



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Office of Public Relations

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Virgin Islands Department of Education Celebrates Historic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for St. Croix Educational Complex Emergency Shelter Micro-Grid

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) proudly announces the successful completion and ribbon cutting for the St. Croix Educational Complex (SCEC) Emergency Shelter Micro-Grid. This groundbreaking event took place on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the journey towards sustainable energy for the Virgin Islands.

The ceremony, held at the SCEC campus, was attended by esteemed guests and speakers including Governor Albert Bryan Jr., Lieutenant Governor Tregenza A. Roach, Esq., Senate President Novelle E. Francis, Jr. of the 35th Legislature, VIDE Commissioner Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D., Director Kyle Flemming of the Energy Office, and SCEC Principal Rodney E. Moorehead. Their presence underscored the collective commitment towards fostering innovation and resilience in the Virgin Islands.

Funding for this transformative project was secured in 2020 by the Virgin Islands Energy Office and the Virgin Islands Department of Education's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal funds, reflecting a strategic investment in renewable energy infrastructure. The initiative aimed to develop a solar-plus-storage micro-grid pilot project at the SCEC emergency shelter, with construction commencing on April 14, 2023.

The SCEC Emergency Shelter Micro-Grid comprises a 150-kW solar array coupled with a 300-kW battery system, generously funded by federal resources. This innovative solution not only supports the school's operational needs but also ensures resilience during emergency conditions, reducing reliance on traditional fossil fuel generators.

During normal operations, the solar system is projected to offset approximately \$9,000 per month in electrical utility costs, demonstrating significant cost savings for the VIDE on SCEC's electric bill. The collaboration between the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Energy Office, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement, the U.S. Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, and A.T. Construction Solutions, LLC, exemplifies the power of partnership in advancing sustainable initiatives.

The completion of the SCEC Emergency Shelter Micro-Grid not only symbolizes the Bryan/Roach Administration's unwavering commitment to sustainability but also underscores our dedication to providing a safe and secure environment for our communities. Through the micro-grid, SCEC will be able to harness renewable energy as the VIDE strives to build a brighter and more resilient future for all stakeholders.

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