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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Break Out the Spray Foam (In Addition To the Hats)**

Winter has made its presence known early this year.

In addition to the white stuff coating our lawns, cars, and roads, you have likely seen red signs around your town telling you it's time to prepare for winter. Not that you needed a reminder. With cold weather settling in, it's time to break out the spray foam.

According a report published by Efficiency Vermont, the average Vermont household spends \$1,200 annually to heat their home. Air sealing and insulating homes is one of the best ways to reduce that cost. You can buy weatherizing materials like spray foam and apply it yourself, or you can hire a contractor to do it for you. Either way, you'll stay warmer, and more money will stay in your pocket.

Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC), an electric distribution utility serving over 10,800 customers in north-central Vermont, is here to help our members' button up their homes. Why? We're not your typical utility.

Founded in 1939 to power 150 farms and homes, we serve Vermonters in 41 towns across four counties. We are member-owned, 100% renewable, and believe that climate change is the biggest issue of our time. We are proud of these values.

The state of Vermont has a goal to become 90% renewable by 2050. That includes all sources of energy; not just electricity. While WEC already offers 100% renewable electricity to our members, we are also mandated by the state – and our own climate change policy – to help our members reduce fossil fuel use. So we're offering incentives, on top of Efficiency Vermont's, to help our members switch from oil, propane, and gas-burning vehicles and appliances to electric ones.

These incentives, through WEC's Button Up program, include up to \$600 for weatherization, \$250 for cold-climate heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, and \$1,000 for pellet boilers, as well as extra incentives for electric vehicles.

If you don't live in Washington Electric territory, you're still in luck. Efficiency Vermont provides services statewide, including rebates for weatherization materials, incentives for

energy retrofits, and access to certified contractors. And other utilities are offering services to help customers save energy too.

But the best way to get involved now is through the statewide Button Up Vermont campaign, running now through the end of this year. 42 communities statewide, including 7 in Central Vermont, have signed on. There are workshops, Do It Yourself (DIY) check-lists, instruction videos and more to help you prepare for winter.

So while the snow continues to fall outside, think about spraying some foam in your basement or attic. And let's keep winter outside where it belongs.

Washington Electric Co-op is a member-owned, not-for-profit electric utility founded in 1939. WEC serves approximately 10,800 member-owners in 41 towns throughout Washington, Orange, Caledonia and Orleans counties with power generated from 100 percent renewable sources. WEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer. For more information please visit [washingtonelectric.coop](http://washingtonelectric.coop) or call 802-223-5245.