

Why is weatherization important?

Weatherization has three broadly defined benefits: improved health and safety, sustainability, and social justice. Federally-funded weatherization programs have traditionally been targeted towards low income households in order to reduce their energy (or fuel) poverty, which contributes to the broad social justice goal. The U.S. residential sector accounts for 22% of national energy consumption (Energy Information Administration, 2012, from Reames, 2016, p. 1449). Efficiency improvements in residential energy consumption could have a significant impact on national energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Allcott and Greenstone have investigated the “Energy Efficiency Gap” which they define as the “wedge between the cost-minimizing level of energy efficiency and the level actually realized” (Allcott & Greenstone, 2012, p. 4). The energy efficiency gap is the difference between optimal energy