



**E-mail MEMO:  
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WX-2022-3**

# MEMO

**TO:** Agency Directors and Weatherization Coordinators  
**FROM:** Steve Divan, Weatherization Program Coordinator  
**RE:** ECHO Bulk Fuel switching- Updated  
**DATE:** July 22, 2022

Greetings,

Effective July 1, 2022, installing high efficiency electric heat is required when ECHO funds are utilized on a project heated with a bulk fuel source as the primary heat source. In the event a bulk fuel switch may not be completed, funds other than ECHO must be utilized to complete the project. Bulk fuel sources include Oil, Wood, Pellets, and Propane. When installing a high efficiency electric heating system in a bulk fuel heated home, a fuel switch request is not required.

**Bulk Fuel Switching Specifics:**

- A. Existing bulk fuel heating source may be kept in place. Exception: Unvented and/or unsafe heating sources must be removed from the home.
- B. Ductless Heat Pumps Heating seasonal performance factor (HSPF) must be AHRI-rated with a minimum of 9.0 HSPF
- C. Whenever possible, bulk fuel source Forced air heating systems must be replaced with a conventional air source heat pump.
- D. Conventional heat pumps must be AHRI-rated with a minimum of 9.0 HSPF and 14 SEER.

**Energy Modeling Specifics:**

- A. A savings to investment ratio is not required.
- B. When modeling energy efficiency measures, the home should be modeled with existing heat sources.

**OPUS Reporting Specifics:**

- A. Report heating upgrade costs in OPUS under the newly added Bulk Fuel Switching measure category.
- B. All ancillary costs including electrical upgrades should be included in the bulk fuel switching category.



- C. Homes that receive bulk fuel heating upgrades shall be designated as electrically heated under fuel type.
- D. When adding a heat pump whether conventional or DHP, the “Deemed” checkbox must be checked regardless of cost.

Fuel switching of metered fuel and homes that are outside of the defined eligible dwelling unit definition is allowed on a case-by-case basis. A fuel switch request must be submitted and approved by OHCS.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (503) 986-0979.  
Best regards,  
Steve Divan  
Weatherization Program Manager