

**Oct. 31, 2011**



## Energy Awareness Month



**Molissa Brin, Energy Office Administrative Aid, explains Energy Office rebate programs to St. John resident John Westgarde at a flea market on St. John Oct. 23. For more photos of Energy Awareness Month events go to <http://www.facebook.com/vienergy>. For a video showing how much conversation was going on at the EAM outreaches [click here](#).**

# Chamber Members Learn About WISE Program

Miguel Quinones, grants program coordinator at the Virgin Islands Energy Office, presented St. John Chamber Chapter members details of a key initiative in Virgin Islands Energy Alliance program when the Chamber convened at the Battery in Cruz Bay Oct. 18.

He said the Energy Alliance program was designed by the Virgin Islands Energy Office “to reduce the energy consumption for all customers including government, large commercial and industrial, small businesses and residential.”

He then narrowed his focus to the segment of that program that was most likely to help the small business persons in the audience. -- USVI WISE (Worthwhile Investments Save Energy). He told the room that included about a dozen people that WISE’s first focus is on helping small businesses cut down energy consumption. He pointed out that investments in energy efficiency have a high rate of return. He added that predicting revenues without a strong knowledge of energy use and costs is very difficult.

If, after an assessment by the Energy Office, a business is found eligible for the WISE program, it can receive a grant for up to 40 percent of the cost of energy improvements it makes.

Eligible applicants are small retail and service businesses with utility usage of 30,000 kWh monthly or less. To qualify, businesses must own their buildings or have long-term leases. An application for the rebates is on the Energy Office website at [www.vienergy.org](http://www.vienergy.org).

Quinones emphasized that a business will have to demonstrate that it has implemented energy efficient methods that reduce its consumption by 15 percent before it will be eligible to use grant money for renewable energy projects such as solar or wind.

Quinones outlined the process that a business person would have to go through to get into the program and he had applications available for those interested. Audience members pointed out that if there could be a revolving loan element added to the program to aid businesses with their 60 percent obligation, the program would become even more attractive.

Quinones said that the Energy Alliance program is part of Gov. John deJongh, Jr. plan to reduce the Virgin Islands need for fossil fuel by 60 percent by the year 2025. The Energy Office is a division of the Office of the Governor.

For more information contact Miguel Quinones at 714.8436.

# EDIN-USVI Urges Business Owners to *Vienergize* for the Holidays To Save Energy and Cut Costs

The EDIN-USVI partners are encouraging local business owners to “***Vienergize*** (pronounced *Vy-energize*) **for the Holidays.**” Through the Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) partnership, the V.I. Energy Office, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior, and the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority are working with V.I. businesses on solutions to increase energy efficiency and lower energy costs. By taking steps to reduce energy use over the holidays, businesses can lower their energy bills while helping advance the territory’s clean energy goals.

According to WAPA’s Executive Director Hugo V. Hodge Jr. and Energy Office Director Karl Knight, the ***Vienergize Your Holidays*** campaign is part of a movement toward energy sustainability and self-sufficiency in the V.I. In 2010 VIEO and WAPA partnered with the U.S. Departments of Energy and the Interior, as well as the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, to work toward reducing the territory’s fossil fuel use 60% by 2025. Because energy efficiency is essential to that goal, the ***Vienergize*** campaign is focused on keeping energy conservation and efficiency top of mind among V.I. residents and businesses.

Businesses that ***Vienergize*** during this holiday season using these no- and low-cost energy saving tips can save as much as 10% to 25% monthly on their energy bills:

- Use LED lights for holiday displays for maximum energy savings.
- Remove grease and dust from bulbs, fixtures, lenses, lamps and reflective surfaces regularly to increase the output of lights.
- Keep thermostats at 78–80° when people are in the building. It makes little sense to keep a room so cold during the cool season that workers must wear heavy sweaters and jackets.
- Keep exterior and freight doors closed as much as possible.
- Turn down the water heater to 120°; install a timer to regulate “on” time.
- Don’t use screen savers—they prevent CPUs and monitors from going into power-saver mode.
- Turn off equipment overnight and on weekends. Use the energy saving feature on printers, monitors, copiers, and computers.
- Make double-sided copies whenever possible.
- Stock and encourage customers to buy EPA ENERGY STAR and WaterSense products. Display items such as energy efficient holiday lights and timers in the front of the store for immediate customer attention.

Restaurants can Vienergize using these energy-saving ideas:

- Keep equipment clean. Carbon and grease build-up make cooking equipment work harder and use more energy.
- Do not preheat steam tables, grills, broilers, etc; 15 minutes is generally adequate for preheating ovens, depending on the appliance and desired temperature.
- Pre-cook foods such as potatoes and chicken in a steamer before frying. Steamers are much more energy efficient.
- Use microwave ovens as much as possible. They use significantly less energy than conventional ovens and can be used for thawing, partial cooking and reheating food.
- Schedule cooking times to utilize ovens fully and shorten daily operating times.
- Cover all pots. This reduces heat loss, and food will cook faster.
- Do not operate fryers higher than 350°. Higher temperatures are less efficient.
- Keep your dishwasher temperature at the proper level. Standard temperatures are: 140° F, wash; 160°F, power rinse; 180°F, final rinse. Using hotter water wastes energy. Install timers to heat water only when needed.
- Use low-flow, pre-rinse spray valves to save energy and water costs. The typical spray valve used to wash dishes by hand runs four gallons of water a minute. A low-flow valve only consumes 1.6 gallons a minute.
- Exhaust fans are important for air quality, but use fans at speeds no higher than necessary.
- Install motion sensors in proper locations such as restrooms to automatically turn off lighting when no one is present.
- Install [ENERGY STAR qualified exit signs](#). These signs reduce maintenance by eliminating lamp replacement and can save businesses up to \$100 per sign annually in electricity costs, while preventing up to 500 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

To find out more about the EDIN-USVI energy revolution and how you can be part of the solution, visit, [www.edinenergy.org/usvi](http://www.edinenergy.org/usvi)



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