

November 30, 2010



Rebate programs changes

The rebates administered through the V.I. Energy Office have gone through changes as certain programs have run their course and new ones have come on line. The webpage at www.vienergy.org has been updated to reflect those changes. One can go to the horizontal menu bar to Rebates and in the drop down dialogue box to **Main Details** to find out what products and alternative energy systems are now being rebated.

Wind Energy Systems Rules and Regulation

The Energy Office in conjunction with the Department of Planning and Natural Resources has come up with a draft proposal for the Wind Energy Systems Rules and Regulations. This draft can also be found at www.vienergy.org. In this case, go to the menubar across the top to where it says Laws and RFPs and in the drop down box click on Wind Regs.

Progress on Energy Issues Noted at St. Croix EDIN Conference

Energy Revolution: We are the Solution was the theme as Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) convened on St. Croix with members of the U.S. Virgin Islands Energy Action Team, the EDIN-USVI project working groups, and local clean energy advocates this week.

Adam Warren PhD, from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado and EDIN team leader, said Tuesday about the 15-month-old project. "We have been working with the utility and the government to reduce Virgin Islands dependency on fuel. Our goal is the goal of Gov. John de Jongh Jr., reduce Virgin Islands dependency on fossil fuel by 60 percent by 2025."

This workshop, the third in a series of energy workshops organized by EDIN this year, was the first one on St. Croix.

Bevan R. Smith Jr., Director of the Virgin Islands Energy Office, said, “Over the course of two days EDIN brought together its steering committee and work groups such as those for Policy and Analysis, Education and Workforce Development, Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Transportation for discussions to lead us to practical solutions. Real progress was made toward our goals.”

In his Tuesday presentation, Smith pointed out that progress had already been made in cutting fossil fuel consumption because of Energy Office programs such as its rebate programs for alternative energy systems and solar water heaters and its grant programs.

Hugo Hodge Jr., executive director of the Water and Power Authority and co-director with Smith of the EDIN-USVI alliance, assured the attendees that the utility “definitely supports integrating renewables into WAPA's generation mix” and is actively moving to do so at many levels. Hodge said, many projects, including the underwater transmission study to determine the feasibility of creating a Caribbean grid and, the soon to be released, request for proposal for solar energy generation, have great potential for the VI's energy future. Hodge expressed appreciation for EDIN's involvement in the process now underway as its technical expertise is of great value to the territory.

Paul Chakroff, executive director of St. Croix Environmental Association, made a presentation Tuesday on the Virgin Islands potential for using biomass and biofuels. He said about the conference. “It has been very substantive. We have covered a broad spectrum of Energy issues and it tells me that progress is being made on energy issues here in the Virgin Islands.” Early on Monday Cassandra Dunn, of the Water and Power Authority, and Aminah Saleem of the Energy Office, unveiled what is going to be called the VI-Energize (pronounced vyenergized) Campaign.

This campaign with its new logos and tagline – **Energy Revolution; We are the Solution** – will take various avenues to educate the public about energy efficiency and alternative energy. Saleem, who coined the new word, explained, “It is a new and powerful word which incorporates the “VI” for Virgin Islands and the word “energize” which means “to give energy or power to something or someone. Getting VIenergized is a call to action for all Virgin Islanders to meet our energy challenges together and become part of the solution.” Besides the local presenters at the conference there were presenters from NREL, from Harvard and from University of California, Berkeley. David Hall also gave a presentation on the University of the Virgin Islands proposed Caribbean Green Technology Center.

To read about in the [Daily News](#).

To read about it in the [VI Source](#).
For a photo album of the event [click here](#).
For a video of the event [click here](#).

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