

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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VIRGIN ISLANDS ENERGY OFFICE

No. 45 Mars Hill
Frederiksted, V.I. 00840-4474

Contact: Don Buchanan
Media Information Specialist
Office (340) 773-1082
Fax (340) 772-0063
E-mail: dbuchanan@vienergy.org

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For Immediate Release

Energy Office Has Stimulus Grants Available

Virgin Islands residents can begin applying for grant money available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Grants will be administered by the Virgin Islands Energy Office, a division of the Office of the Governor.

The grants under this expanded program are targeted to only non-profit organizations and are now for larger amounts with a less percentage of matching funds required.

Grants are available in several areas: energy education outreach, building energy efficiency retrofits, and solar outdoor lighting. No deadline for submittals has been set, but only \$1 million is available for the program.

Maximum grants will be \$50,000 and the organization must make a match of \$4,000. This expanded program makes more alternative power systems eligible than were eligible under the previous program when grants for energy efficiency retrofits were limited to \$20,000.

A workshop for those interested in applying for the grants will be held at 10 a.m. November 19 on St. Thomas at the University of the Virgin Islands Administrative and Conference Center, Room 142-1B. It will be video cast at the same time to the Great Hall, Room 134, on the St. Croix Campus.

Bevan R. Smith, Jr., director of the Energy Office, says his staff is pleased to invite residents to develop and submit project proposals.

The mission of the Energy Office is to promote energy efficiency and advocate the use of renewable energy technology for the public and private sectors through energy education, outreach, financial incentives, and technical assistance. The grant programs were designed to assist community groups, civic organizations, schools and institutions in successfully implementing energy efficiency/renewable energy projects.

Applications may be picked up at the V.I. Energy Office on St. Croix at 45 Estate Mars Hill or on St. Thomas at the Cyril E. King Airport. The grant application is available under "GRANTS" on the Energy Office website www.vienergy.org. For additional information, call Joseph Daniel at 774-3320, extension 6109.

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