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ENERGY BLAST

Newsletter of the Virgin Islands Energy Office



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A Word from Director Kyle Fleming



In 2025 VIEO successfully led the charge to significantly increase renewable energy generation and the adoption of critical advanced technologies in the territory. Thanks to direct rebates to everyday Virgin Islanders, low interest loans for residents, and subgrants awarded directly to community based organizations and private sector partners; VIEO directly promoted over \$6 million* in smart energy investments last year.

These funds have helped low income Virgin Islanders replace needlessly wasteful appliances with free upgrades. Given homeowners struggling with high utility bills access to low interest no money down solar and battery loan financing. And helped residents across socioeconomic divides reduce their impact on the planet all while improving their bottom line.

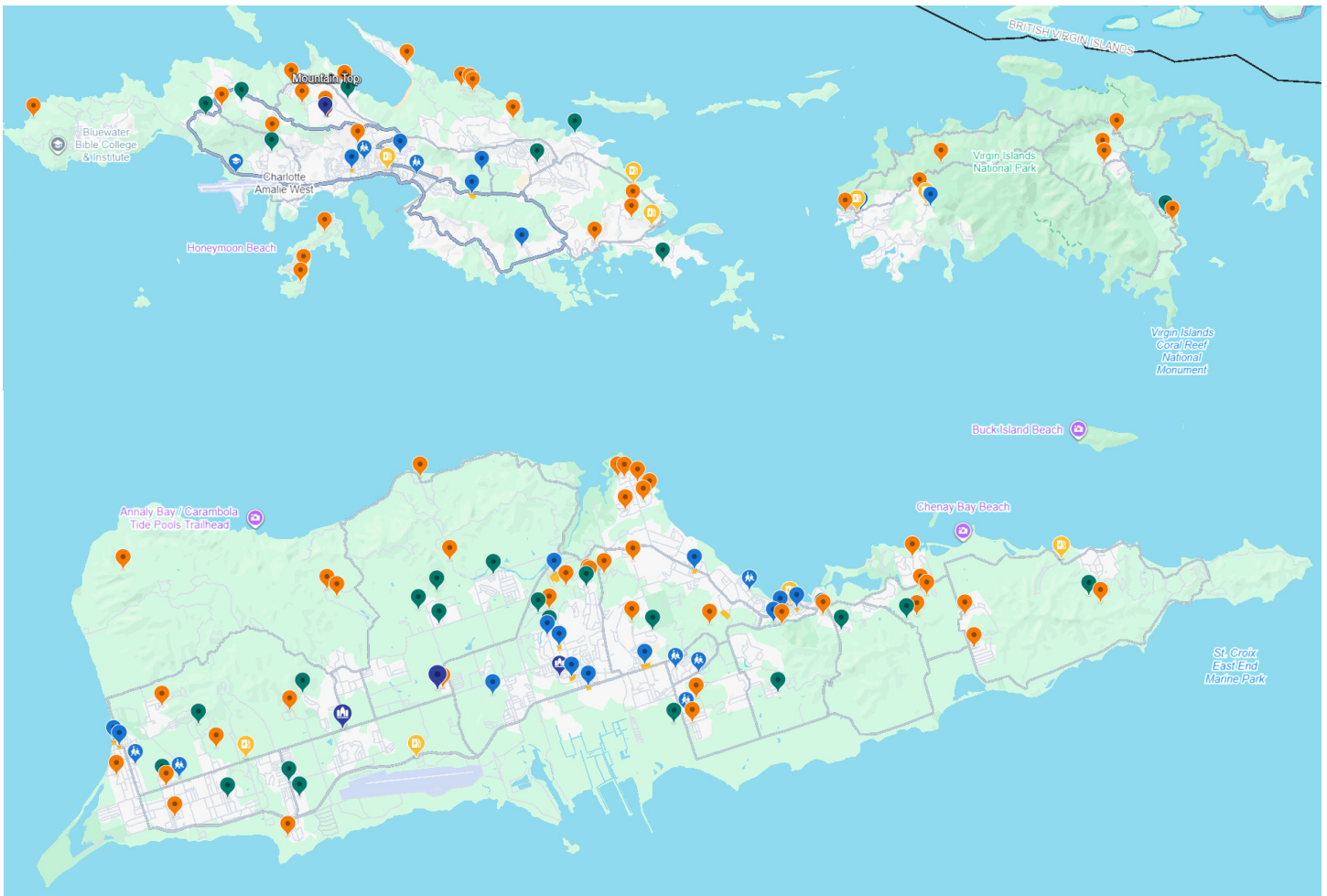
Since taking the helm at the Energy Office, I've taken great pride in the programs we administer and how they directly address some of the most vexing affordability concerns our residents face. **The Virgin Islands are paradise, and our people deserve access to the tools they need to not just survive here, but thrive.**

In 2026 VIEO will stay the course and continue to give Virgin Islanders access to the programs they have come to depend on, like the Weatherization Assistance Program, Electric Mobility, and others. All while ensuring that the new initiatives that we are excited to launch like the Virgin Islands Battery Energy Storage 2.0 Virtual Power Plant, and the Community Electrical Innovations Program, bring even greater benefits to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Kyle Fleming

Virgin Islands Energy Office Director Kyle Fleming has led the agency for the past seven years and over the course of his tenure has aggressively promoted the creation of policies and programs that have widened access to distributed energy resources, and increased rebate support for the consumer adoption of next generation technologies.

Powering Progress Across the Territory



Community Electrical Innovation

First behind-the-meter solar + battery microgrid in the USVI, boosting resilience for community organizations serving vulnerable populations



Community Microgrids

Federally and locally funded solar installations at faith-based institutions to lower high utility costs



EV Charging Stations

Level II chargers installed by the VIEO, expanding charging access in both districts



Solar Plus Financing Pilot Program

SPF is a \$0-down, low-interest solar loan program helping Virgin Islanders cut high utility bills while advancing territory-wide resilience



VI Battery Energy Storage Program

USVI residents can receive up to \$6,000 for installing up to 21 kWh of battery backup with an automatic transfer switch

Mountain Top Microgrid Breaks Ground



VIEO broke ground this May on a 70 kW solar farm and 500 kWh battery energy storage system at WTJX's Mountain Top broadcasting facility. (Photo by Kyle Fleming).

The WTJX microgrid is built around over **500 kWh battery energy storage system**, paired with roughly **70 kW of solar PV**, engineered to deliver firm, dispatchable power that can smooth transitions, absorb disturbances, and keep operations steady even when the grid is not. In practical terms, the battery is what turns renewable energy from "available when the sun shines" into "available when you need it."

Built for What Comes Next: A Future VPP Resource

What makes this project especially exciting is that it isn't being designed as a one-off. The system is being developed with the ability to support future **Virtual Power Plant (VPP)** operations in addition to protecting WTJX locally, the battery will be eventually coordinated as part of a wider network of distributed storage assets that help stabilize the territory's grid.

That's the bigger story VIEO is working toward: a Virgin Islands energy future where resilience isn't centralized in a few large facilities, but distributed across multiple community assets that can respond, support, and recover together.

As Carib Sun Energy mobilizes and the project moves into the next phase, WTJX Mountain Top becomes more than a resilient communications site, it becomes a model. One that shows what's possible when we treat solar as an energy source *and* storage as an energy solution.

If you've ever driven up to Mountain Top on St. Thomas you been greeted by skyline views, trade winds, and that unmistakable sense that you're standing at one of the Territory's highest and most important points. But beyond the postcard scenery, Mountain Top is also a place where the Virgin Islands depends on something far less visible and far more vital: critical communications.

That's why the Virgin Islands Energy Office (VIEO) is marking a major milestone at the WTJX broadcast tower site. Contract execution and groundbreaking signal the project has officially moved from concept to construction. After a competitive procurement process, **Carib Sun Energy** was selected to deliver a solar-plus-storage microgrid designed to keep this critical public broadcasting hub operating through grid instability and severe weather.

In a crisis, information becomes infrastructure. Storm warnings, emergency updates, public safety messaging, and community coordination all depend on communications networks staying online, especially when the electric grid is stressed or down. WTJX is more than a broadcaster; it's a lifeline that helps connect residents, first responders, and decision-makers when conditions shift from inconvenient to urgent.

A microgrid at a site like this isn't just about lowering electricity bills (though that's an important benefit). It's about continuity, ensuring the facility can operate when it matters most, without waiting on fuel deliveries or restoration timelines.

Best of the BESS

Solar panels get most of the attention because they're easy to see. But the real headline here is the battery.

Community Electrical Innovations



The Happy Faces II Academy will be the first of nine childcare centers that VIEO will harden with solar electric systems and battery energy storage solutions thanks to the Community Electrical Innovations grant program. (Photo by Eliji Mondesir).

The first behind-the-meter solar and battery microgrid funded by the **Community Electrical Innovations (CEI)** grant program has been awarded to **ProSolar Caribbean to install 10kW solar system and 40.5 kWh battery** at the Happy Faces II Academy later this spring. CEI has been designed to harden community based organizations that provide critical services to vulnerable populations in the Virgin Islands. And aims to reduce the burden that high utility costs place on their operations, while reducing the loss of services their clients face due to power outages.

Happy Faces solar plus battery system has been **sized to meet up to 85% of the facilities energy demands**, and is expected to output roughly 46,750 kWh a year. When fully charged the 40 kWh battery will be able to sustain the daycare with hours of emergency power, providing an invaluable contingency during instances of grid unavailability.

A second tranche of **eight childcare centers** is currently being prepared for solicitation by the Department of Property and Procurement as part of a request for bid bundle that is expected to be published shortly. According

to early estimates, VIEO will install approximately **1 MWh of battery storage**, and **323 kW of solar capacity** across the nine childcare facilities.

In total, VIEO selected a diverse group of 29 applicants who represent a vibrant cross section of the territory's network of community focused organizations. Amongst the successful applicants are a senior resource activity center, senior living facilities, healthcare facilities, soup kitchens and transitional housing for the homeless, and a vocational training institution among others. VIEO is working on installing the systems in batches to streamline procurement and construction activities, and expects that by early spring work on the majority of childcare facilities should be concluded. With more complex systems slated to follow.

CEI is a **\$19 million grant** program funded thanks to a Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery grant awarded to the territory by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and administered by VIEO as a subrecipient of the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA).

Charging Infrastructure Development

VIEO's network of public electric vehicle (EV) chargers expanded significantly in 2026 with the addition of **16 Level II chargers in the St. Thomas—St. John District**. The chargers join a growing ecosystem of charging infrastructure constructed by VIEO that is augmenting refueling options for EV owners in both districts.



An EV charges up at one of six newly installed chargers located in the Fort Christian parking lot on St. Thomas. (Photo by Kyle Fleming).

The pedestal mounted chargers are capable of delivering over **10 kW of power** and can recharge a vehicle four to eight times faster than is possible when plugging into a typical household outlet. Six of the new chargers have been installed at the **Fort Christian Parking Lot**, four at the **Red Hook Plaza**, and two each at parking lots located adjacent to the **Lindquist Beach**, the **Enighed Pond**, and the **Giff Hill School**.



The two chargers located at Enighed Pond on St. John are capable of delivering just over 10 kW of power to an EV's battery cells, marking them out as Level II chargers. (Photo by Andrew Ray).



The first DC fast charger in the territory is located at the University of the Virgin Islands Research and Technology Park. (Photo by Kyle Fleming).

On St. Croix, motorists can plug into public chargers located at the **Christian "Shan" Hendricks Vegetable Market** in Christiansted, adjacent to the Virgin Islands Economic Development Agency's office in the **William D. Roebuck Industrial Park**, and at **Ziggy's Island Market**. **Charging on VIEO's network is currently free of charge** thanks to funding provided by a U.S. Department of the Interior grant. In the future, VIEO will require that patrons are charged for the charge they receive.

On top of increasing the number of EV fueling stations available in the territory, VIEO made history this March by commissioning the first ever DC charger in the Virgin Islands. **Capable of outputting 60 kW**, the charger located adjacent to the **Research and Technology Park (RTPark)** can refuel an EV running on empty in little over an hour. The charger has been tied into an **189 kWh battery energy storage system** that is charged off a nearby solar field. Enabling the system to operate independently of the electrical grid in the event of a power outage.

Since going into service VIEO's charging network has output over **27,700 kWh of energy** to the growing number of EVs plying territorial roadways, displacing the equivalent of approximately 4,000 gallons of gasoline. By supporting the motoring public's ability to confidently buy EVs, **VIEO has directly reduced the amount of CO₂ generated in the territory by more than 40 tons.**

Sub Grants: Big Impact!

VIEO made major headway on its goal of empowering critical local enterprises with the support they need to embrace paradigm shifting technologies in 2025 with the inking of several major subgrant awards. The awards, which cumulatively will pump approximately **\$1.5 million** into the local economy, leverage a liberal mix of federal and local funding to support the installation of solar arrays at faith based institutions, the augmentation of the VI Water and Power Authority's (WAPA) capacity to support the integration of distributed energy resources (DERs), the creation of renewable technology job training opportunities, and the electrification of personal transportation in the territory.

Solar Congregations Pilot

Just a week shy of Christmas 2024 Governor Albert Bryan Jr. found occasion to put on his proverbial Santa hat when he gave his approval to VIEO to launch the Solar Congregations Pilot (SCP) program. Recognizing the strain that the territory's energy crisis has placed on charitable institutions that enhance the fabric of Virgin Islands' life, Governor Bryan authorized VIEO to execute a plan authored by Director Kyle Fleming that would relieve some of the operational burden inflicted by high utility bills.

Construction activities at the **Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church**, and the **St. Joseph Catholic Church** got underway in 2025. Each of the churches has been

outfitted with **35 kW roof mounted solar systems** that are projected to save them approximately \$2,000 a month in utility costs. The **\$220,000 subgrant agreement** also funds the installations of Level II electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at each site, which will be powered by the electricity generated by the solar arrays.



The St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mount Pleasant is expected to save \$2,000 a month in utility costs thanks to the 35 kW solar array VIEO installed at the facility. A cost savings that the Very Reverend Father Andrea Filippucci, Vicar General of the Diocese of St. Thomas, said would allow the church to better serve the community. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).



The Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church in Barren Spot was a beneficiary of VIEO's locally funded Solar Congregations Pilot Program. (Photos by Lasiba Knight).



"I think the impact of a person is much more than the impact of new paint, or something else. So to be able to care for the people, and serve them, and to minister to them. I always tell people that the reason that I am here in St. Croix, is you. That's what I do, my life is a life of service, so I think the greatest impact is that it will allow us to serve the people better. Very concretely by having another priest here," Filippucci said. (Photo by Erik Gonzalez).



VIenergize



VIEO Director Kyle Fleming and VIenergize Director Brian Walden address the Virgin Islands during an airing of Administrators Corner. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

The solar systems funded by the SCP award will be enrolled into the **Net Energy Billing (NEB)** program administered by the VI Water and Power Authority (WAPA). The NEB program launched in 2019 but gradually stagnated in recent years as personnel capacity constraints at WAPA hampered the agency's ability to streamline the enrollment of new DERs into the program. In order to get the program back on track, VIEO secured **\$540,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior** in order to fund the VIenergize recapitalization. This funding has been awarded to WAPA as a subgrant and has allowed the utility to bring back the VIenergize department after it dwindled due to a lack of resources. With the new support WAPA has staffed VIenergize with champions of all things distributed energy.

In October VIenergize relaunched NEB, once again **allowing customers who generate solar energy to send their unused power back to the WAPA grid and earn bill credits.** These credits are applied to the energy they consume from the grid, helping to reduce monthly electric bills while making solar more cost-effective. Neighboring



Neighboring customers also benefit from the energy returned to the grid, further driving the community effort of stabilizing power for all.

customers also benefit from the energy returned to the grid, further driving the community effort of stabilizing power for all.

EV Service Centers

VIEO partnered with Metro Motors VI to give the dealership the support it needed to establish EV service centers in both districts, a first in the territory. The award of the **\$500,000 subgrant, facilitated through U.S. Department of Energy** funding, will enable the sale of EVs in the territory by an affiliate of an American automobile manufacturer.



VIEO's Government Operations Fleet Efficiency and Electrification Transformation (GO FLEET) initiative has facilitated the procurement of dozens of EVs for public service use, vehicles that have markedly cut down not only on governmental fuel costs and polluting emissions. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

The subgrant agreement outlines how VIEO will reimburse Metro Motors for purchasing the tools and equipment needed to fully service EVs, the procurement and installation of Level III DC fast charging stations on St. Croix and St. Thomas, and specialized training for local EV technicians.

As part of the agreement, Metro Motors committed to carrying popular EV models on their showroom floors in both districts. The deal also ensures that **government and private sector electric vehicles from manufacturers affiliated with Metro Motors VI will have local access to technicians and services when the need arises.**



VIEO Director Kyle Fleming, Caribbean Green Technology Center (CGTC) Director Dr. Greg Guannel, and VIEO Deputy Director Michael Jaffurs, hold a \$150,000 check endowing the Virgin Islands Renewable Energy Technology Scholarship Fund. (Photo by DeVaughn Tyler).

Renewable Energy Technology Degree Program

VIEO supported access to workforce development and renewable energy education opportunities in the territory with its donation to the University of the Virgin Islands Renewable Energy Technology Scholarship Fund. The **\$150,000 subgrant award will support 10 specialized courses and one internship** within UVI's Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Associate of Applied Science degree program.

Through this donation VIEO will fund a two-year course of study focused on providing students with the knowledge and skills they need to immediately enter the renewable energy workforce upon receipt of their degree. RET students will learn foundational electrical concepts, renewable energy technologies, and how to install and repair photovoltaic systems. Once completed, students who have graduated from the RET program will be fully capable of passing the **North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) Photovoltaic (PV) Associate** examination, an internationally recognized certification for PV installation companies and practitioners.

The renewable energy sector has been growing explosively in the territory over the past decade as residents

look to outfit their homes and businesses with reliable clean backup power and storage solutions. With the growing portfolio of utility scale renewable generation projects that are coming online and supplying significant amounts of energy to the grid, as well as the robust commercial and residential markets, the demand for skilled renewable energy technicians is forecast to remain strong for the foreseeable future. **VIEO and UVI's partnership will ensure that the territory has a steady pipeline of well trained professionals ready to enter the renewable workforce.**



VIEO Deputy Director Michael Jaffurs, CGTC Director Dr. Greg Guannel, and VIEO Director Kyle Fleming review construction underway at a VIEO DC electric vehicle fast charger site adjacent to the RTPark solar farm located at the UVI Albert Sheen Campus. (Photo by DeVaughn Tyler).

Solar Plus Financing Pilot Program

VIEO is pleased to announce that the final solar and battery behind-the-meter microgrid underwritten by the **Solar Plus Financing (SPF) Pilot Program** has been commissioned, and that all **31 loans** executed during this cycle of the loan program have been successfully closed. **SPF is a \$0 down low interest** solar loan program funded by the US. Department of Energy that aims to bring relief to Virgin Islanders living with high utility bills while further bolstering the territory's goal of enmeshing resilience into every corner of island life.



SPF solar systems have been designed to ensure that the homeowner realizes a savings on their utility bill, inclusive of the monthly loan payment, of at least 10% of what their typical power bill was prior to installation. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

In total VIEO awarded more than **\$860,000 in loans to homeowners**, enabling them to install **418 kWh of battery storage** and **164 kW of solar generation**. The loans, which averaged approximately \$27,700, required no upfront payment and carry an interest rate of 1 percent. Clients will repay the loans via an on bill financing mechanism that will be added directly to each customer's utility bill. SPF was a joint initiative between VIEO, WAPA, and the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority (VIEDA).



This roof mounted solar system is one of 31 solar arrays installed due to VIEO's SPF program. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).



A majority of SPF clients opted to include battery energy storage systems in tandem with their solar arrays. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).



In order to qualify for SPF, applicants had to be bona fide Virgin Islands residents. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

Weatherization Assistance Program

VIEO is proud to announce that the **Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** will begin accepting applications starting on **March 1, 2026**. WAP aims to help Virgin Islanders struggling to make ends meet spend less on their utility bills by improving the energy efficiency of their homes. Through the program eligible residents can have their inefficient appliances and fixtures retrofitted or replaced at no cost.

WAP is designed to help low income families invest in next generation appliances and smart solutions. These proven products have been rigorously tested to ensure that they use less energy and other valuable resources to produce similar or improved results to the items they are replacing. The program places a priority on easing the burden that households struggling to make ends meet face as they support elderly, disabled, or minor dependants; placing them at the front of the line for resource distribution.



VIEO contractors unload brand new, energy efficient refrigerators that will replace old and outmoded models at Ebenezer Gardens. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

For the 2026-2029 WAP funding cycle, the **maximum household income limits have been adjusted**, meaning that now a family of four with a combined income of \$82,000, or a family of three cumulatively earning \$68,000 are eligible for WAP benefits. To apply for the WAP program please visit VIEO at our St. Croix or St. Thomas headquarters located at #2 Estate Carlton and the Nisky Center respectively and pickup an application. Once completed the applications can be turned into VIEO staff.

In October VIEO completed the final installation of WAP retrofit items slated to be installed at the **Ebenezer**



Crews work to remove antiquated and inefficient refrigerators at the Ebenezer Gardens senior independent living facility on St. Thomas. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

Gardens and the **Lucinda A. Millin Home**, low-income senior independent living facilities, on St. Thomas. Prior to the installations, each of the applicant's units were inspected by a VIEO Energy Auditor who made a thorough review of all of their appliances, to determine which ones should be replaced with energy efficient upgrades. On top of items like LED lightbulbs, low flow shower heads and faucet aerators, the seniors also received new refrigerators, window air conditioners, mini split HVACs, and efficient hot water heaters as needed.

During the last WAP cycle, VIEO completed over **130 energy audits and home retrofits**, providing clients with energy efficient appliance upgrades worth on average over \$2,900 per household. Over **50 households on St. Thomas**, and more than **80 on St. Croix** received the benefit of greater home energy efficiency.



On top of items like LED lightbulbs, low flow shower heads, and faucet aerators, the seniors also received new refrigerators, window air conditioners, mini split HVACs, and efficient hot water heaters. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

Rebate Breakdown

EERE Stats and Facts

In 2025 the **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)** rebate program helped hundreds of Virgin Islanders afford appliances and products that reduce their energy consumption. EERE offers Virgin Islands' residents a rebate of up to **\$5,000 on 40% of the purchase price of qualifying ENERGY STAR® products** they buy from local approved vendors.

During this latest rebate cycle VIEO disbursed more than **\$210,000 in funding to 390 applicants**. Funding that enabled Virgin Islanders to purchase approximately \$525,000 worth of ENERGY STAR® rated appliances and

products from businesses across the territory. These proven energy efficient products have been subject to rigours testing and verification by either the Department of Energy or the Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that they deliver the energy savings advertised on the label. Since its inception nationally in 1992 ENERGY STAR® certified appliances have saved American's billions of dollars on their utility bills and helped prevent 4 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from entering our atmosphere.



Image via ENERGY STAR®

VI Battery Energy Storage

Since its inception the **Virgin Islands Battery Energy Storage (VIBES)** program has helped dozens of Virgin Islanders across the territory defray the cost of making their homes more resilient. The program gives residents the peace of mind that comes with knowing that their homes are equipped with the clean backup power they need to ride out the transient faults and blackouts that occur in the territory.



Thanks to the subsidy VIEO estimates that Virgin Islanders have been able to purchase \$1.1 million worth of energy storage.



The VIBES program aims to give Virgin Islanders the tools they need to ride out transient faults and more serious power outages that can occur in the territory by offering residents a rebate of up to \$6,000 on eligible battery energy storage solutions. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

In its two years of operation VIBES has helped homeowners, renters, and business owners install more than **850 kWh of battery storage** with an **average capacity of 15.5 kWh**. To put that into perspective, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) the average American household consumes approximately 30 kWh of energy in a day; meaning that VIBES customers can ride out hours-long blackouts comfortably.

VIBES allows residents to claim an up to **\$6,000 rebate for the installation of up to 21 kWh of battery backup** tied to an automatic transfer switch. VIEO has issued **70 rebates** to date, **totalling more than \$240,000**. Thanks to the subsidy VIEO estimates that Virgin Islanders have been able to purchase \$1.1 million worth of energy storage, the vast majority of which has been procured through and installed by local vendors.

E-Mobility



Dr. Janis Valmond made history when she was amongst the first private citizens to utilize one of two EV chargers installed by VIEO at the Christian "Shan" Hendricks Vegetable Market in Christiansted. (Photo by Lasiba Knight).

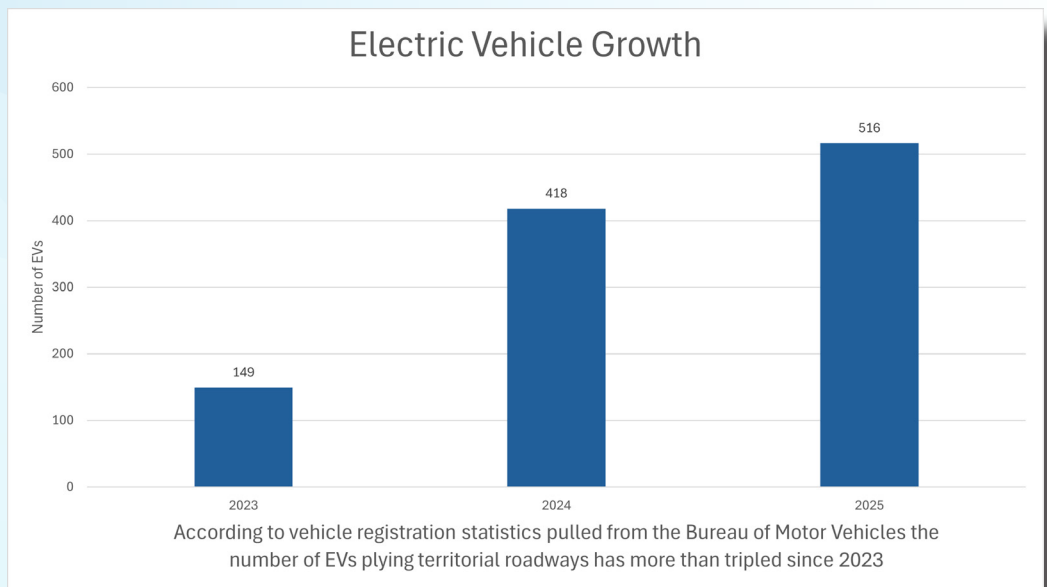
The **Electric Mobility (EM)** rebate program has helped dozens of Virgin Islanders make the switch to an electric vehicle (EV) since launching in 2024. **Over 50 residents have successfully applied for the rebate, which now stands at \$7,500**, to help reduce their costs when purchasing an EV. EVs, once a novelty in the territory, are now accounting for a growing share of the transportation mix in the Virgin Islands.

VIEO has been at the forefront of the local EV push and has crafted policies and programs aimed at making these vehicles more accessible to residents who want to limit their dependence on fossil fuels while reducing their impact on the planet. VIEO

has **disbursed over \$268,000** in rebates and stimulated new and used EV purchases worth approximately \$1.9 million. **According to vehicle registration statistics pulled from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles the number of EVs plying territorial roadways has approximately tripled since 2023**, with more than 500 of these vehicles registered in the territory as of November 2025.

When EVs first made their commercial debut they were a lot more expensive than the alternative, with an average retail price as much as 50% higher than an internal combustion engine (ICE) equivalent according to data compiled by automotive industry analyst JATO. The price gap between the powertrains has fallen precipitously in the intervening years though as manufactures have made advances in battery technology. That trend continued in January 2026 as the average transaction cost for a new EV fell to \$55,715 and the price gap between a new ICE vehicle closed to \$7,098 according to Kelly Blue Book.

To be eligible for this rebate program you must be a resident of the USVI, or a USVI licensed small business, non-profit, or not for profit organization, and have purchased a new or used EV that meets EM program specifications. **A \$500 EM rebate is also available for E-bikes purchased from a VIEO approved vendor.**



VIBES 2.0 VPP



During VIEO's Virtual Power Plant (VPP) Workshop, the agency brought together industry leaders in advanced commercial and residential battery technology, seasoned distributed energy resource aggregators, and energy policy experts from the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL) and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to give their input into the design of a VPP that could potentially help lower utility rates for all Virgin Islanders. The workshop was filled with a diverse range of experts who together have decades of experience managing, and overcoming, the challenges that arise as distributed energy resources become more common on a utility grid.

In the first quarter of 2026 VIEO will launch an initiative that has the potential to propel the territory's electrical grid into the 21st Century, unlocking technologies that can materially reduce the frequency of power outages and lower electrical rates for all customers. The **Virgin Islands Battery Energy Storage 2.0 Virtual Power Plant (VIBES-2.0-VPP)** will offer Virgin Islands residents a cash incentive for allowing their home battery energy storage systems (BESS) to be centrally aggregated into a utility scale resource that can be remotely dispatched to bridge generation shortfalls and prevent their neighbours from losing grid power.

Benefits of Enrolling in VIBES-2.0-VPP

When residents enroll their eligible battery systems into VIEO's VPP program, they will retain control of their

property. Thanks to in app controls inherent in our VPP partner Tesla's battery platform, **participants will be able to set limits on how much of their energy is discharged, as well as exercise the ability to opt-out of events on a case by case basis.** VIEO will also not authorize discharges when the weather forecast indicates a high likelihood of storms.

Along with retaining control of their systems, participants will receive a **one-time incentive of \$500 per battery system** that can reach a maximum of \$2,000 per participant for enrolling in the program. To ensure that enrolled batteries maintain ongoing participation in the VPP, VIEO will distribute an annual incentive of \$500 per site that maxes out at \$2,000 per participant. These annual payments will be disbursed on a quarterly basis at \$125 per battery.

What is a VPP, and how will it deliver on VIEO's promises?

VPPs are not brick-and-mortar power plants like the Richmond Plant on St. Croix or the Randolph Harley Plant on St. Thomas that rely on burning fuel to spin turbines that produce electricity. Rather, they consist of widely distributed assets like residential rooftop solar arrays and BESS that can be remotely coordinated by a central aggregator and dispatched to balance the grid's demand for energy against supply.

Our neighbor to the north has demonstrated over the course of the last few years the benefits an island can reap from investing in, and scaling up, a VPP. The Puerto Rico Energy Bureau (PREB) began exploring the potential of VPPs in earnest in 2021 when it mandated that the newly appointed grid operator LUMA Energy draft plans to address generation shortfalls that resulted in frequent outages. In November of 2023, LUMA launched the Customer Battery Energy Sharing (CBES) Pilot, a VPP program that enabled it to deploy batteries installed in tandem with residential solar arrays in behind-the-meter

(BTM) systems.

In the summer of 2025 LUMA projected that there would be at least 90 days when electrical demand would exceed the island's generation capacity and load shedding – the practice of taking feeders off the grid to avoid total blackouts – would be unavoidable. Faced with a scenario where skyrocketing demand was tensioned against the utility's inability to readily purchase expensive new fossil generation; LUMA petitioned PREB to greatly expand the CBES program. According to LUMA's projections they expected to be able to achieve an average total capacity per VPP discharge of 50 MW, with average capacity per customer per event of 0.93 kW, and an average total energy per event of 200 MWh.

In July of 2025 LUMA celebrated the success of the CBES program when its VPP discharged approximately 48MW of electricity to the grid from approximately 70,000 batteries. This dispatch helped to bridge a generation shortfall of nearly 50 MW that would have required multiple load shedding events and resulted in multiple communities around the island left without power.

As we move towards a Q1 launch, the USVI VPP will reflect those hard-won lessons from Puerto Rico and beyond, tailored to the reality that:

Our grid already has one of the highest per capita solar + battery penetrations in the world

Island utilities must leverage behind-the-meter resources, not compete against them

And strategic Distributed Energy Resource (DER) integration is essential to avoiding stranded assets, grid defection, and rising costs

We are inspired by our regional peers for blazing the trail and look forward to sharing more on how Virgin Islanders will be able to participate in, and benefit from, this landmark clean energy program.

VIBES 2.0: Unlock Your VPP Benefits



Cash

Bank up to \$2,000 just for signing up, and earn even more through additional payments tied to participation metrics.



Community Hero

Enrolling in VIBES-2.0-VPP gives you the power to help improve the reliability of electrical service in the territory. By sharing your battery's excess energy to meet demand, you are helping keep the lights on for your entire community.



You're in Control

Set your minimum Backup Reserve so Powerwall will keep your home powered during outages.

Power Your Home. Power Your Community. Get Rewarded.



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"Conserving energy saves money and the environment"