

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**EDIN-USVI Partners to Host Community Clean Energy Workshop
September 15 At UVI–St. Croix**

The Energy Development in Island Nations (EDIN) partners will meet with members of the U.S. Virgin Islands Energy Action Team, project working groups, and local clean energy champions for a Community Clean Energy Workshop on September 15 at the University of the Virgin Islands – St. Croix campus. The purpose of the workshop, which is the fifth since the EDIN-USVI project was launched in February 2010, is to involve the community in building on the momentum that has been generated by recent progress, including the solar installation at Cyril E. King Airport and the energy efficiency upgrades that are under way at 11 local schools.

Having developed an Energy Road Map based on technical analyses performed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), EDIN-USVI Directors Hugo Hodge Jr. and Karl Knight, along with founding partners the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the VI Energy Office (VIEO) and the VI Water and Power Authority (WAPA), are encouraging community-wide involvement in the project. Interested community members will have an opportunity to collaborate with active project supporters representing local businesses and non-profits, including *VIenergize* Partners Quality Electric Supply (QES), Asencios Construction, Luis G. Huertas, Horizon Energy Systems VI, Silva Energy and AARP, in breakout sessions focused on implementing key strategies that have been identified for achieving a 60 percent reduction in fossil fuel consumption in the USVI by 2025.-more-

The workshop, which is open to the public, will provide a forum for government, utility, education and businesses leaders; environmental groups; clean energy advocates and developers; and others to present progress

reports, data analyses and lessons learned, as well as engage in collaborative planning. The focus of the workshop is on moving from the planning phase into the implementation phase of the territory-wide transition to a clean energy future.

Experts from the NREL, DOE, DOI, and the private sector will report on feasibility studies and analyses that have informed the development of the USVI Energy Road Map. Project directors, partners, and working group leads will consult with stakeholders and interested local business leaders and community members on projects aimed at promoting energy efficiency, transportation improvements, education and workforce development, and renewable energy generation in the USVI.

EDIN is an international partnership focused on addressing the unique energy challenges islands face by advancing the deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. The USVI was selected as EDIN's first U.S. pilot project. The purpose of the project is to support the USVI's goal of reducing fossil fuel consumption in the electricity and transportation sectors 60 percent by 2025.

In June 2010, EDIN-USVI announced the formation of five integrated working groups focused on specific challenges: Education and Workforce Development, Policy and Analysis, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Transportation. The working groups are comprised of USVI-based project partners and technical advisors with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The quarterly EDIN-USVI workshops provide an opportunity for the working groups to report on progress, network, and engage in face-to-face planning sessions.

For more information on EDIN-USVI, or to subscribe to the *EDIN-USVI Clean Energy Quarterly* newsletter, please visit edinenergy.org/usvi.html.

There is no registration fee for this workshop; however, advance registration is required to ensure adequate seating and food service. Please RSVP to Laurie Thomas-Jacobs at laurie.thomas-jacobs@eo.vi.gov or 713-8436 by September 2.

