

March 11, 2009



Energy Office Sets Workshops

The V.I. Energy Office will be conducting one-day training workshops for facility managers in central government. The workshop will be held on St. Thomas on March 25 and on March 26 on St. Croix. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 4:30 pm.

Topics on energy conservation, procurement practices, and employee behavior in the workplace will be presented by JDM Associates, a St. Thomas based energy firm. Government facility managers (individuals identified by each agency/location) are encouraged to attend.

There is no registration required but attendees are asked to call the Energy Office at 773-1082 to confirm the venue and reserve a space and materials.

Solar Car Race Is April 3rd

The 14th Annual Junior Solar Sprint Competition is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd, 10 a.m., at the Wendy's Restaurant south parking lot in the Sunny Isle Shopping Center.

The Junior Solar Sprint Competition is an exciting, hands-on, educational experience that was developed for junior high school students to improve their knowledge of science, engineering, and renewable energy concepts by designing and constructing solar model cars.

About 100 students from 25 different schools in the territory are expected to compete in the solar car elimination races sponsored by the Energy Office.

VI Government Feels the Heat

Governor John P. de Jongh, Jr. participated in a series of table-top exercises regarding global warming and climate change at the University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas the second weekend of February. The forum was designed to provide the Chief Executive and his Cabinet with scientific data and predictions relative to the impact of climate change for the global community and the Caribbean region, in particular.

During this session it became very clear that the scientific data supports global warming and the gradual warming of the earth as a result of the impact of man-made or human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. The presentations provided projections based on scientific findings and encouraged a proactive regional, as well as international approach. “My Administration looks forward to partnering with other local, national, and international groups and organizations, as well as other government entities, to share information and move forward on a collaborative response to this very real global issue,” de Jongh said.

Two well-known climatologists briefed Governor de Jongh and his Cabinet on the impacts of global warming, as well as on the collaborative community response needed to adapt to the changing climate. Dr. Leonard Nurse, Chairman of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre in Belize, outlined the long-term trend for global warming, with a special focus on the Caribbean and Virgin Islands. He referenced scientific models and other projection data regarding expectations for reduced rainfall, glacier retreat and rising sea levels in future years.



Governor makes a point during Climate Change Conference. Seated next to him is Lt. Governor Gregory Francis and in the background, Office of Homeland Security Director Mel Vanterpool.

Additional focus centered on the impact of global warming on crops, changing migratory patterns of fish, and steps needed to address these and other issues.

Dr. Ulric Trotz has been giving direction to the Caribbean region’s efforts to build capacity for climate change adaptation and was recently inducted as an Honorary Distinguished Fellow of the University of the West Indies in Barbados. His presentation focused on working towards reducing long-term costs associated with global warming and the overall importance of adapting to the climate change, specifically citing actions that should be taken by Caribbean islands in at least four areas: Water Resources, Tourism Industry, Insurance Industry, and Energy. As part of his overall message, Dr. Trotz encouraged green tourism and energy efficient designs for buildings and infrastructure in order to mitigate and counteract predictions for beach erosion, rainfall scarcity, and increases in hurricane intensity.

Throughout the discussion, Governor de Jongh and his Cabinet were presented with scenarios and evaluated climate change projections for the Territory, greater Caribbean, and beyond in order to contemplate the overall response needed at the local and international levels to adapt to global warming.

According to the climatologists present at the UVI forum this weekend, the Caribbean region has already felt the effects of climate change. Evidence was presented that detailed the region’s recent changes, including: intense hurricanes over a shorter period of time and other

climate-related events such as flooding, mudslides, other storm surges, drier dry seasons, shorter wet seasons, rising sea levels and warmer ocean temperatures as a result of global warming.

V.I. Recycling Association Initiates Web Page

The Recycling Association of the Virgin Islands (RAVI) aims to establish a thriving community of recyclers dedicated to conserving resources through the implementation of comprehensive programs that result in waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. The site is very helpful in locating places to recycle material such as aluminum and newspapers.

A component of that effort is “freecycle.” This interesting concept allows people to post items that they want to give away instead of sending them to the landfill. On the other side, people looking for items such as patio furniture or rugs or appliances can go to the site and find them. It should help cut down some unnecessary waste in the Virgin Islands. It can be accessed at <http://www.usvircd.org/RAVI/>.

If you wish to be taken off this email list, send a message to dbuchanan@vienergy.org with unsubscribe in the message line.