



2024 ENERGIZING EFFICIENCY CASE STUDY

Unlocking the Energy Efficiency of Virginia's Tangier Island

SUPPORTED BY:

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC)

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Enhanced insulation
- Air-sealing
- Smoke & CO Alarms
- Upgraded heating and cooling systems



project:HOMES AND TANGIER ISLAND

project: HOMES is redefining affordable housing by addressing a wide spectrum of housing needs, from the production and preservation of high-quality affordable homes, to large-scale home repairs, and enhancing the accessibility and energy efficiency of existing homes. By challenging common misconceptions about affordable housing, project: HOMES demonstrates that affordability does not have to come at the expense of quality or sustainability. One of the most challenging and rewarding endeavors has been the extension of the weatherization program to the remote community of Tangier Island. Tangier Island, located 12 miles out in the Chesapeake Bay, is home to approximately 400 residents and is accessible only by boat.

THE CHALLENGE

The unique geographic situation presents a host of challenges for the project:HOME team, from logistical hurdles to increased project costs. Transportation and coordination efforts are significantly more complex and expensive due to the island's remote location.

Recognizing these challenges, the project applied for and received funding from the Community Energy Innovation Prize challenge. This funding is crucial in supplementing existing resources, allows them to address the dual issues of a scarcity of qualified contractors and the advanced age and deteriorating condition of many homes on Tangier Island. The additional financial support helps bridge the gap created by the higher costs associated with working in such a remote location.

THE PLAN

A significant component of the project is the training of two local subcontractors. By equipping these teams with the necessary skills and knowledge, they aim to create a lasting impact that extends beyond the duration of our initial involvement. The immediate goal is to provide weatherization services and home repairs to at least six households on Tangier Island. These services include enhancing insulation, air-sealing, and upgrading heating and cooling systems to improve energy efficiency. In addition to these technical improvements, they are also focused on making homes safer and more accessible for residents, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities.

To learn more, visit vaeec.org or contact info@vaeec.org