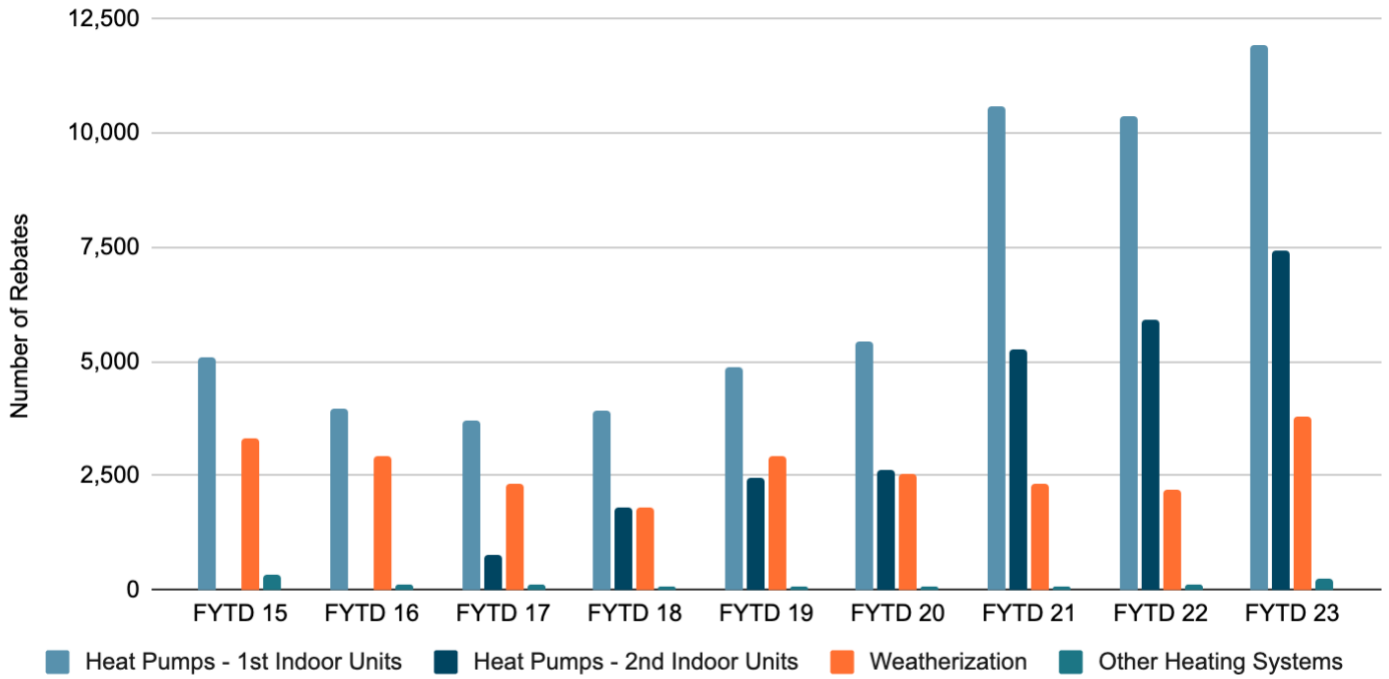
HESP Number of Rebates – Last 12 Months



HESP Number of Rebates – Last 12 Months (DETAILS)

#	HESP Rebate Type	2022												2023			Total
		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar				
1	Heat Pumps - 1st Indoor Units	757	708	1,730	805	1,202	2,045	1,425	1,492	1,517	1,422	966	1,059	15,128			
2	Heat Pumps - 2nd Indoor Units	487	450	1,094	520	731	1,216	853	942	962	836	656	711	9,458			
3	Air Sealing	128	72	161	51	76	139	169	109	148	133	109	102	1,397			
4	Attic Insulation	161	91	192	62	86	182	181	154	203	161	129	125	1,727			
5	Basement Insulation	120	77	146	46	63	138	147	118	166	165	122	89	1,397			
6	Wall Insulation	55	32	56	20	29	82	66	46	65	58	44	33	586			
7	Geothermal HP	3	0	2	0	1	3	0	3	0	7	5	3	27			
8	Pellet Boiler	4	3	11	9	15	34	19	38	35	30	13	13	224			
Total		1,715	1,433	3,392	1,513	2,203	3,839	2,860	2,902	3,096	2,812	2,044	2,135	29,944			

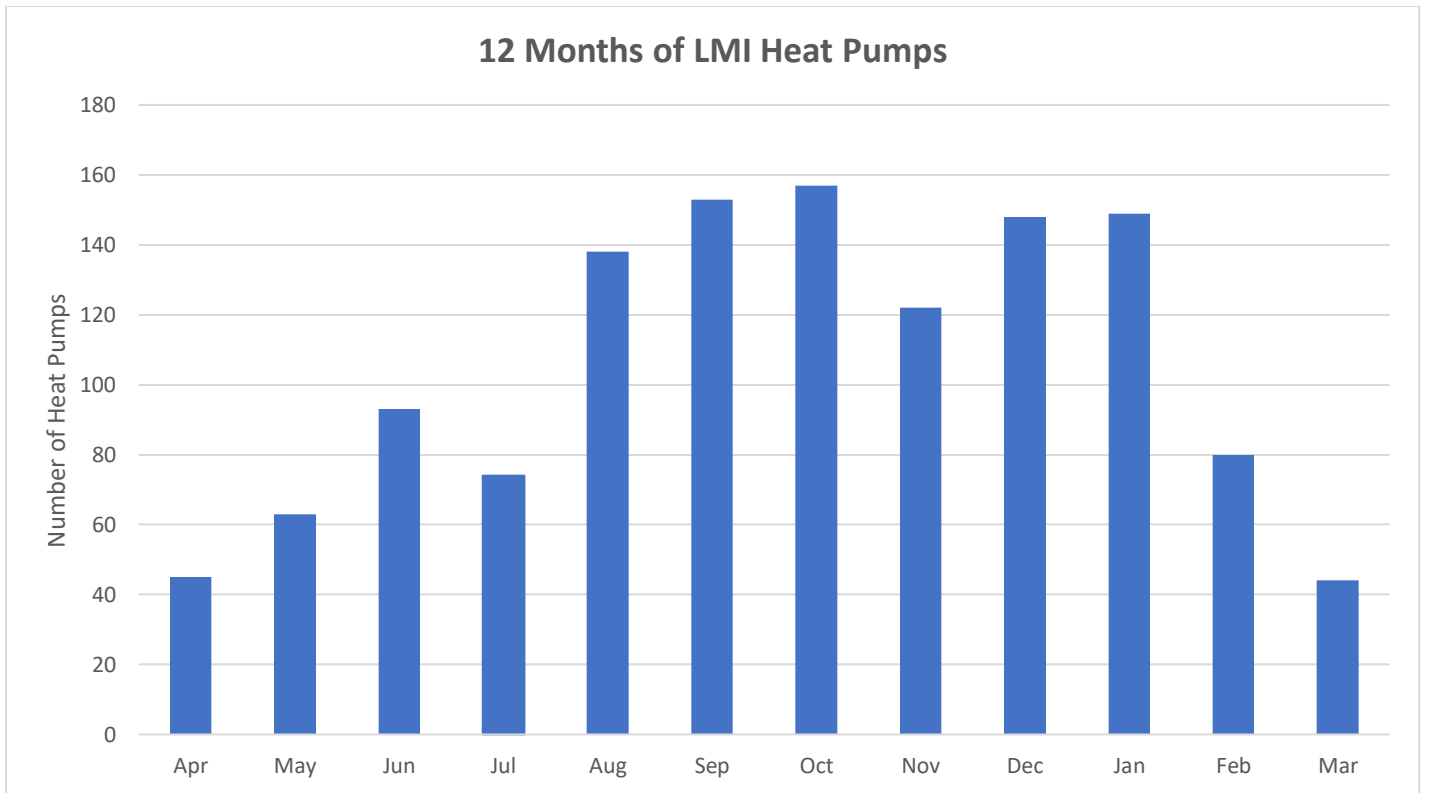
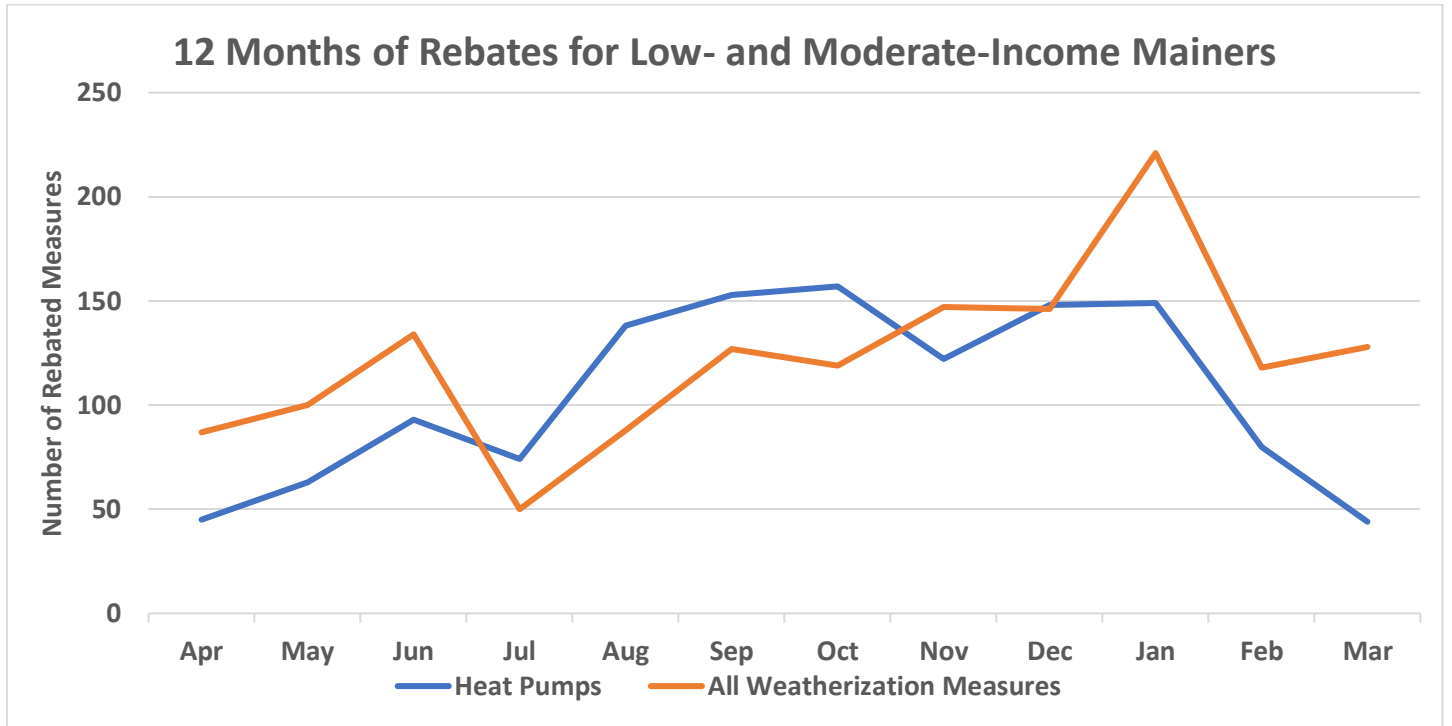
Fiscal Year-to-Date Rebate Comparisons



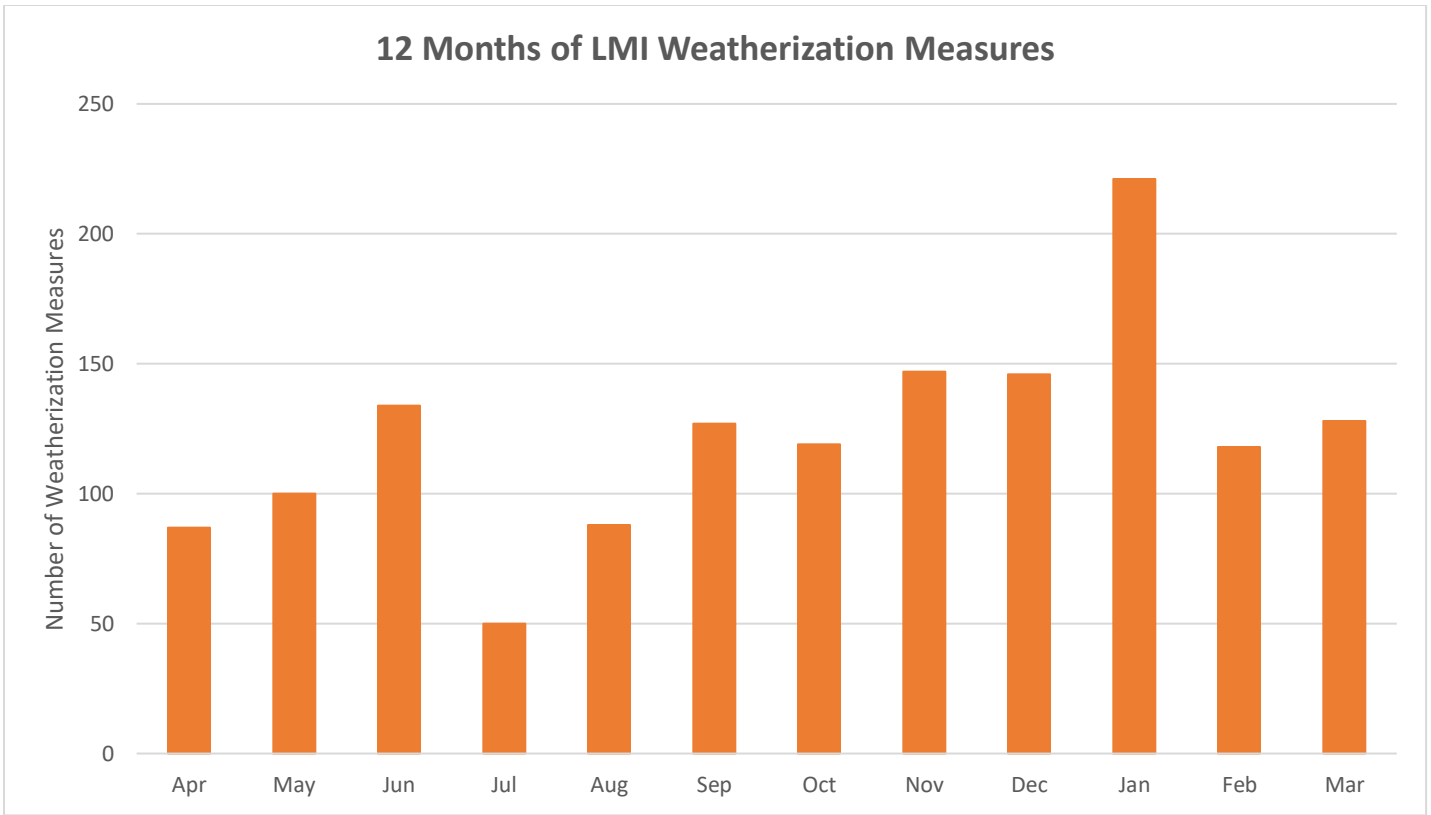
Fiscal Year-to-Date Rebate Comparisons (DETAILS)

#	HESP Rebate Type	FYTD 15	FYTD 16	FYTD 17	FYTD 18	FYTD 19	FYTD 20	FYTD 21	FYTD 22	FYTD 23
1	Heat Pumps - 1st Indoor Units	5,075	3,951	3,712	3,907	4,877	5,453	10,567	10,355	11,933
2	Heat Pumps - 2nd Indoor Units	0	0	747	1,811	2,448	2,626	5,262	5,928	7,427
3	Air Sealing	1,738	1,361	1,045	817	1,068	922	766	649	1,036
4	Attic Insulation	796	866	698	552	877	775	717	754	1,283
5	Basement Insulation	622	487	402	304	676	607	595	579	1,054
6	Wall Insulation	159	199	196	145	298	231	243	231	443
7	Geothermal HP	76	50	69	15	21	28	24	19	22
8	Pellet Boiler	254	65	69	48	40	50	61	82	206
Total Measures Installed		8,720	6,979	6,938	7,599	10,305	10,692	18,235	18,597	23,404

Low Income Program



12 Months of LMI Weatherization Measures



Rebates for Low- and Moderate-Income Mainers - Last 12 Months (DETAILS)

Low- and Moderate-Income Rebate Type	2022									2023			Total
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Last 12 Months
Heat Pumps	45	63	93	74	138	153	157	122	148	149	80	44	1,266
All Weatherization Measures	87	100	134	50	88	127	119	147	146	221	118	128	1,465
LMI Air Sealing w/Assessment	40	39	50	18	26	39	44	51	48	73	47	46	521
LMI Attic Insulation	22	28	32	11	24	29	35	44	46	67	34	35	407
LMI Basement Insulation	21	26	36	13	27	42	25	36	40	61	28	38	393
LMI Wall Insulation	4	7	16	8	11	17	15	16	12	20	9	9	144

Total LMI Measures	132	163	227	124	226	280	276	269	294	370	198	172	2,731
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