MANUFACTURED HOMES DEFINED: Homes built in a factory, constructed on a permanent chassis, intended for permanent occupancy, towed to a site and rarely moved to another location.

80,000 manufactured homes are located in Minnesota...

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

WHAT WE FOUND BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Of the 30 measures we examined—SEVEN ROSE TO THE TOP as key cost effective energy savings opportunities

1. Nearly all manufactured homes would benefit from air sealing. Opportunities for air sealing typically include electrical and plumbing penetrations, as well as the marriage joint for the halves of double-wide units.

2. 3 out of 4 homes have a cost effective duct sealing opportunity. Addressing these leaks can solve comfort problems while saving energy.

3. Nearly ALL manufactured homes offer lighting opportunities. More than 80% of lighting energy consumption in this housing stock is from incandescent bulbs.

4. 20% of this housing stock have condensing furnaces and 80% are standard efficiency units. Higher efficiency furnace upgrades on replacement is a good opportunity.

5. 7 out of 10 homes do not practice thermostat setback. Setting the thermostat back nightly would save energy.

6. Nearly 40 percent of these households use portable electric heaters. Many report using these devices to solve comfort issues. Some mistakenly believe this is a more cost-effective heating option.

7. Nearly ALL homes use plumbing tape to keep pipes from freezing in the winter. Limiting their operation to the heating season can reduce energy consumption in heat tapes by 50% or more.

YOU SHOULD KNOW: Current Minnesota regulation restricts the ability of programs to retrofit insulation beyond levels originally installed.

MANUFACTURED HOME OWNERS

$35,000 median annual income

45% eligible for low-income weatherization services

~50% willing and able to implement energy savings measures

Utilities, Minnesota Weatherization Assistance Program and weatherization providers should WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE HOUSEHOLDS. Coordination at the state level could reduce the administrative burden on all entities.

Electric space heaters account for an average of 3,000 kWh per year among households that use them. The majority of homeowners say “comfort” is the reason for their use. PROGRAMS MUST INNOVATE to address the underlying sources of the comfort problem.

Although the number of manufactured homes sold annually in Minnesota is relatively small (1,000), utilities could EXPAND SCOPE TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES for the purchase and installation of ENERGY STAR manufactured homes.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRIVATE-PROPERTY homes and those located in parks, then TARGET PROGRAMS APPROPRIATELY. Private-property homes are generally in worse shape and offer higher potential energy savings. Park homes are located in populated communities, thus ripe for events and “blitz” type programs.

~50% ARE IN PARKS

~50% ARE ON PRIVATELY OWNED LAND

In better shape than those located on private land

In worse shape than those in parks

IN BETTER SHAPE THAN THOSE LOCATED ON PRIVATE LAND

IN WORSE SHAPE THAN THOSE IN PARKS

double wide heat with natural gas have heated addition

25% 91% 11%

double wide heat with natural gas have heated addition

54% 24% 33%

That represents 3.5% of the housing units statewide—low compared to others states, but typical for the upper midwest.

More than 50% of the manufactured homes were built in 1990 or later.

That’s enough money to feed more than 3,000 Minnesota families for a year.

310,000 gallons of fuel oil

$38.4 million annual energy savings

$35,000 median annual income

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