**Important Aspects of Weybridge’s Success in the VHEC**

**VECAN Conference: 12-7-13**

Strong energy committee and VHEC team

Close-knit community

Good training by EVT

Identifying community partners: School, Selectboard, Church, RPC, Neighborworks

Identifying and using all possible channels of communication

$1,000 grant from New England Grassroots Environmental Fund

Maintaining good data base on each homeowner

Following up frequently by email, phone, and at community events

Social norming with lawn signs, Progress Thermometer

Communicating with our VHEC Team frequently

Providing wide range of information to residents through tabling at events, home energy visits, articles in media, school programs, Facebook, email, posters, and phone calls

Appealing to community pride

 Stressing financial incentives: EVT incentives, $10,000 prize

**Weybridge By the Numbers**

Population: 800

Number of homes: 300

VHEC goal: 10 homes

VHEC projects completed: 16 homes (5% of homes in Weybridge)

Projects still in progress: 13 possible projects identified

Home Energy Audits completed: estimate 28 (9% of homes in Weybridge)

VHEC free home energy visits completed: 49

Residents referred to Low Income Weatherization: 4

Energy Savings Kits distributed: 150

**Highlights of Survey of Weybridge Residents Following VHEC**

106 surveys sent out, 16 responses. Return of 15%.

Most people heard about VHEC through community presentations and tabling, followed by reading the Town Newsletter and poster/handouts.

One quarter of respondents had a free home energy visit. Two people found it very helpful, 3 found it somewhat helpful.

Ten out of 16 respondents had an energy audit this year. Five did not. One has an audit scheduled.

Five respondents did all the work recommended by the audit, 2 did some of the work, one has work scheduled, and 4 have not done work yet. That means 60% of respondents who had an audit have already done or will complete the work.

When asked what factors in convined them to do the work, respondents named saving money, increasing comfort, and lowering their carbon footprint as high priorities, followed closely by financial incentives from Efficiency Vermont. Less important were increasing their security during spikes in fuel costs.

When asked why they had not done any weatherization work, 3 respondents cited the cost and 2 said they are doing the work themselves and have not finished.

Responses to the question, “How has the Challenge helped the town of Weybridge?” included 12 residents who said it provided valuable education about energy efficiency, 12 who said it brought positive publicity to Weybridge, 11 who said it helped us reduce our carbon footprint, and 9 who said it increased community pride.

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