

May 28, 2010



Government Projects to Save Energy

Governor John P. deJongh Jr. has executed four Memoranda of Agreement to use over \$9 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding for energy efficiency initiatives in the government.

“The execution of the agreements between the V. I. Energy Office and Department of Public Works, Water and Power Authority, Port Authority and Waste Management Authority are part of our overall strategy to reduce energy use,” de Jongh said. “They are also part of our efforts to improve our approach to managing government affairs by achieving energy efficiency in government buildings and facilities, consistency and management of our street lighting, and implementing a gas-treatment system at one of our landfills. The availability and access to ARRA funding has enabled us to be creative and to implement programs that will have a direct impact on government costs and our approach to energy conservation.”

The Department of Public Works will install traffic signal LED bulbs, LED street light bulbs, solar lights in bus shelters, and solar lights on the Christiansted Boardwalk. These projects will cost \$964,955 and save the Virgin Islands government about 820,060 kWhs per year. LED or light emitting diodes use half the power that compact fluorescent bulbs utilize and have twice the lifecycle.

The Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority will purchase and install a street light management system and replace high-pressure sodium street light fixtures with LED fixtures. This project will utilize \$2.5 million of ARRA funds. It is estimated that this project will save WAPA 700,000 kWhs per year.

The Waste Management Authority will install a landfill, gas-to-energy, gas-treatment system at the Bovoni Landfill on St. Thomas at an estimated cost of about \$3 million. The work will include the installation of generating equipment

to use the landfill gas to produce electricity at the Bovoni Landfill. The gas for the generators will be collected with a gas collection system already in progress prior to the grant award. This project is estimated to produce 1.5 million kWhs per year.

In the fourth project, the V. I. Port Authority will receive \$2.9 million to purchase and install a 335 kW PV solar system at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas. This is expected to produce 485,925 kWhs per year for Port Authority use. At the current electric rate this will save the Port Authority \$170,073 annually.

Overall, the savings anticipated from these projects will be about \$2.1 million per year. “This is a significant milestone in our efforts to achieve the objectives of our comprehensive energy strategy. These government agencies are leading by example as we begin to reduce energy costs and promote clean energy use,” said Bevan R. Smith, Jr., Director of the Energy Office.

Smith said it is also the office’s objective to increase efficiency of energy use and production and increase fuel diversity and reliability, therefore, by this summer the central government and large commercial ratepayers will benefit from a long-term, self-sustaining energy demand reduction plan to decrease electricity and water consumption by 46 million kWh and 230 million gallons by 2013. This plan is expected to reduce utility costs in the Virgin Islands at current prices by almost \$20 million annually beginning in 2013.

New Hours for Accepting Rebate Applications

The Energy Office announces that effective immediately, and until further notice, walk-in rebate applications will be accepted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at both its St. Croix and St. Thomas offices. This temporary arrangement will allow the staff the opportunity to adequately process applications in a timely manner.

The VIEO would like to thank the public for its cooperation and adherence to this new schedule.

For additional information, contact the Energy Office at 713-8436, St. Croix or 774-3320, St. Thomas or visit www.vienergy.org.

Awareness Day Marks Weatherization Progress

The Virgin Islands Energy Office Weatherization Assistance Program has started the process of auditing and weatherizing homes throughout the territory. The program provides benefits to targeted groups in terms of energy efficiency enhancements.

In order to expand the public's awareness of the program, a Weatherization Awareness Day is set on St. Croix on Thursday, June 17, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Members of the media will be invited to learn how this program is benefiting residents of the Virgin Islands. The Energy Office is a division of the Office of the Governor.

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