The Weatherization Assistance Program was signed into law on August 14, 1976, a result of the Energy Crisis of the 1970s.

National Weatherization Day is celebrated on October 30 each year.
“The fundamental fact remains that the United States has entered a new age of energy and we have not yet adjusted our habits, expectations, and national policies to the new age …
“… a fourth essential has been added to the age-old necessities of life. Besides food, clothing, and shelter, we must have energy. It is an integral part of the nation’s life support system.”

Beginning in 1974, three University of Maine engineers provided technical guidance that was used to develop the WAP:

Richard Hill, Norman Smith, Charles Kittredge

University of Maine press release, June 19, 1981
In the late 1960s-early 1970s, Bates College Professor Richard Saul worked on the equations that tied weatherization with energy cost savings, focusing on lower-income households.
“Joe Citizen weatherizes by hunch and intuition,” said U-Maine Engineering Professor Richard Hill, but the methods used by the UMO faculty members have been much more scientific.

University of Maine press release, June 19, 1981
“The federal limit for weatherizing any one home was $800, but a number of homes may require weatherization costing more than that amount.”

*University of Maine press release, June 19, 1981*
“It was the responsibility of the UMO team to determine in which weatherization areas the $800 would be most effective.”

University of Maine press release, June 19, 1981
The factors to be used:

* The number of times the door is opened in the average day
* Amount of time the door is open
* Velocity of wind
* Size of door
* Degree days
* Volume of the house

University of Maine press release, June 19, 1981
WHO WAS FIRST?
One of the first weatherization programs offered by a community action agency in Maine was Project Fuel – in 1974.
Developed by the then Franklin County Community Action Council, it provided basic winterizing for the elderly, disabled, and low income people of the county.

The council is now Western Maine Community Action Agency.
In 1976, Community Concepts started its weatherization pilot program as an energy conservation program and a jobs program to help get families back to work during the energy crisis of the 1970’s. Since then, CCI has weatherized at least 10,000 homes.
CCI was recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for having the first-ever weatherization program in the nation.
In 1976, the Weatherization Assistance Program became part of the newly created Division of Community Services, part of the executive branch of state government.

Mike Baran and a heating system.
Mike Baran & Trainer John Snell at Infrared Scanner Training in Ellsworth in 1988

T-Handled Reamer for making holes in furnace pipe for testing

The Weatherizers
The Weatherizers

Mike Baran & Tony Gill, a BBQ at Division of Community Services

A Milwaukee Drill for drilling holes for wall insulation
The Weatherizers

1987 New England Mobile Home Retrofit Conference in Manchester, NH. Pictured (left to right) are: Bob Neff and Guy Quattrucci from Division of Community Services (DCS), Mark Grondin of CCI, Mike Baran of DCS, contractor Art Van Wornt and Tony Dingley of CCI.

Shank holder
Drill Bit and Shaft for drilling holes in walls for cellulose insulation
First Infrared Scanner training in Maine for the Weatherization Assistance Program, held in 1988 in Ellsworth. Pictured (left to right) Unknown; Raymond Levesque of ACAP; Tony Gill of Division of Community Services (DCS); Phil Davis of ACAP; Unknown; Bob Neff, Guy Quattrucci, and Mike Baran, all of DCS; Charley Allen of Community Concepts Inc.; Gary Brown and Karen Peterson of DCS; and unknowns
All of the Maine attendees at 1987 New England Mobile Home Retrofit Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire.
The 1988 New England Mobile Home Retrofit Conference in Lisbon, Maine, the Community Concepts crew demonstrates the installation of membrane roof.
The Weatherization Assistance Program moved to Maine Housing in 1990.
MaineHousing’s role includes the distribution of federal resources to nine community action agencies statewide for weatherization services, as well as to keep current on weatherization standards that could produce greater efficiencies in Maine’s aging housing stock.
Did You Know?

The Weatherization Assistance Program...

- Has weatherized over 7.4 million homes since it began in 1976
- Improves the health and safety of residents leading to fewer hospitalizations and missed school days
- Helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions - the WAP lead to a 7,382,000 metric ton carbon reduction in 2010 alone
Did You Know?

The Weatherization Assistance Program...

- Saves low-income families an average of $250 to $450 per year in heating, cooling and electric costs.
- Returns $4.10 to households and society for every $1 invested in the program.
- Helps the country reduce its dependence on foreign oil and reduce carbon emissions.
More than 70,600 homes weatherized in Maine!